LoneStar LEND Program Requirements (abridged)

1. LEND Orientation
   a. Last Friday in August 9am - 5pm

2. LEND Seminars
   a. September – June: Fridays 9am – 4:45pm

3. Service Learning Project
   a. Weekday time with team members

4. Families as Teachers
   a. Four lectures from Family Faculty; three encounters with mentor family; attendance at three parent & advocate panels

5. Clinical Practica
   a. 26 clinical rotations (half day – full day each)
   b. Completed outside of Friday LEND seminars, typically during business hours

6. Leadership Weekend
   a. Friday/Saturday in September (8:00am - 5:00pm) in Houston, TX

7. LEND Conference
   a. Spring semester (Thursday – Friday); Houston, TX

8. Other Conference Requirement
   a. BCM Chronic Illness + Disability Conference: Thursday – Friday in October; exact date TBD. Houston, TX OR
   b. Texas Transition Conference: Thursday - Friday in February; exact date TBD. Location TBD

9. Developmental Screening events
   a. Two Saturdays during LEND Year
The mission of the LoneStar LEND Program is to create leaders in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder and other Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (ASD/DD), utilizing an interdisciplinary training model focused on cultural competence and evidence-based practice. During their **10-month appointment**, each LEND Trainee will complete a total of **400-500 hours** of training and learning activities including:

- LEND Didactic Seminars
- Leadership and Cultural Competence Training
- Clinical Practica
- Conference Participation
- Family as Teachers Program
- Service Learning Project
- Additional LEND activities including leadership readings & reflections, outreach, etc.

**LEND Didactic Seminars and Leadership/Cultural Competence Training**

Mandatory sessions will be held on Fridays throughout your LEND appointment. For a sample of the previous year’s didactic seminar calendar, visit www.LoneStarLEND.org. These sessions will occur mainly at the UTHealth University Center Tower, 7000 Fannin St; however some may be scheduled at the McGovern Medical School, 6431 Fannin St or the UTHealth School of Nursing (SON), 6901 Bertner St. Four ninety-minute sessions are scheduled during each Friday. Training sessions will include:

- LEND Orientation (last Friday in August)
- Didactic, Multidisciplinary Seminars
- Leadership and Cultural Competency Curriculum (held on a Friday/Saturday in September)
- Families as Teachers, Service Learning and Clinical Review Sessions
- Leadership Readings and Book Club Discussions

Attendance at the seminars is required. A limited number of absences are allowed for professional conflicts or illness. Please review the attached attendance policy.

**Clinical Practica**

Trainees will participate in a wide variety of clinic and community observational experiences. A total of 26 clinical rotations must be completed within the LEND year; each rotation spans between 4 - 8 hours and typically occur during business hours (Mon - Fri, 8am-5pm). Trainees are responsible for contacting clinics to schedule observations and will keep a log of observational experiences for review by the Training Coordinator at periodic clinical review sessions.
Conference Participation
All Trainees will attend the annual LoneStar LEND conference held in the Spring semester (exact date TBD). Trainees are also required to attend either the Baylor Chronic Illness and Disability Conference (held in October) or the Texas Transition Conference (held in February). Additionally, optional funding will be made available for Trainees to attend another relevant professional development opportunity during the program year.

Families as Teachers Program
Each Trainee will be paired with a mentor family of a child with an ASD/DD to provide an opportunity for Trainees to experience a family’s viewpoint of the process of diagnosis, treatment, and day-to-day life with ASD/DD. Trainees will schedule a minimum of two encounters with their assigned mentor family prior to April 30th. In addition, Trainees will attend two parent panels where a variety of disabilities and ethnic backgrounds will be represented. These interactive panels will be moderated by the LEND Family Faculty members and will expose Trainees to a variety of ASD/DD topics from the families’ perspectives. Upon completion of the Families as Teachers program, Trainees will participate in a capstone session during which each Trainee reflects upon their experience through a brief presentation to faculty and their peers. The presentation will focus on how system and service availability and/or gaps were highlighted by the families’ experiences and ideas for services to fill those gaps. The Trainee will also highlight how they were most impacted by the Families as Teachers experience and how they anticipate this will affect their practice in the future.

Service Learning Project
During the course of the LEND year, each trainee pursues an area of particular personal interest through the Service Learning Project. Conceptualized and completed in interdisciplinary groups of 3 - 4 trainees, the Service Learning Project will provide multiple opportunities for trainees to experience issues they will face in practice such as accountability, outcome-based approaches, family-centered models, collaboration, and interdisciplinary decision-making. Each of these components offers opportunities for trainees to enhance and strengthen their leadership skills. Trainee groups will present their leadership project at the conclusion of their program (date TBD). The Service Learning Project should focus on an issue in the field of disability/special health care needs and systems change. Each project will result in production of a product (brochure, web page, article, instructional video, etc.). The Service Learning Project is an opportunity to integrate relevant material from LEND seminars and take away a broader perspective of working with an interdisciplinary team.

In addition to the weekly scheduled seminar sessions, Trainees can expect to spend an average of 8-12 hours per week on LEND activities such as clinical practica, Families as Teachers program, service learning project and other LEND activities, assignments, and projects.