

# Yolo County “Moving to Inclusion” Update

In January of 2009, Yolo County began participation in a state-wide inclusion Program through WestEd called *All of Us Together...Moving to Inclusion*. Several agencies, organizations and school districts within Yolo County (DJUSD, Head Start, CommuniCare Health Centers, City of Davis Child Care Services, Yolo County Office of Education, WJUSD, and RISE, Inc.) with parent involvement are active participants in this project. It is envisioned that more local organizations will continue to join the team as we become more focused and driven in our county-wide inclusion efforts.

At the March 2009 *All of Us Together...Moving to Inclusion Institute*, the Yolo County team began the creation of our mission and guiding purpose:

The Yolo County Inclusion Team recognizes local linguistic, geographic and economic diversity, and it values the richness of early childhood resources for inclusion. Our purpose in coming together is to connect resources and agencies to help children and families negotiate the very complex web of services. Additionally, we strive to improve and streamline this process by strengthening the collaborations within our county.

We value the individualized needs of all children through:

- Ongoing assessment of needs
- Regular and accessible trainings for a spectrum of providers (parents, educators, and other practitioners)
- Sustaining a centralized directory of resources, services and capacities of local agencies to enhance inclusion services.

Our team also began to plan for the community of Yolo County by setting specific goals:

<b>Key Activities</b> <i>Where are we now?</i>	<b>Specific Goals</b> <i>Where do we want to go from here?</i>	<b>Strategies to Accomplish Goals</b> <i>How do we get there?</i>	<b>Evidence</b> <i>How do we know we got there?</i>
Current services are fragmented and informal	Create a centralized user friendly website	Identify a leader to sustain the site; have a meeting of all involved with inclusion and obtain simplified descriptions of services; identify funding; create a ListServ of stakeholders	Website hits; advertisement of the new website; visible evidence of the majority of information for parents now on the web
Continuous/flowing formation of the group; identification of additional organizations and agencies to invite to future meetings	Focus our direction at the scheduled April meeting and identify leadership to continue our move to inclusion	Invite more participants to the April 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	Well-attended and regularly scheduled meetings with agendas and goals
Currently we just have the AOUT program bringing us together ~ funding sources are not identified	Reapply for AOUT in following years; obtain continued facilitation and support	Inquire about additional support from WestEd with more facilitation time	Continued support from WestEd will be evident.

Several of our team members have expressed appreciation for bringing inclusion into the spotlight in Yolo County and we would appreciate your voice in our discussions. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2 at the Yolo County Office of Education Conference Center from 2:30 – 4:30 where we plan to continue discussions about our mission and goals, and we hope to set the direction for the continuation of our group. Please e-mail [rebecca.foster@ycoe.org](mailto:rebecca.foster@ycoe.org) or call 530-668-3021 if you are able to attend the meeting or to request more information.