

# Annual Report – Year 5

## Supporting Oklahoma Parents with Disabilities



**Project Coordinator: Lisa Simmons**

Supporting Parents with Disabilities

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Website: <https://soonersuccess.ouhsc.edu/Services-Programs/Supporting-Parents-with-Disabilities>

<b>Goal 1:</b> Convene a work group with specifically identified stakeholders	<b>Met within 10%</b>	<b>On track, not yet complete</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>Not met, area of concern</b>
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Sooner SUCCESS convened a policy work group in August, 2019 that included participants from:

- Sooner SUCCESS
- DHS Child Welfare (3 representative)
- The Office of Disability Concerns
- The Disability Law Center
- A DDCO Council Member

Groups that requested to be kept apprised of recommendations and who provided email feedback included:

- The Oklahoma Commission of Children and Youth

**Outcomes:**

1. **Current statute on child removal:** Research into current Oklahoma law indicated that disability could NOT be used as a sole reason for child removal.

**OKLAHOMA STATUTE**

<http://www.oklegislature.gov/osstatuestitle.html>

**§10A-1-4-904. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS.**

**Under item 13: A finding that a parent has a diagnosed cognitive disorder, an extreme physical incapacity, or a medical condition, including behavioral health or substance dependency, shall not in and of itself deprive the parent of parental rights.**

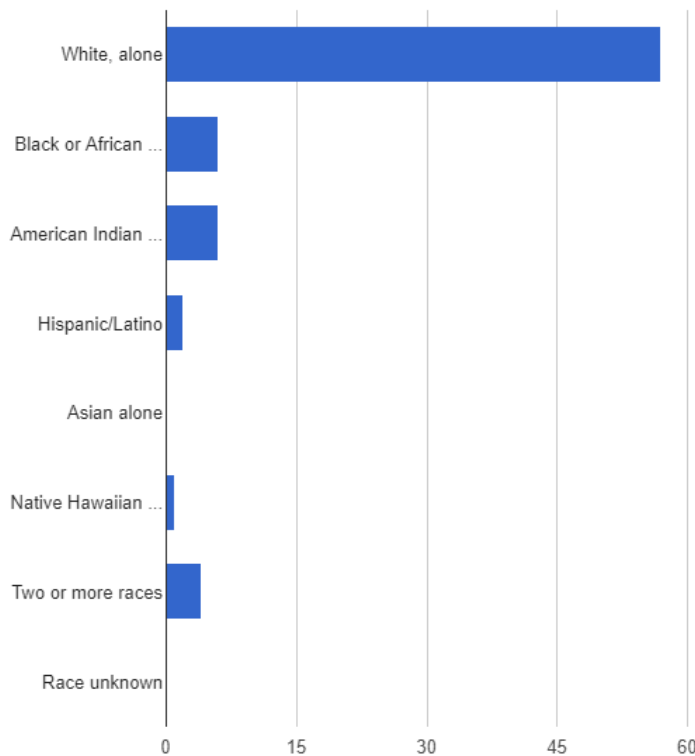
**Additional legislation:** The group worked with Rep. Nollan to try and add more parent friendly language to HB 2013 which she had previously authored. Rep. Nollan accepted feedback and appeared to be interested in pursuing the bill for several months, but ultimately allowed the bill to die in committee and was not willing to relinquish authorship to another member of the legislature.

2. **DHS Policy:** With no new legislation to use as reason for modifying policy; DHS declined to work on policy changes.

