What is LEAD -K?

* Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids
	+ Purpose = Deaf children have access to language skills from 0-5
* Research done and anecdotal evidence points to the fact that the current system of educating Deaf children is not working.
	+ This then effects the child throughout their lives
		- Negative effect on academics
		- Negative effect on employment
* It is widely known that the first five years are critical for language development
	+ LEAD – K offers parents profile information about expected language milestones for their child
	+ Language acquisition – Parent chooses ASL, English or both to use to work with milestones
		- MYTH – LEAD-K does not promote any specific language or communication
		- AG Bell has fought this legislation in most states due to this myth
			* The Commission will need to be aware of AG Bell’s tactics in fighting passage of the bill
	+ An annual language assessment will be done by the DHH EI or Educator
	+ Annual Disaggregated Data would be reported by the state
* 5 States have passed the LEAD-K bill:
	+ California
	+ Hawaii
	+ Oregon
	+ South Dakota
	+ Georgia
	+ Louisiana
* Several state are in the process of passing the bill or have shown interest in doing so
	+ Alabama, Missouri, Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, Texas
* LEAD – K National Partners:
	+ National Association of the Deaf
	+ Nyle DiMarco Foundation
	+ American Society for Deaf Children
	+ CueSigns, Inc.
	+ National Black Deaf Advocates
	+ Deaf Grassroots Movement
* Celebrity Co-Spokespersons: Deanne Bray and Nyle DiMarco
* National Core Team Co Chairs: Sheri Farinha and Julie Rems Smario
* Support needed:
	+ Information and national training
	+ Learning the legislative process and how to’s
	+ Assistance with Team Organization
	+ Building your teams
	+ Consultation on issues
	+ Framing the argument with tips
	+ Building relationships with Community, Legislators, opposition groups, and more!
		- Data Collection – Maureen
		- Legislative – Maureen and Jeff
		- Advocacy – Betty and Jeff
	+ MORE AWARENESS ABOUT LANGUAGE EQUALITY, ASL AND ENGLISH.
	+ RESOURCES TO ADVOCATE DEAF CHILDREN TO HAVE FULL ACCESS TO BOTH ASL & ENGLISH.
	+ LANGUAGE ACQUISITION DATA WILL BE AVAILABLE.
		- THROUGH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.
	+ RESEARCH INFORMATION & DIALOGUES ABOUT LANGUAGE DEPRIVATION
	+ PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE PUBLIC POLICIES WITH DEAF PEOPLE IN THE DRIVER’S SEAT.
	+ MORE LITERARY RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ASL AND ENGLISH.
	+ CREATE STRONG SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR FAMILIES.

**THE TIME IS NOW!**