

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

### **IBSSS STATUS REPORT**

**Action Requested:** Receive the IBSSS status report.

**Executive Summary:** IBSSS's status report includes a summary of the discussion by the Coordinating Council at its meeting in March 2006 regarding vision services in Iowa. The Coordinating Council reviewed progress on Task Force recommendations #3 (rigorous academic program), #4 (flexible structure at IBSSS), and #7 (standards and benchmarks for the expanded core curriculum). The Council received a report from the University of Northern Iowa, a report from the Iowa Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Work Group on standards and benchmarks for the expanded core curriculum; a report from the IBSSS administration regarding developing flexible services; and an IBSSS staff response to the Coordinating Council regarding a preferred future for vision services in Iowa. The Council also reviewed the parent, service provider, and general public input from the three ICN meetings.

#### **Details of the Report:**

- ◇ **UNI report.** Dr. Sunggye Hong, assistant professor of special education, described two activities that might be provided by UNI.
  - ☑ Professional development programs for service providers.
  - ☑ Summer enrichment experiences on the UNI campus for students with visual disabilities.
  
- ◇ **Iowa Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) Work Group report.** Ms. Gwen Woodward described the activities of the ECC work group.
  - ☑ The ECC work group created an Iowa resource guide after reviewing, editing, and selecting national literature, resources, standards, and curriculum materials.
  - ☑ The resource guide is currently being piloted throughout the state.
  - ☑ The work group will collaborate with the AEA special education directors and the vision supervisors to obtain consensus on the content.
  - ☑ A training session will be provided in Fall 2006 on how to implement the resource guide.
  
- ◇ **IBSSS Administrators report.** Using a collaborative approach, the team addressed the issues of providing flexible services to children with visual impairments.
  - ☑ The team identified the perceived problems/barriers to achieving a preferred future for vision services in Iowa.
  - ☑ The team developed a plan for closing the gap between the current reality and the preferred future for vision services in Iowa.

- ◆ **IBSSS staff response to the Coordinating Council.** The report included the staff's responses to the Council's discussion on a preferred future, including the following components:
  - ☑ Strengths and weaknesses of current vision services in Iowa.
  - ☑ Preferred future for vision services in Iowa.
  - ☑ Possibilities for making vision services in Iowa more efficient and effective.
  
- ◆ **ICN meetings.** The Council discussed the input from parents, service providers, and the general public obtained at the three ICN meetings held by the Council on January 17, January 25, and February 22, 2006.
  
- ◆ **Next Steps.** At its next meeting in May 2006, the Council will focus on the creation of a set of statements that guide the development of a preferred future for vision services in Iowa.