<p><b>Goal 2:</b> Use of Council provided survey instrument for program evaluation</p>	<p><b>Met within 10%</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>On track, not yet complete</b></p>	<p><b>Not met, area of concern</b></p>
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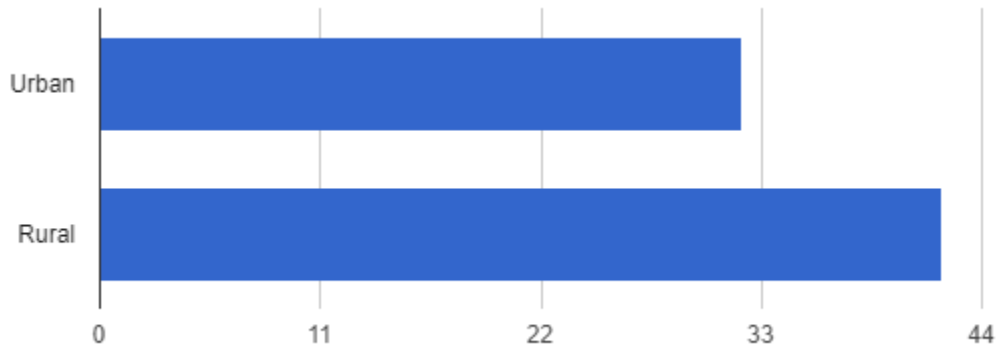
**Outcomes:**

**Race/ethnicity served:**



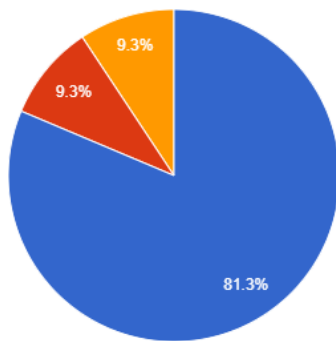
White, alone (75.0%), Black or African American alone (7.9%), American Indian and Alaska Native alone (7.9%), Hispanic/Latino (2.6%), Asian alone (0%), Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander alone (1.3%), Two or more races (5.3%), Race unknown (0.0%)

### Geography of services provided



Frequency: **Urban** (43.2%), **Rural** (56.8%)

**Did you gain new ideas today that will help you advocate for better services and supports for parents with disabilities in the future?** (*prepared\_for\_advocacy*)

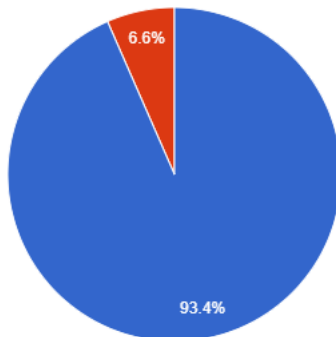


**Yes responses in blue**

**No responses in red**

**N/A in orange**

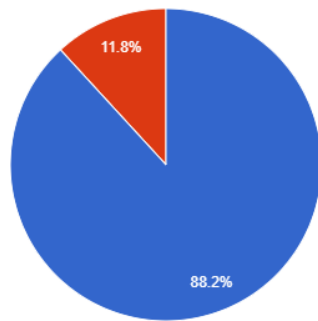
**Did this training give you new ideas on how to utilize and build strong natural supports for individuals with disabilities?** (*build\_natural\_support*)



**Yes responses in blue**

**No responses in red**

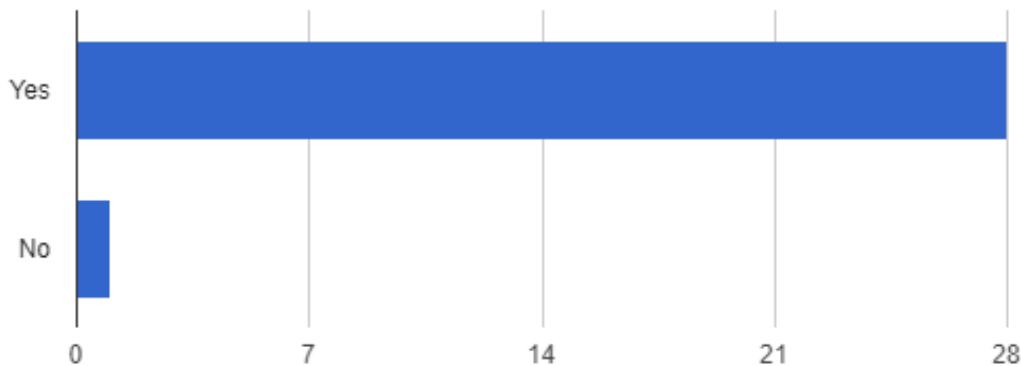
**Do you feel better able to provide guidance to parents with disabilities and their families about safety, health, futures, and money so that they can make choices of their own?** *(develop\_self\_sufficiency)*



