

The Early Childhood TA response during the COVID -19 crisis

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all working to address the best way to proceed with our work and our personal lives. We have adopted the following principles as we continue to focus on the importance of relationships and embody the principle of flexibility and responsiveness to the needs of our clients.

Principles:

1. Nobody signed up for this.

- Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our work in our offices or with our colleagues or in making the adjustments to our work plans.
- Not for the disruption of our planned work, not for the uncertainty of what our work looks like in the future.
- Not for the impact that this may have on our own families as we seek to continue support of our clients as they navigate continued services for children with disabilities and their families.

2. The humane option is the best option.

- We are going to prioritize supporting each other and our clients.
- We going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most; our work with each other and our work with states.
- We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly within our staff and with our clients.
- We recognize the important contributions we can make to supporting the disability community as this time, in particular related to systems, practices and outcomes.

3. We cannot just do the same TA.

- Some of planned TA will need to be delayed.
- Some of the planned TA will need to be “re – purposed” and new TA developed to meet the immediate needs of clients.
- We will need to seek solutions to the issues that clients are dealing with now and in the future.

4. We will foster TA solutions to the programmatic and data related issues clients are facing.

- We will seek innovative, as well as providing tried and true solutions.
- We will foster peer to peer sharing, learning and support.
- We will support clients in keeping their professional social connections.

5. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.

- While we believe this situation is temporary, the timeline is unknown. We will need to adapt; we will remain open to this and look for solutions.
- Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment.

Adapted by Grace Kelley from *Adjusted Syllabus, Spring 2020*, Brandon Bayne, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. March 15, 2020.

'Nobody Signed Up for This.' College Professor Drastically Rethinks Syllabus to Prioritize Human Need Amid Coronavirus, Megan McCluskey, Time.Com, March 27, 2020.