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!**