

Linda Lawrence MD

10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Arizona Ballroom, Room V

Pediatric Ophthalmology Updates from Across the Globe

Presentation Description: Dr. Lawrence will offer a two hour presentation on the topic of Pediatric Ophthalmology Updates from Across the Globe on June 15, 2017 at the Western Region Early Intervention Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. The focus of the session will be to provide both a national and global perspective of current research, medical findings, and recommended treatments of the leading causes pediatric eye disease, including cerebral visual impairment that impacts young children. Dr. Lawrence will provide an update on the Zika Virus, and the increasing challenges associated with premature births. The session will also include an opportunity for question and answers. So be prepared with questions.

Catherine Smyth, TSVI, Carol Spicer, OT

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm, Vaquero Ballroom, Room E1, E2

Creating Mealtime Routines for Infants and Toddlers who are Visually Impaired

Presentation Description: This session will describe the development of an Institute of Education Sciences research grant titled An Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Visual Impairment: Independence through the Mealtime Routines Model (MRVI Intervention). The MRVI Intervention Project will collect valuable information from TSVI-Elis who work with families of young children with visual impairment to demonstrate healthy eating habits and independence that provide a foundation for school readiness to enter preschool with skills commensurate to their peers. Knowledge of acceptance of food variety, behavioral and parent confidence measures, as well as skill-based child development observational data may help to determine any differences that need to be addressed (Smyth, Spicer & Morgese, 2014). Strategies in the areas of mealtime communications, behavioral expectations and initiation, utensil use, and home environment adaptations will be described and examples will be given of practitioners as they use individualized family-centered practices, such as incorporating new skills into daily mealtime routines in the home.

DeEtte Snyder

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm, Vaquero Ballroom, Room G1, G2

Babies Count: What is the Benefit?

Babies Count is the national registry of infants and toddlers with blindness and visual impairment (BVI). It has been in existence since 1995 and has gathered demographic and epidemiologic information for over 8,000 children, the largest sample of young children with

BVI in the US. With this large sample of children the project has gathered critical information to benefit program developers, improve teacher training, and provide funding opportunities. The project recently completed a revision with a more family friendly survey and new database. With the new easy online submission process, more programs can gather information that will be accessible for their use as they can make data driven decisions for their program and local communities. But are programs participating? Is data being gathered? How are programs that are participating using the data? What is the field learning about the unique population we are serving? This presentation will explore these issues and questions in order for all programs to benefit from Babies Count and the project can continue to grow in value for all of us, especially the children and families who we support.

**Julie Maner, COMS, Loreta Martínez-Cargo, COMS, TVI/L
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Arizona Ballroom, Room V**

Implementing the Birth to Six Orientation and Mobility Inventory: Assessment and Strategies

Presentation Description: A demonstration of the use of the B-6 O&M Inventory and its application in providing O&M services for the Birth to 6 population.

**Tracey Gaver, Early Intervention Visual Impairment Specialist
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, Vaquero Ballroom, Room G1, G2**

The Effect of Visual Impairment on Infant Mental Health Practices

Presentation Description: In the infant mental health field, strategies to facilitate bonding, attachment and family resilience have resulted in increased family capacity and stronger family structures. In this session, we will examine the effect of an infant's visual impairment on this process and determine effective interventions for the unique challenges it presents.