

REGIONAL AUTISM TEAM MEETING

September 10, 2004

Present: Robert Allen, Leanne Coffman, Freda Davis, and Vickie Embry. MaryAnn Forbes, Karin Holland, Celeste Hinton, Linda Hunt, Cindy Hurt, Joyce Lopez, Debra Myers, Alicia Richardson, Shea Rogers Vicki Smith, Kelly Wanta, Debbie Walton, Shelia Wethington, and Cynthia York.

Absent: Regina Guthrie, Apryl Bradford, Amy Carter, Pam Coe, Kerry Holloman, Leanne Marksberry, Kathy Maciel, Dana McCubbins, Shaun McPherson, Connie Poynter, Janice (Carter) Smith, Candy Stolt, & Mary Ellen Simons.

Business

New Members & Update member roster

The group welcomed two new members this year. Welcome Debbie Walton (Barren). Members were asked to verify membership information on roster.

Regional Child Development Clinic

By Jim Whittington & Dr. Carl Myers

Mr. Whittington & Dr. Myers provided a general overview of this program and the services provided.

Sharing of Miscellaneous Information related to Autism

- Autism Support Group Meetings through TJ Sampson Hospital in Glasgow. Call Linda Veldman @ 270-651-4480 for information
- Sample PECS objectives
- How to develop a social skills group for student with autism (article)
- Soma Mukhopadhyay, Rapid Prompting Method (featured on Sixty Minutes). A parent is trying to get her to this area. Call Suzanne Fant @ 270-651-6510 for information

Strategic Planning Activities

Background Information

The following is some facts that we know about autism in the CESC region:

Identified an increase in autism cases referred to CESC

Identified a need to disseminate best practice information to teachers in region

Recognize a surge of litigation related to autism nationally

Identified an increase in parents asking for more effective services for students with autism

Established RAT in December 2001

Identified a representative from each of the CESC 17 districts as members on RAT

RAT meets quarterly for PD and business meetings.

Divided RAT into three committees: Communication, PD, & Movers/Shakers
Developed two action plans over past three years.
Established a CESC web page for links and communication
Have provided PD on “state of the art” strategies
Have brought in several nationally recognized speakers for PD in autism
Initiated networking activities with community service providers
Have completed most of latest action plan activities.

Purpose of RAT group

The RAT group was established for the following purposes:
To build capacity within CESC in the area of autism
To establish leaders in the CESC region
To provide high caliber PD opportunities
To establish a communication conduit to disseminate information
To network & develop partnerships in the community

Purpose of this session

To decide on organization & committee structure
To identify mission of each committee and select chairpersons
To develop a new three year action plan
To establish future activities
To identify meeting dates & times for 2004-05

Nonpurposes of this session

To critique old action plan
To discuss specific cases or classrooms
To critique past PD activities

The following activity was to brainstorm possible directions for each committee:

Organization & Group Facilitator

Piggyback business meetings with PD activities by having working lunch.
Combine Movers/Shakers committee with Communication Committee
Continue to disseminate information to group
Allow for opportunity to change committee memberships
Provide nametags so group can become more familiar with each other
Forward the RAT distribution list to each member for ease in communication
Maintain web page
Provide a Q/A section on web page
Leave the organizational structure the same
Put Communication & Organization together

Professional Development (Chairperson: Alisha Richardson)

Continue to provide guest speakers
Provide a sharing day to discuss successes
Identify quality PD in the area of Aspergers Syndrome
Provide a Make & Take day for TEACCH and PESC materials
Repeat previous trainings by RAT members and/or national speakers
Repeat previous trainings every 2-3 years for new personnel
Demonstrate TEACCH and other models in use
Provide an advanced level TEACCH training
Establish Deb Myers as a TEACCH trainer for our area
Establish follow-up discussions on Pros/Cons or strengths/weaknesses of model programs
Provide PD to others in district outside of RAT
Provide a PD activity on medical interventions for students with autism

Communication (Chairperson: Janice Carter)

Develop a list of classrooms in each district that use PECS, TEACCH, & ABA
Visit different classrooms that use PECS, TEACCH, & ABA
Establish cross-district consultation services
Post notices in schools, malls, & grocery stores about RAT
Establish a roaming information kit

Movers & Shakers (Chairperson: Robert Allen)

Partner with other Regional Teams, such as Transition, Behavior Supports, Assistive Technology, & School psychologists
Open informational meetings to caregivers and other educators
Invite community members to RAT activities (PD, which professionals)
Partner with Parents

Committee Work

See action Plans attached.

Next Meeting: January, 2005 specific to be determined

Agenda:

Provide a PD activity on medical interventions for students with autism
Need to identify new chairpersons for committees
Need to review action plans to verify if this is what we want.