**Sharon L. Lunn, M.Ed.**

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**EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS**

Sharon Lunn, M.Ed., is an intentional leader with over 20 years of experience in early childhood and primary/elementary education. As a Technical Assistance (TA) Specialist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, she provides technical assistance to support states in building high-quality systems that implement evidence-based practices related to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) early childhood requirements. Expertise includes early intervention (EI) system development and K-5 specialized instructional support program (SISP) leadership. Essential knowledge in program evaluation; program improvement; functional and solution-focused action planning; family partnership; and community collaboration.Specializing as an early childhood consultant and certified counselor/educator, overall professional interests are to promote equitable access to education, and optimal outcomes for all children and their families. Expertise and interests have culminated to define skilled focus in the areas of accountability and quality improvement; identification and evaluation of children potentially eligible for early intervention and early childhood special education services; family engagement; and early childhood transitions.

**EDUCATION**

M.Ed., School Counseling (2019)- Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC

* Action Research Thesis: *Effective Strategies to Ease Anxiety and Disruptive Classroom Behavior During Early School Transitions: A Study of Kindergarten Students*

B.A., Sociology/Social Welfare (2000)- Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC

**LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS**

**North Carolina Professional Educator’s License**

* North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

**North Carolina Infant-Toddler Specialist Certification**

* State of North Carolina

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute)**

**Research Investigator/Technical Assistance Specialist**, (2021-Present), Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA)

Provides technical assistance to support states in building high-quality systems and implementation of evidence-based practices related to IDEA early childhood requirements. Co-leads: accountability and quality improvement, and transition topic teams.

**Technical Assistance Specialist/ Community Site Lead**, (2021-2024), Child Find ACCESS Model Demonstration Project

Served as TA specialist and community site lead on OSEP-funded model demonstration project focused on advancing community-centered, equity-focused Child Find systems and supports. As a means to promote and scale up equity in access to Part C early intervention services, provided team facilitation and responsive technical assistance to cross-sector community leadership teams comprised of health, early care, education, and social service systems stakeholders. Steered local efforts aimed to refine the existing Child Find system within community sites experiencing longstanding issues related to equity in access to education.

**Cabarrus County Schools**

**K-12 Professional School Counselor**, (2019-2021)

As a licensed professional school counselor incorporated the North Carolina State Board of Education’s guiding mission and curriculum standards in the provision of individual and group counseling, and educational support. Promoted student success and well-being through the design and implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program. Managed all aspects of the school counseling program addressing the academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students. Functioned as a vital member of the school leadership team and Section 504 case manager. Initiated and fortified system change efforts at building and district levels to improve equitable access to education for all students. Collected and analyzed local data to identify student body needs and individual challenges. Facilitated preventive services including student interventions via state-sanctioned programs, professional advocacy, and effective collaboration with families, educators, district personnel, and other community partners. Served as a member of the specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) and multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) team.

**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFW) (formerly under Division of Public Health (DPH))**

**Human Services Program Consultant**, (2013-2019), NC Early Intervention Branch

Assumed all responsibilities as a state regional consultant within the Quality Improvement Unit of the North Carolina Early Intervention Branch (the state lead agency (SLA) providing oversight of North Carolina’s Early Intervention Program, implemented by 16 local lead agencies (Children’s Developmental Services Agencies (CDSAs). Managed primary technical support, evaluated and analyzed service system data for 6 local lead agencies (LA) administering early intervention services in 33 counties. As a member of the state leadership team, supported the SLA in conducting its mandated role under IDEA in supervision, monitoring, funding, interagency coordination, and other responsibilities; co-led state systemic improvement planning efforts; and developed statewide program policy and procedures. Utilized program data to assess state and local technical assistance needs. Collaborated to plan, implement, and evaluate technical assistance and professional development activities designed to meet the needs of local programs and contracted service providers.

**Human Service Planner-Evaluator II/Quality Assurance-Quality Improvement Coordinator**, (2008- 2013), Children’s Developmental Services Agency

Provided effective managerial oversight to local lead agency accountability efforts, ensuring that policies and procedures were carried out according to program guidelines. Managed and led all cross-sector monitoring activities throughout a 5 county catchment area, including peer-review processes to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations. Provided subject-matter expertise related to accountability and monitoring system improvement. Planned, developed, and implemented a continuous quality improvement (CQI) system overhaul, making valid and reliable program performance data available to stakeholders at state and regional levels. Functioned as subject matter expert for multi-county catchment area and consulted on local early intervention policies and practices. Consulted with early childhood entities and other education partners regarding interagency planning, technical support, and monitoring activities.

