

Family Issues of Military Connected Children with Special Needs



Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute
of Child Health and Human Development
and The HSC Foundation



P R E S E N T

A CONFERENCE ON

MILITARY CONNECTED CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

April 14-15, 2014

Natcher Conference Center
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

Outcomes

- Rules of Engagement
 - Selection of Group Speaker
 - Notetaker Responsibilities
 - Presentation to Large Group
- Around the table/room introductions
- Topic Introduction
- Discussion
- Report Out

Topic Introduction

Over 100,000 military families have members with a disability; many of whom have a special needs child. Moving frequently (every 3-4) years, cause these families to face unique financial, medical, educational and legal issues; particularly during deployment of a PCS.

Discussion

- What 'new' information did we learn?
- What needs/issues warrant further exploration?
- Any significant research surrounding topic?
- Are there any gaps in research? Suggestions for study? Next steps?

Report Out

- **Notes:**
- What did you takeaway from this morning or afternoon session?
- **Impact on siblings**
- **Need for more research**
- **Need for more informal support networks**
- **Lack of Pediatric Psychologists**
- **The need for quality data on Military Families**
- **Need for effective coordination of services...informal support networks**
- **How the rate of stress affects the child**
- **2004 Study.....only study based on data...DOD needs to help get the data to have a better understanding of who we are talking about**
- **Barriers and opportunities for studies/research**

Working Group 1A

- **What did you
takeaway
from this**

Working Group 1A

- Parents understand that they are not alone.. Statement by a spouse of a special needs child
- Need to understand the population.....who are we talking about?
- The need to assess communities where families are currently living....what community best serves different children with special needs? Community Needs Assessment
- Need for more Informal Support Networks.....Families need more support...especially support in meetings for IEPs.....need an advocate..

Working Group 1A

- An added layer of “having to move” ...when you are parent of special needs child
- To hear that military families are not covered by the Family Medical Leave Act.
- Thank goodness for families and people who are in the room to discuss these issues
- How research can improve the lives of children and how we can get access to this data and then how we can share it.
- I am saddened by the difficult time military families are having to navigate a very complex system for services for children with special needs.

Working Group 1A

- One major concern reported in this group was....the need for more Research
- Need to see data as to where students are being served...need to disaggregate the data....can't tell or see information about military families in various states...need to know about the population we are serving..

Working Group 1A

- One major concern reported in this group was....the need for more Research
- Need to see data as to where students are being served...need to disaggregate the data....can't tell or see information about military families in various states...need to know about the population we are serving..

Working Group 1A

- Each state has different definitions for exceptional education
- Sometimes teachers don't know which children are military connected children
- It's difficult to see the data related to military connected children
- There is a gap between basic research and applied research

Working Group 1A

- Each state has different definitions for exceptional education
- Sometimes teachers don't know which children are military connected children
- It's difficult to see the data related to military connected children
- There is a gap between basic research and applied research

Working Group 1A

- Each state has different definitions for exceptional education...need to be able to see 'big signals' across states
- Sometimes teachers don't know which children are military connected children
- It's difficult to see the data related to military connected children..not delineating this data...need an advocacy group to ensure this data is being delineated

Working Group 1A

There is a great example of an IEP at the Office for Innovation for Charter Schools...
SPED Rubric

There is a need for a Parent Advocacy Tool for writing an IEP.

A Recommendation is increase research and to track children of military families

The PREP, Inc. (Prevention/Relationship and Enhancement Program) was suggested to utilize with couples and parents of special

Working Group 1A

- A suggestion was made to read the research in 2011 from the National Council on Disabilities ...on the Marine Corps ...It covers most of the issues we have discussed today....
- Further Research should include younger parents, minority and diverse parents, parents from low-socioeconomic backgrounds and parents who speak a language other than English