

**Roanoke Region CoPA – Beth Harman (Roanoke and New River Valley)  
Action Plan (revised)  
2009**

**Definition of a Community of Practice**- “groups of people who share a concern, a set of problems or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis” (Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, 2002)

**CoPA Leader(s)**

Beth Harman – Autism Coordinator, Roanoke County Schools

**CoPA Core Group**

Beth Harman – leader

Pam Lloyd Curtis – TTAC

Unknown until after first meeting

**2009 Goals**

**Goal 1: Increase public awareness**

- The core group will
  - build membership by developing a list of individuals in the region, including family members, who are concerned about young children diagnosed or suspected of having ASD
  - establish a regular meeting date and location(s)
  - develop a strategy for advertising meetings (listserv, email, etc.)
- CoPA members will:
  - Assess needs of families, providers, and others
  - Initially discuss with EI systems managers, the needs of their communities
  - Discuss needs and information area needs during initial CoPA meeting

**Goal 2: Provide access to information and supports**

- Develop a listing of supports and resources to families
- Facilitate on-going interactions and communication among members and community
- Provide information and resources at future meetings
- Determine most efficient and effective forms of communicating (e-mail, website, etc)

**Goal 3: Identify people who are interested in CoPA leadership activities**

- Discuss interest during meetings
- Have on-going communication with those who are interested in continuing CoPA in their area

**Goal 4: Membership identifies major outcome for this year (develop a regional resource guide, develop website, etc.)**