**Yes responses in blue**

**No responses in red**

**Overall, was today's training on the supporting parents with disabilities helpful to you?**



**Frequency:** Yes (96.6%), No (3.4%)

**Professional development provided over the life of the project reached 1,805 professionals. Training participants included staff from DHS/DDS, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Education**

<p><b>Goal 3:</b> Provide 4 trained PwD resource specialists for moment of need support.</p>	<p><b>Met within 10%</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>On track, not yet complete</b></p>	<p><b>Not met, area of concern</b></p>
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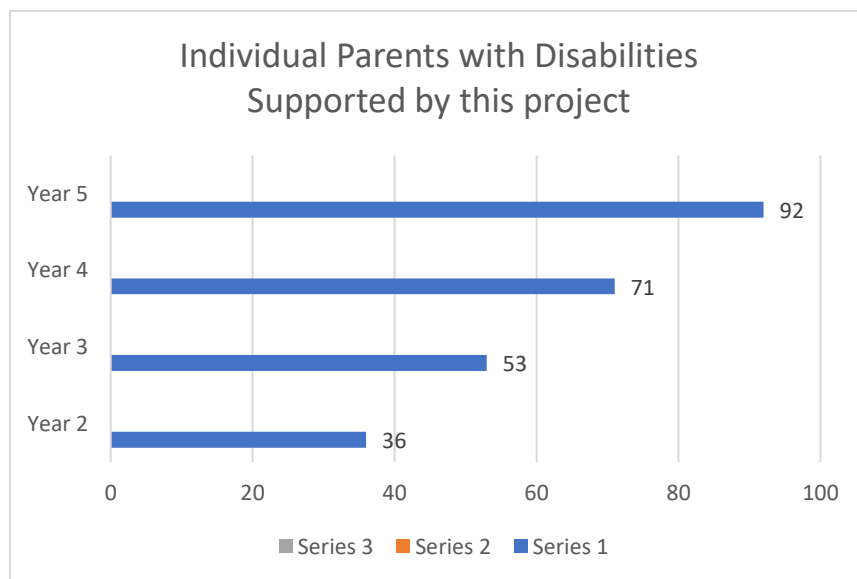
## “Moment of Need” We Can Help



- Region 1: Deana Wilson – Email: [deana-wilson@ouhsc.edu](mailto:deana-wilson@ouhsc.edu) phone: 580-366-9306
- Region 2: Janet Wilson – Email: [janet-m-wilson@ouhsc.edu](mailto:janet-m-wilson@ouhsc.edu) phone: 405-595-1958
- Region 3: Lori Wathen – Email: [lori-wathen@ouhsc.edu](mailto:lori-wathen@ouhsc.edu) phone: 405-698-6970
- Region 4: Lisa Simmons – Email: [lisa-simmons@ouhsc.edu](mailto:lisa-simmons@ouhsc.edu) phone: 580-747-1004
- Region 5: Erin Strayhorn- Email: [erin-strayhorn@ouhsc.edu](mailto:erin-strayhorn@ouhsc.edu) phone: 918-712-0370



## Outcomes



Professionals consulted with our resource teams for recommendations on supporting the following types of disability: intellectual disabilities, mental health conditions, a dual diagnosis of both a mental health condition and an intellectual disability, mobility issues, a dual diagnosis of mental health concerns and mobility issues, a learning disability, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment and hearing impairment.

