



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

January, 2007

Pat White, Editor

Presentations

Rinkel, P. (2006, November). *Instructional resources and professional development for early childhood special education/early intervention: The Kansas Inservice Training System*. Presentation at the Learning Disabilities of Kansas annual conference, Lawrence, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, July). *Community action training in excellence system: Implementing national quality standards locally*. Onsite workshop and training to Community Action Incorporated, Topeka, KS.

Smith, C. L., & Cress, P. (2006, July). *Ohio quality management for persons with developmental disabilities: An update*. Presented at the quarterly Management Advisory Council meeting for the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Smith, C. (2006, August). *Community action training in excellence system: Implementing national quality standards locally*. Onsite workshop and training to Northeast Kansas Community Action Program, Hiawatha, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, August). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership, Topeka, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, October). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Garden City, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, October). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Great Bend, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, October). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Wichita, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, October). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Pittsburg, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, October). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start Leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Manhattan, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, September). *The Social Emotional Screening Tool-revised: Using the new tool in early head start programs in Kansas*. Onsite workshop and training to Kansas Early Head Start leadership and other early childhood and mental health providers, Lawrence, KS.

Smith, C. (2006, November). *Screening young children for serious mental health problems*. Address to the Kansas Head Start Association's Conference on Mental Health and Challenging Behavior, Topeka, KS.

Smith, C., & Cress, P. (2006, December). *Quality management: Its importance and its impact on services for persons with developmental disabilities*. Presentation to the 23rd Annual Convention of the Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD, Columbus, OH.

Publications

Doughty, S. S., Anderson, C. M., Doughty, A. H., Williams, D. C., & Saunders, K. J. (in press). Discriminative control of punished stereotyped behavior in humans. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

Saunders, K. J. (in press). Word-attack skills in individuals with mental retardation. *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*.

Project Highlight

Kansas College of Direct Support Kathy Olson, Principal Investigator

The Kansas College of Direct Support (CDS) became a reality this month following sustained effort by stakeholders to secure funding for this high quality online training for the direct support professional (DSP) workforce. Many people with developmental disabilities, whether living in their own homes, an apartment, a group setting, or with family rely on paid support workers, DSPs, to assist them with daily activities ranging from self care and homemaking to employment and community participation. DSPs are in the position to influence the quality of life for the people they support.

The 16 courses of the College of Direct Support have been developed by national content experts and are based on nationally validated competency sets and ethical guidelines. Hosted by MC Strategies, the CDS courses address core skill areas: Safety; Direct Support Professionalism; Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults and Children; Teaching People With Developmental Disabilities; Supporting Healthy Lives; Introduction to Developmental Disabilities; Individual Rights and Choice; Cultural Competence; Community Inclusion; Introduction to Medication Support; Positive Behavior Support; Documentation; You've Got a Friend; Employment

Supports; Person-centered Planning; and Personal Cares. Four courses are also available for supervisors. All courses are updated annually to assure they continue to reflect best practices.

Securing funding for CDS is the most recent accomplishment of Kansans Mobilizing for Direct Support Workforce Change, a group of stakeholders that came together under a KUCDD project in 2002. Committed to improving the DSP workforce, KMFC addressed several challenges related to the recruitment, training, and retention of DSPs. Participants have been effective in decreasing turnover and received national recognition for efforts in workforce change. After piloting the CDS and witnessing the growth in employees and experiencing the benefit of online training, KMFC members were instrumental in getting the Kansas legislature to fund the purchase of CDS for the state. A grant from the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services now makes CDS, the computer-based online training available to DSPs.

KMFC members identified the CDS courses as the related instruction component of the Ad Astra Direct Support Registered Apprenticeship Program. Although still in its infancy, Ad Astra is one of the first registered programs in the nation developed for DSPs. Apprenticeship is a step toward recognition of the profession and defining a career lattice and ladder for the DSP.

The Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities will serve as the administrator for Kansans using CDS. In this role, KUCDD will market CDS to providers who are unaware of this resource, as well as assist service providers and individuals to use the CDS to meet local training needs. The transition from face-to-face to online training is a major move for many employers. It often requires revisions of agency policies and training approaches. This project will also support the continued activities of KMFC and the apprenticeship program.

Kathy Olson serves as the director of this project. Kelly Perry provides assistance. Kathy is also a member of the National Advisory Board and National Board of Editors for the College of Direct Support.

Staff News

Kimberly Page is the new Coordinator for the ECRC- Early Child Resource Center with the KITS projects under the direction of Dr. Dave Lindeman. Her extension is 1638 in the Media Lab Building.

Christy Alligood is the new Research Assistant for the Recombinative Generalization of Within-Syllable Units in MR under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Saunders. Her extension is 1915 in the Research Center.