

In this issue:

- **What Can CDBS Do For You?** - by Maurice Belote, CDBS Project Coordinator
- **Promoting Literacy for All: Thinking Beyond Just Reading & Writing**  
- by Julie Maier, CDBS Educational Specialist
- **Early Tactile Communication: Touch, Cues, and Signing**  
- by Stacy Aguilera, CDBS Educational Specialist
- **Stories of Discovery and Advocacy: CDBS-SFSU 2017 Deafblindness Symposium**
- **Juggling Life's Demands and Finding Balance as a Parent of a Child with Special Needs:** - by Myrna Medina, CDBS Family Engagement Specialist

## What Can CDBS Do For You?

By Maurice Belote, CDBS Project Coordinator

As CDBS enters the fifth and final\* year of our funding cycle from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, we want to provide a brief overview of CDBS activities between now and next September. All CDBS services are provided at no cost. Despite the fact that we are a small project with only four full or part-time field staff members, we provide services everywhere throughout the state. Here is what we can do for you this school year:

### Technical assistance

Technical assistance is a term used in many arenas including education, government, and business and typically refers to external consultants providing help of some kind. CDBS offers two basic kinds of technical assistance (we usually shorten it to just "TA"):

**Focused TA:** This is for addressing one or two basic issues and would be help for one person or a small group. It is conducted online using Zoom meetings and might also include Skype or FaceTime (or similar platforms) if we need to take a quick look at the child/student, the environment, or a specific piece of equipment. Focused TA typically includes one or two TA activities over the course of one or two months. Access to the Zoom meeting platform is provided by CDBS at no cost to training participants.

**Comprehensive TA:** This is for more complex issues or multiple issues and is typically conducted onsite — in the home, school or both — and also using Zoom, telephone and email as required. Comprehensive TA is typically a commitment of at least one year of CDBS TA activities with the educational team and family.

It is important to know that CDBS can only provide TA to people who have asked for it. We do not have the authority to provide school-based TA at the sole request of a family member, and likewise we cannot provide TA to a family if the request comes solely from the educational team. Please remember that we are not advocates and that if you are looking for an advocate, check with your local family resource center or parent training and information center for referrals to educational advocates. If you'd like TA, complete the TA request form that you'll find on our website at <http://www.cadbs.org/how-does-technical-assistance-work/>.

We will continue taking comprehensive TA requests for school-age children and youth until January 31, 2018 for this school year. Requests for comprehensive TA for infants and toddlers, as well as requests for focused TA, can be submitted to CDBS at any time between now and the end of the funding cycle next September.

**Remember, it is okay to ask for help.** Deafblindness is a complex disability and you are not expected to have all the answers. That's why there is a federally funded project like CDBS in every state in the U.S. We are here to support you!

## Training

CDBS staff can provide training to educational teams, school systems, family organizations, and others. Training is most effective when it is paired with technical assistance or when it is longitudinal (i.e., multiple training activities over a period of time) but there might be situations when single training activities might be effective. You can get information about CDBS training at our website (<http://www.cadbs.org/services-servicios/trainings/>) and here is some basic information:

**Onsite training:** CDBS staff can provide workshops and other inservice training for districts, SELPAs, county offices of education, family resource centers, parent training and information centers, family empowerment centers, and regional centers. Training can be conducted in English or Spanish.

**Preservice training:** CDBS can guest lecture in personnel preparation programs at any of the 23 campuses of the California State University system. This training is typically conducted in programs for the following California credentials: moderate/severe disabilities, vision impairment, orientation and mobility, Deaf/hard of hearing, and early childhood special education.

**Online training:** Training can be provided using the Zoom meeting platform. Again, access to Zoom is provided by CDBS at no cost to training participants.

**Open Hands Open Access (OHOA):** OHOA includes 27 online modules that can be accessed by anyone at anytime. CDBS staff can host OHOA cohorts if you have a group of people that want to go through one or more of the OHOA modules as a group. For more information about the modules, go to <https://moodle.nationaldb.org>.

## Family Support

In addition to Myrna Medina, our CDBS Family Engagement Specialist, we also maintain a network of trained volunteer family members throughout the state who are available to provide family-to-family support. You might be linked to a family support provider based on your geographic location, age of child, or etiology (e.g., CHARGE syndrome, Usher syndrome, etc.). For information about the CDBS Network of Family Support Providers, go to <http://www.cadbs.org/family-support-providers/>.

## How To Stay Connected.

The best way to stay current on upcoming CDBS activities and relevant information specific to deafblindness is to follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

<https://www.facebook.com/California-Deafblind-Services-179838528705916/>

<https://twitter.com/cadeafblind?lang=en>

**Questions???** Contact anyone at CDBS by phone or email and we will be happy to provide more information about what CDBS offers!

- We are a federal project for the benefit of the people of the state of California and are funded for 5-years by a federal grant from the Department of Education. We hope to be able to continue providing services and are cautiously optimistic about applying for another grant to do so. When we say that this is our final year in this funding cycle, it means that we will be applying again in 2018 in the hopes of being funded for another 5 years to continue similar services for individuals from birth through age 21 who have both hearing and vision problems, with or without additional disabilities.



The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H326T130031. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Jo Ann McCann.