<b>Goal 4:</b> Provide project coordinator for training, data management, and reports	<b>Met within 10%</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>On track, not yet complete</b>	<b>Not met, area of concern</b>
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Our on-demand training page includes narrated PowerPoint presentations prepared by the project coordinator as well as a few webinars from other national experts:

- National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities
- Temple University Collaborative on Mental Illness
- Centers for Independent Living – Independent Living Research Utilization

**Full training presentations for targeted audiences** – approximately 60 minutes in length:

Full Length Presentations	Recommended Audience
<i>Practical ways to support parents who have disabilities</i>	Child Welfare staff Home visitation staff
<i>Your young adult with disabilities wants to be a parent</i>	Parents Educators
<i>Ideas for supporting parents with disabilities in healthcare settings</i>	Healthcare providers Home visitation staff
<i>Supporting parents and prospective parents with Developmental Delays</i>	Staff and providers in the DDS system

**Quick tips training by disability type** – approximately 10-15 minutes in length:

<b>Quick Tips &amp; Resources</b>
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<i>Supporting parents with sensory impairments (vision and hearing)</i>
<i>Supporting parents with intellectual disabilities</i>
<i>Supporting parents with mental health conditions</i>
<i>Supporting parents with physical disabilities</i>

**Webinars:**

National Research Center for Parents with Disabilities

- Supporting the Lives of Children of Disabled Parents
- Little People and Parenting
- Making the Most of Early Intervention Services
- MAXIMIZING MOTHERHOOD WITH TECHNOLOGY: Personal and Professional Perspectives on Using Technology to Support Parenting
- Disability Rights and Parenting with a Disability
- Peers Support Parenting Well
- Blindness and Parenting - Myths, Challenges and Practical Advice
- Know Your Rights: Advocacy Strategies for Parents with Disabilities
- Deaf Parents' Approaches to Parenting
- Raising Our Girls: Stories from Mothers with Disabilities and Daughters Who've Been There
- How Prospective Parents with Disabilities Can Prepare for Parenthood
- Family Mental Health Begins with Parents
- Working with Parents with Intellectual Disabilities and Their Families: Strategies and Solutions for Social Workers
- Representing Parents with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families: Strategies and Solutions for Attorneys

Temple University

- Parenting with a Mental Illness

Centers for Independent Living – Independent Living Research Utilization

- Introduction to Child Custody Rights of Parents with Disabilities

Training page available on the Sooner SUCCESS website at:

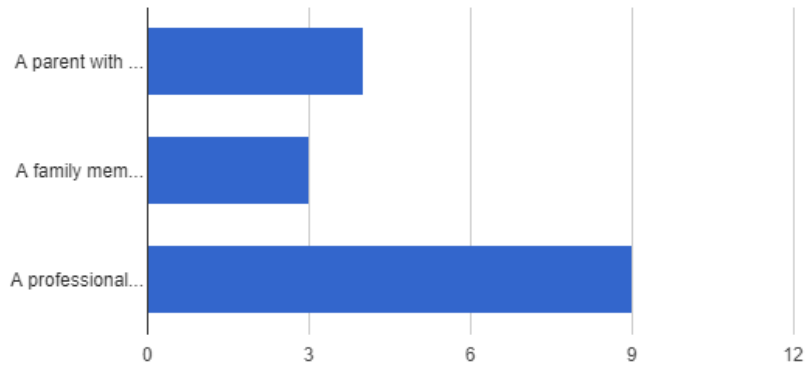
<https://soonersuccess.ouhsc.edu/Services-Programs/Supporting-Parents-with-Disabilities/On-Demand-Training-Page>