**Habilitation Specialist III/Early Intervention Service Coordinator**, (2007-2008), Children’s Developmental Services Agency

Provided direct service coordination for children enrolled in the state early intervention program. Collaborated with families and multidisciplinary clinical teams to identify and assess developmental status, and individualized service needs for children ages birth-3 and their families. Facilitated individualized family service planning (IFSP) processes, assuring the provision of procedural safeguards and compliance with IDEA Part C regulatory requirements. Conducted routine home visits to monitor service provision in natural environments, during routine daily activities. Ensured service provision in compliance with program policies and procedures and consulted with network providers accordingly.

**The Special Children’s School (merged with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, 2007)**

**Parent Liaison**, (2006-2007)

Assumed all responsibilities as a key administrator on the school leadership team. Served as home/school/community liaison, acting as the initial point of contact for families, and the primary contact for school-related concerns. Provided professional advocacy, and crisis intervention for enrolled students and their families. Facilitated cross-sector partnership meetings and steered community outreach efforts. Facilitated the active engagement of parents as partners in education by organizing and launching a parent empowerment committee which increased parent leadership capacity and family involvement in the school community. Successfully coordinated annual child record audit and response to the local management entity (LME) for the duration of tenure.

**Case Manager/Family Support Specialist**, (2003-2006)

Provided intensive case management including principal school support, service coordination, and crisis intervention assistance. Provided parent education and coaching. Coordinated developmental/educational screening and evaluations across disciplines. Organized and facilitated IFSP meetings, consulted with district Pre-K coordinator to arrange preschool transition activities, and participated in initial and annual Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings. Monitored the effectiveness of interventions and service provision and consulted with multidisciplinary support teams. Managed incoming and outgoing referrals and service authorizations. Directed child record review and response to annual audit.

**Infant-Toddler Teacher**, (2000-2003)

Managed all aspects of an early childhood classroom. Provided ongoing supervision and training to classroom staff. Directed program facilitation and oversight, curriculum development, and design of program materials. Conducted child and family assessments, coordinated multidisciplinary teams, and developed and implemented IFSPs addressing the individualized needs of children qualifying for services due to developmental delay and/or documented health conditions. Evaluated the effectiveness of child and family interventions. Orchestrated parent engagement through regular conferences and classroom-centered activities. Maintained student records to ensure compliance with state and local regulatory agencies.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP/APPOINTMENTS**

* Member, National Black Child Development Institute (2023- Present)
* Member, Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (2022-Present)
* Member of Trohanis Racial Equity Committee- Workforce Composition and Quality Sub-group, FPG Child Development Institute (2021-2023)
* Invited Panelist, McKinney Scholar HBCU Alumni Q&A Panel, FPG Development Institute NC (2021)
* Member, American School Counselor Association (2016-2019)
* Member, North Carolina School Counselor Association (2016-2019)
* Member, Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education (2016-2019)
* Member, North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association (2016-2019)
* Selected NC aRPy Ambassador (2016-2019)

**SELECTED CONSULTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

Lewis, M., Lunn, S., Staton, C. (2024, March) *OSEP National TA Call: Early Childhood Transition.* Presentation during OSEP National TA Call. (Remote).

Elliott-Teague, G., Lunn, S., (2023, December) *Part C Extension Option Cross-State Listening Session.* (Virtual).

Bennett, D., Lunn, S. (2023, October) *Centering Partnership: Using DEC Recommended Practices to Make Early Intervention (EI) Accessible and Meaningful for Historically Marginalized Children and Families*. Session at the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) 2023 National Conference. Charlotte, NC.

Barret-Zitkus, J., Freeman, V., Guerra, J., Kelley, G., Kozlowski, J., Lunn, S., Martin-Eile, J., Miley, J., Murray-Wilkins, B., Scheibe, F. (2022, September) *Using Data and Lesson Learned to Support Improved Outcomes*. Session at the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the International Society on Early Intervention (ISEI) Joint Conference. Chicago, IL.

Bull, B., Lunn, S., Mauzy, D., McGhee, T., Shepherd, S. (2022, August) *Listening Session: Exploring Early Childhood Transition Data Challenges, Strategies, Methods*. Presentation at the 2022 Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference. Washington, DC.

Batool, S., Bosworth, D., Lunn, S., Shepherd, S., and Staton, C. (2022, July). *Reimagine Early Childhood Transitions- Focus on the Family’s Vision: What Every Policy Maker, Leader, and Practitioner Needs to Know*. Presentation at the 2022 OSEP Leadership and Project Directors’ Conference. (Virtual).

Co-designed and facilitated *Social Justice Learning Curriculum- Elementary Grades 3-5*. (2020-2021) Curriculum implemented in Cabarrus County School District.