

**ANDREW M. CUOMO HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.O.**

 Commissioner

December 23, 2016

Lisa Rosano-Kaczkowski

Director, Program and Grants Management

New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

161 Delaware Avenue Delmar, New York 12054

Dear Ms. Rosano-Kaczkowski:

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**



I am pleased to inform you that the 2017 work plan and budget you submitted pursuant to section Vl.3. of the interagency agreement between the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs is approved.

As you know, expenditure reports, supporting documentation, and general ledger journal entry form AC 22-S should be submitted within 30 days of the close of each quarter to the following address:

**NYS** Department of Health Division of Family Health Bureau of Administration

ESP Corning Tower, Room 859 Albany, New York 12237

Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Center quarterly reports and summaries should be forwarded to Kelly Callahan in the Bureau of Early Intervention, Room **287.**

I look forward to our continued collaboration on this important initiative. Please contact me at 473-7016 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brenda Knudson Chouffi Co- Director

Bureau of Early Intervention

Enclosures

cc: Philip Passero June Griffin Kelly Callahan

Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower, Albany, NY 12237 Ihealth.ny.gov

## PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

The NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs, with the collaboration and support of the DOH Early Intervention Program, will continue to provide an array of services, through its Regional TRAID Centers, that will enable infants and toddlers in the Early Intervention Program and their families to choose, acquire and use appropriate assistive technology to improve their quality of life. The following activities will be implemented by the TRAID Centers to achieve this outcome.

## Early Intervention Loans

Each of the Regional TRAID Centers (RTC) will continue to provide an Early Intervention loan service to enable families, Early Intervention Officials (EIOs), service coordinators and service providers to access appropriate assistive technology (AT) devices. This service has proven to be a very successful means to get AT to children in a timely manner. With the changes implemented at the NYS DOH that require El participants to contact the RTCs first, the centers continue to see an increase in inquiries regarding devices available for loan.

The RTCs will be responsible for the staffing, maintenance and operation of the loan closet which includes updating the inventory list and disseminating it to the EIOs, the JC, and DOH on a regular basis. The centers will continue to collaborate with the EIOs to maintain a process for referral of families to the lending closet and continue to implement procedures to inform families of their option to recycle devices that have been purchased for their child back to the loan closet. Each center will continue to make families, EIOs, and service providers aware of loan policy procedures which include but are not limited to, hours of operation of the loan closet, and time period allowed for loans. RTC staff will be responsible for cleaning and maintenance of devices to ensure they are in good working order for loan.

RTC staff will continue to be responsible for documenting loans of devices on a spreadsheet to indicate whether the device was used for short term loan and returned, was borrowed and found to be inappropriate, or was borrowed and then purchased for the child. This documentation will better show the outcomes from the devices borrowed, and provide a clearer picture of the cost savings to counties from use of the loan program.

## Assistive Technology Awareness

The RTC staff will continue to disseminate informational materials on AT devices including how to adapt environments appropriate for infants and toddlers. RTC staff will also respond to information and referral requests from families, El staff and service providers. Information on AT devices and services will also be provided by RTC staff through AT awareness sessions to El staff, and to service providers in the community.

Staff will continue to work with EIOs to provide information regarding AT evaluators and

service providers in their catchment area. TRAID central office staff will continue to work collaboratively with the NYS DOH Early Intervention staff to ensure that new policies and training opportunities are shared with regional staff.

As an example of outreach efforts, the TRAID Center staff on Long Island continued to attend the Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council meetings in both Nassau and Suffolk counties to stay abreast of the needs in each county and also to make new members and visitors aware of TRAID's resources. At the last Nassau meeting, Linda Rennie, the County's Director for the Office of Children with Special Needs commented on how pleased she is with the collaborative efforts between her unit and the TRAID program.

RTC staff persons also need to continually remind county El staff, providers and families that once the children do not need the devices any longer, they should be donated to the centers so they can be re-utilized by other children and their families.

## 2016 Outcomes

The following data is from a 9 month reporting period of January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. The Regional TRAID Centers documented 532 devices re­ utilized. Devices categorized as exchanged or re-furbished totaled 176 and given to children as a donation, and a total of 356 devices were documented as open ended loans to children for use as long as they needed.