**Outcomes:**

**Total number trained: 16**

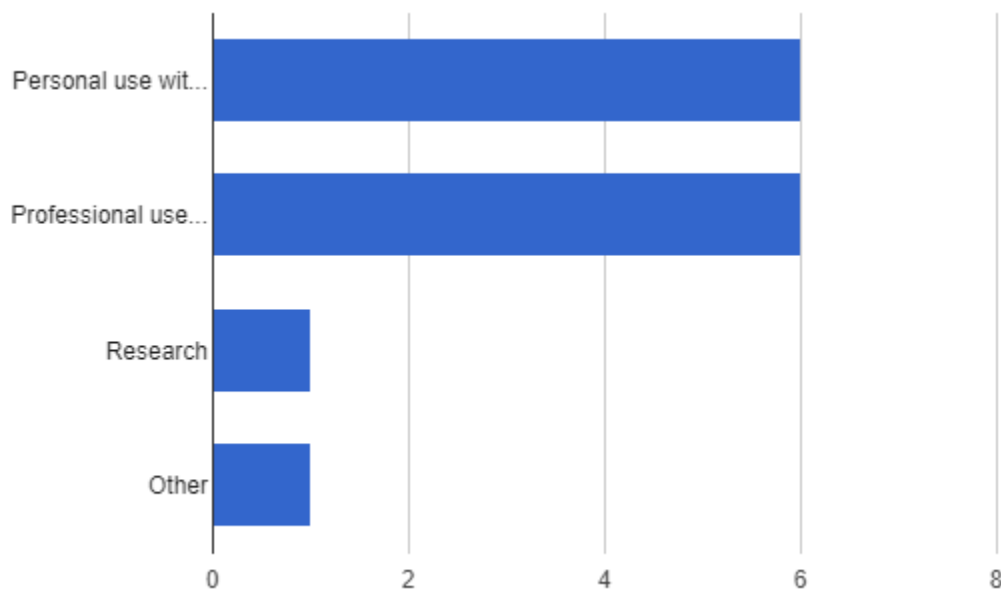


**Please select the option that best describes you** (*who\_are\_you*)



A parent with a disability (25.0%), A family member of a parent with a disability (18.8%), A professional who interacts with parents who have disabilities (56.3%)

**How do you plan to use this training?** (*training\_use*)

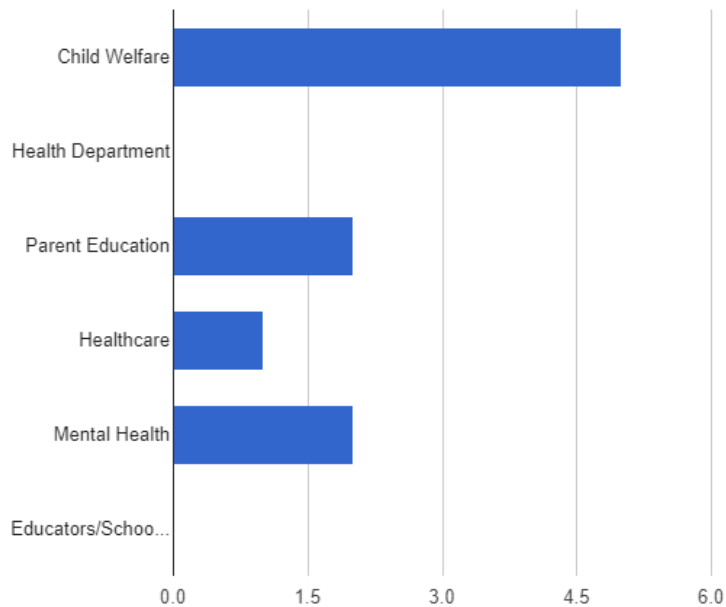


**Frequency:** Personal use with family member (42.9%), Professional use at work (42.9%), Research (7.1%), Other (7.1%)

## In person Training Events

**Total trained this year in live training events: 429**

**Type of Providers Attending** (*provider\_type\_attn*)



**Comments:**

CWS- *"Was unaware this was a service, and very appreciative of the information."*

Adult Day Program Director – *"Thank you so much for the information! It looks amazing. I'm going to share it with our Activities Director so she is also aware of the resources."*

Felice Hamilton - Oklahoma Court Improvement Program - *"Thanks for joining us today. It was a very good presentation of a valuable service. I think the committee was enlightened and appreciative of the services offered by the Communication Support Specialists Project. Thanks again!"*

<p><b>Goal 5:</b> Provide 4 quarterly and 1 annual report detailing activities</p>	<p><b>Met within 10%</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>On track, not yet complete</b></p>	<p><b>Not met, area of concern</b></p>
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Project coordinator completed monthly monitoring reports, quarterly activity reports and an annual activity report throughout the funding cycle.

