

## **GSEG Frequently asked Questions**

### **1. What is the role of the Core Team?**

The role of the Core Team is to reach consensus and advise on key decisions required to develop and implement an outcomes system, including management and quality control issues as well as interpretation and use of data for improvement. The Core Team also is responsible for preparing and implementing a communication plan.

### **2. How were the stakeholders for the Design Review Team (DRT) chosen?**

The DRT was an input strategy incorporated into the GSEG application and is intended to ensure that all parties that would be impacted by an Outcomes System be represented. The original list was developed by the Core Team and provides representation for all entities that are involved in early intervention, DOE preschool services and VDH identification and tracking programs.

### **3. Timelines?**

The framework for implementation, with time lines, was included in the GSEG application. The GSEG Core Team has adjusted those time lines as the project has proceeded. After the period of selection of the outcomes, indicators, measures and methods for gathering data is over, a pilot will take place in late Winter 05 and early 06. Statewide training will take place summer 06 with statewide roll out in fall of 06. The project will conclude September 30, 2006.

### **4. Are you going to pilot this? What is it going to look like?**

Yes, we are going to pilot the outcome system. The Core Team is currently in the process of deciding on the indicators and measurements, therefore we are not yet able to fully determine what the system will look like.

### **5. Have you looked at other states? What are they doing?**

Yes, we are in continuous contact with the National Early Childhood Outcomes Project (ECO), which is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP); they have a comprehensive picture of all activity nationally and share with us as well as post materials on their web site. There are also regularly scheduled conference calls with all the GSEG projects in the nation and sharing occurs. In addition, the Mid-South Regional Resource Center who manages the grant is part of a network that links states for the purpose of sharing. States are at various levels of development and many have just begun their work in response to the State Performance Plan requirements. Other states have had systems in place for a while, and many, like VA, are focusing a great deal of attention to the outcomes system development by means of the GSEG.

### **6. Focus groups? When, Where, How?**

Parent focus groups will be conducted in the month of October to provide the opportunity for feedback on an array of desired outcomes and possible indicators. There will be regional sessions across the state in which invited parents will meet with Core Team members for open discussion.

**7. What are “Road Trips”?**

Road trips is a strategy borrowed from Colorado. They found great success in receiving input by going to the local providers and sitting down informally and discussing how children are being assessed, how would the introduction of state outcomes impact them, the ones on the line serving the children, and many more important questions. In October project staff will meet with various providers and sit down with provider staff with a set of questions and have dialog.

**8. In addition to Focus Groups and Road Trips, are there other efforts at receiving input from Stakeholders?**

The DRT is the major strategy for stakeholder input, but the plan also includes planned presentations and input sessions with the ICC, associations, organizations and others who have an investment in the establishment of an outcomes system. This has been supplemented with the meetings with System Managers in all the regions.

**9. How is this associated with the State Performance Plan (SPP)?**

The SPP is a new requirement that was added in the 2004 reauthorization of IDEA. The state is required to submit on Dec 2, 2005 a plan that will identify how they will address OSEP established priorities. Two of the OSEP priorities address outcomes, one for child outcomes and one for parent outcomes. The work of the GSEG will provide the Part C and Preschool programs the material necessary to address these priorities. It is important to understand that the development of an outcomes system is intrinsically connected to all parts of the operations of the early intervention system.

**10. Relationship with DOE & Part B, Preschool.**

The Preschool program in DOE was a partner with Part C prior to the GSEG and is combining Preschool resources with the GSEG to develop the necessary data components to provide a longitudinal look at children birth to five. The development of these outcomes will provide a framework for strengthening interagency data linkages throughout the system, especially between the Virginia Department of Health, the Department of Education’s Early Childhood Special Education Program, and Part C eligible children.

**11. What is the role of the ECO Center?**

The Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Center was funded by the Office of Special Education Programs to develop an approach for collecting data on child and family outcomes for the Part C early intervention and Part B preschool programs of IDEA. ECO has developed and recommended to OSEP the child and family outcomes and indicators they feel will help improve programs. These recommendations were instrumental in OSEP’s establishment of indicators in the SPP. ECO now is working on developing measurement approaches for these outcomes and indicators.

**12. What decisions have been made to date?**

The management team has reached consensus on the adoption of outcomes and indicators. These can be found on the VA GSEG web site at <http://www.infantva.org/wkg-GSEG.htm>. The next decisions are to establish the measures and then determine what methods will be used to measure the indicators. There is consideration for using multiple methods that would include IFSP team consensus, assessment instruments and parent observations rolled up into one decision regarding the outcome.