There were 881 short term (60 day) loans of devices made to 796 children and their families in the Early Intervention Program. Of those loans provided, 609 loans assisted in the decision making process to determine the appropriateness of the device, 104 met a short term need, and 168 were loaned while a device was being repaired, or the family was waiting for funding.

The centers also provided 771 device demonstrations to 790 children and their families, educators, health professionals and service providers. Last year, some centers had seen a decrease in the number of device demonstrations for Early Intervention although the current year numbers show a significant increase in participation.

Below are examples of the many success stories that occur when children in the Early Intervention Program get access to the right assistive device at the right time:

## Device Loan Activities AIM ILC

This has been a very exciting quarter for Early Intervention (El). Typically, we don't

hear too many success stories out of El; children either outgrow the equipment before they gain the benefit or the equipment does not have the full effect hoped for. Over the past quarter, a little boy went from using a stander to walking and another developed the ability to feed himself when in proper seating. There's another little boy that is almost ready to return his walker and begin walking on his own. These are incredible accomplishments for these children and their teams. With the help of the local TRAID center these children all received the equipment they needed without further expense to El.

## UCP NYC

A Physical Therapist wrote the following email to the coordinator of the NYC Early Intervention Assistive Technology Unit. The email really says it all:

'I want to thank you so much for introducing me to the [TRAID] Loaner program. I also want to update you on the progress of AF.

The first day she used it, it was like magic. She fell in love with the [pediatric posterior] walker and she was able to use it outside the house that same day. The next day, she was able to pick it up to negotiate an obstacle. Right now, her mom is able to walk around in the neighborhood without carrying the stroller. AF and her mother are so happy and grateful for the independence this walker has afforded AF. She crawls less, and walks around her house with the loaner walker. This program is God send and I hope everyone that works with.kids will get to know about them. [The Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant from TRAID] is an excellent therapist. She was very patient and worked with me to get the right equipment-no red tape. Please accept my sincere gratitude for all the support you have given me. Do you remember, I was crying the first time I spoke with you? Now, I'm laughing because AF and her mother are happy. She is making tremendous progress. I am very confident that AF will get her own AT to help her live an independent life. We are honored to be part of the effort to provide children receiving Early Intervention services with the equipment that can make such a difference during this critical learning period.'

A staff member who is an Occupational Therapist and treats early intervention children independently recently borrowed a tunnel from the Bronx SHARE Library. Her plan was to help with motor planning, commands, strengthen his bi-lateral coordination and well as upper core, and to increase his functional mobility. The child was hesitant initially to go into the tunnel. However, when the therapist incorporated cars and trucks with the tunnel the little guy began to readily join in the therapy/play. The therapist used this equipment for several sessions, and was very pleased with the child's progress. Most interesting was the mother's report to the therapist, that she noticed a decreased amount of sitting in the W position, and wondered if it could be attributed to the tunnel therapy sessions. The therapist deemed the tunnel a success and plans to utilize it again with others.

This is a sad case but an important one. This family had recently borrowed the Hi/Lo Rifton activity chair for their son Ethan, who was 2 years old. The family was highly satisfied with our service as we delivered the activity chair to their home. Ethan's family has been borrowing assistive Technology since 2014 for him. They started with tumble form feeder chairs and as their child progressed he was able to work up to the Hi/Lo activity chair. Ethan at first did not like the chair, but as he got used to it he did well.

Ethan was able to participate and learn fine motor activities as well as participate in family time activities. This equipment helped in making him an interactive part of his family. His father called me this past quarter to inform me that Ethan had passed away. He wanted to make sure that we could pick up the activity chair so another child could be able to use and enjoy the activity chair as their child did. He said he was very appreciative that our program existed and was able to assist his child and family.

Having this equipment enabled Ethan to interact with the rest of the family and made the time they had with him that much better.

Without our services, Ethan would not have received the equipment in a timely manner. Because our services exist, this family was able to enjoy their child and see him progress, even for the short time that he was here.

## Utica RTC

A mother of a child with autism brought him to the office to look at some items that might help him. We discussed his interests while he tried toy after toy. He loves cats and we found a furry stuffed cat that purrs and kneads with its front feet when petted. He was thrilled and was immediately hugging the cat. When we followed up on the loan, all 3 toys that were checked out were "working wonderfully" and "he just loves that cat!" the mother said.