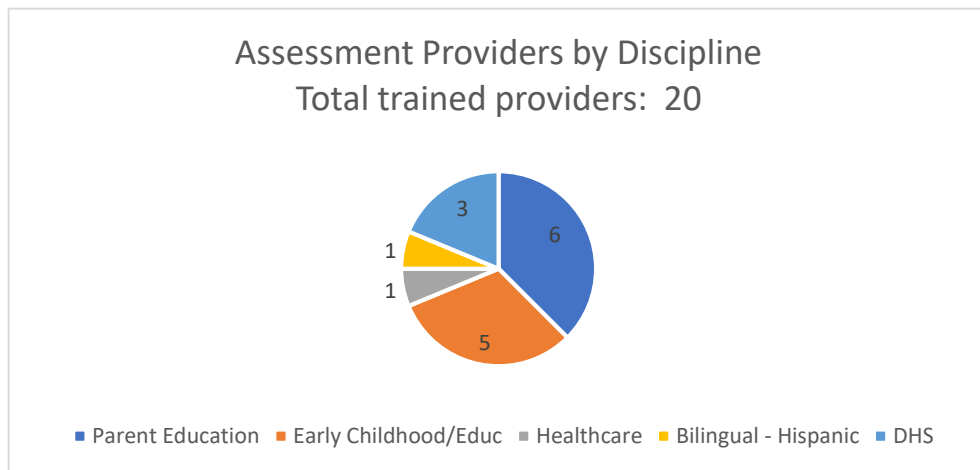
<b>Goal 6:</b> Complete ongoing activities	<b>Met within 10%</b>  <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">X</div>	<b>On track, not yet complete</b>	<b>Not met, area of concern</b>
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**Deliverable Education Tool:** Utilized "Through the Looking Glass Toolkit" on including parents with disabilities in the classroom. Partnered with SDE (Lori Chestnut) to share toolkit in weekly SDE newsletter every week during August and Sept.

**Child Welfare Desk Book:** Distribution of 500 PwD desk reference created by this project to assist child welfare case workers completed across all DHS county offices.

**Parent Assessment Capacity Building:** Recruited 20 assessment providers and provided paid access to complete online training on the Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) and the Family Advocacy & Support Tool (FAST). Trainees:

<i>Norma Beard</i>	<i>Cheila Armour</i>
<i>Fabienne Bogle</i>	<i>Paula Brown</i>
<i>April Bowling</i>	<i>Debra Barger</i>
<i>Lorena Burton</i>	<i>Jessie Gray</i>
<i>Betty Camacho</i>	Russell Mashunkashey
<i>Darrel Dees</i>	<i>Rhonda Mizer</i>
<i>Carmen Flores</i>	<i>Jasie Randel</i>
<i>Uganda Richardson</i>	<i>Theresa Sharp</i>
<i>Emma Shandor</i>	<i>Ann Williams</i>
<i>Mindy Turner</i>	<i>Lisa Simmons</i>



**Parent Support Group in Enid** - Group merged with the local Parents Helping Parents group to maximize socialization and access to mental health resources as parents who attended group all had mental health conditions.

**Parent Education Library** - Library purchased with grant funding from the Cherokee Strip Community Foundation, resources in use across region. Library purchase list provided to Jennifer Grover so that identified books can be added to DDCO library as well.

**Judicial Toolkit:** Judicial toolkit created and printed through the OU Print Shop. Distributed via mail to each judge listed as serving in a county courthouse. (Total 245). A digital version of the toolkit is also available on the Sooner SUCCESS website. Printing expenses covered with funding from the Oklahoma Advisory Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

**Communication Support Specialists:** Recruited and trained 11 Communication Support Specialists in partnership with the Vermont Communication Support Project. On January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All 11 trainee successfully passed the certification exam at the close of training. Following recommendations of JJOAC, have applied for a grant from the Oklahoma Bar Association Foundation that would fund the first year of Communication Support Services as well as an administrative staff to manage eligibility determinations and CSS assignment. Discussed with current CSS the need for targeted recruitment for diverse populations (native American, Hispanic, Muslim) as well as geographic need in the southern portion of state. Funding for the training event will be provided by the Oklahoma Advisory Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

**Marketing:** Continue to promote the Adaptive Babycare Equipment Program at each presentation, through our website, and during individual consultation when appropriate.