A PT was on a waiting list for a PONY gait trainer (Size 0) for one of her young clients as our two were checked out. She was convinced that this gait trainer would be perfect for her. She tried a small walker from TRAID but it didn't have enough support for the child's needs. TRAID purchased another PONY Size O with El funds for the loan closet and sent the therapist an email to let her know that it would be coming. She was very excited about it as the child was still in need of it.

# A physical therapist working with an El program came in looking for a feeder seat and other items for a little girl. She said that the family had recently lost everything in a house fire. Although this therapist normally does not check toys out from TRAID, she went through our cabinets and picked out several age-appropriate toys for the girl so that she would have some things to play with.

## Westchester RTC

WIHD presented at a Dutchess County DOH Staff Service Provider Meeting in Hyde Park. Professionals included On-going Service Coordinators, Service Providers and Center-based supervisors. They were very excited to have us there, many were surprised that this Program previously existed for them. Professionals indicated great difficulty in getting appropriate SPM, AAC and LCD for their clients, contrary to the opinions offered by County representatives.

Ongoing discussions with Dutchess County DOH to expand the loaning capabilities in their County included a conversation with a PT who has begun to collect used SPM at her facility for loaning. The Center for Physical Therapy has two locations and is the largest center-based itinerant provider for pediatrics in their region. Our initial conversations on getting the potential "satellite site" off the ground were productive and outlined the amount of expertise needed in managing a loan program. Discussions covered a variety of topics including: identifying equipment already collected, repairing, sanitizing, loaning procedures, liability, following up, returning and needed monies for repair. Presently, we are waiting to hear back from the Center to schedule a site visit and continue our efforts in collaborating as partners.

**Southern Adirondack Center**

A foster mother for a 16-month old boy with traumatic brain injury as a result of domestic violence contacted staff at the Capital Region TRAID Center for assistance. The child had been placed on an emergency basis, and did not have any of the equipment he needed. Staff was able to provide a feeding chair, a bath seat, and several developmental toys. The foster mother was thrilled that she would·be able to safely feed and bathe the child, and that she could work with him with the toys. The child is now showing interest in the toys and has improved his coordination skills.

**Budget for the Period of 1/1/2017 - 12/31/2017**

NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

TRAID Center Allocations

(see Appendix A for allocation per region based on El population)

$100,000

**TOTAL** $100,000

## BUDGET NARRATIVE

TRAID Center Allocations

A total of $100,000 has been requested for the Regional TRAID Centers to carry out Early Intervention related activities as outlined in the letter agreement. This dollar amount reflects level funding from the previous year.

1. **ppendix A**

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| **TRAID CENTER ALLOCATIONS** |
| **Regional TRAIO Centers and Territories** | **Funding**Level | Funding Cycle |
| AIM ILCSteuben, Schuyler, Chemung; Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Southern Tier Independence Center, Inc.Tioga, Broome, Chenango, Otsego, Delaware | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Central New York TRAID Center (ENABLE)Oswego, Onondaga, Cayuga, Madison, Cortland, Tompkins | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Genesee-Finger Lakes TRAID ProjectMonroe, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Yates, Seneca | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Lower Hudson Valley Technology CenterRockland, Westchester, Putnam | $6,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Ulster-Sullivan Coop for Assistive TechnologyUlster, Sullivan, Orange, Dutchess | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| The Nassau/Suffolk TRAID CenterNassau, Suffolk | $12,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Technology Resource Center UCP of NYCManhattan | $6,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Mohawk Valley/Leatherstocking Area TRAID Center Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Herkimer, Hamilton, Fulton,Montgomery | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Center for Assistive Technology (Univ. of Buffalo)Niagara, Erie, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming | $6,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Adirondack Regional Technology CenterSt. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Glens Falls Independent Living CenterWarren, Washington, Saratoga, Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene, Columbia | $5,000 | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Technology Resource Center UCP of NYCBronx | ***$7,000*** | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |
| Technology Resource Center UCP of NYCKings, Richmond, Queens | **$23,000** | Jan 1 - Dec 31 |

TRAID Center Allocations TOTAL $100,000