<p><b>Goal 7:</b> Identify funding to sustain project.</p>	<p><b>Met within 10%</b></p>	<p><b>On track, not yet complete</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>Not met, area of concern</b></p>
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Grant applications were pursued with the following organizations:

- **Children’s Justice Act monies (2) = \$22,995** to provide a 2<sup>nd</sup> training for communication support specialists. Will target recruitment for diverse populations (native American, Hispanic, Muslim) as well as geographic need in the southern portion of state. Will also provide funding to bring the training, “*Working Successfully with Parents with I/DD*” to Oklahoma with a focus on training staff trainers within parent education programs.

<https://achancetoparent.net/training-for-professionals/#1588870210365-8fba8cc0-00d0>

- **Oklahoma Bar Association Foundation= \$62,950** that would fund the first

year of Communication Support Services as well as an administrative staff to manage eligibility determinations and CSS assignment.

DHS has been unwilling to commit funding toward the project to date, despite repeated requests for meeting by both project staff and project allies inside of DHS. It appears our best option for sustainability is to utilize the Communication Support Specialists. They can be utilized by both DHS staff and courts as an ADA accommodation. It can be requested by an individual, their attorney, or through a motion of the court and cannot be denied as long as they qualify as having a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The accommodation must be paid for by the serving agency (the court or DHS). The court administrator does not feel they have funds allocated for this purpose, but the OBA Foundation grant will hopefully give us a chance to demonstrate the value of the communication support specialists.

The Project Coordinator has provided the Child Welfare Director with a summary of program outcomes (total # consultations, total # of professionals trained, resources that will continue in place regardless of additional funding, and offer to discuss either sustained funding for individual case consultations or a fee for service structure similar to that utilized for the Communication Support Specialists).

**Sustainable resources created to build state capacity that will continue even without additional funding:**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Maintained By</b>
Adaptive Baby Care Equipment Program	Oklahoma ABLE Tech
Social Media Networking/Resource Page	Sooner SUCCESS
Digital Resource Guide	Sooner SUCCESS
Online Training Modules	Sooner SUCCESS
Child Welfare Digital Desk book	DHS
Digital Judicial Toolkit	Sooner SUCCESS
Communication Support Project	Sooner SUCCESS/ADA fees
Assessment Providers	Self or agency they are employed by

**Supporting Parents with Disabilities**  
for Child Welfare Professionals  
*A Desk Reference Guide – Revised February 2019*

"The most recent data available to us reveals that there are at least 100,000 parents with disabilities in the state of Oklahoma... These parents are the only distinct community of Americans who must struggle to retain custody of their children." ~ National Council on Disabilities

**Removal rates for parents with disabilities:**  
Psychiatric disability 78-80%  
Intellectual disability 40-80%  
Physical disability 13%

**SOONER SUCCESS**  
Serving, Supporting, Building *Inclusive* Communities  
<https://soonersuccess.ouhsc.edu/>

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

## Adaptive Baby Care *for* Parents with Disabilities

Oklahoma ABLE Tech  
800-257-1705

<https://www.okabletech-abc.org/>

Equipment is for baby care tasks such as:

- Feeding
- Bathing
- Diapering
- Dressing
- Holding/Soothing
- Carrying
- Sleeping
- Health & Safety

Equipment can accommodate for challenges such as:

- Fatigue
- Hand weakness, pain, coordination, numbness
- Back Pain
- Shoulder weakness/decreased range of motion, pain
- Mobility
- Blind/low vision

