

Southwest Virginia CoPA
LENOWISCO, DICKENSON, AND CUMBERLAND MT
Action Plan
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)

Karen Davis, M.Ed., Early Childhood Services Coordinator, Frontier Health

Core Group:

- Mary Lou Hutton, Cumberland Infant and Toddler Program
- Nancy Bailey, Infant and Toddler Connection of DILENOWISCO
- Cindy Bates, Wise County Schools
- Courtney Currier, Scott County Schools
- Stacy Wood, Scott County Schools
- Angie Lane, Lee County Schools
- Lisa Pritchard, Wise County Schools, HEART team.

2009 Goals

Goal 1: Increase participation in Region 7 CoPA

Objective 1 - The core group will establish networks, email lists and ask each person to “buddy” with another person who needs information and help with Autism in order increase numbers of their particular supporting group. This will aide in the construction of our periphery membership.

Objective 2 – The group will participate in community events to disseminate information on the CoPA and how to become involved (health fairs, conference displays).

Goal 2: Provide information and training to the community, professionals and families of children with ASD.

Objective 1 – The group will assess resources available in the areas of: LENOWISCO, Dickenson, and Cumberland

Objective 2 – CoPA meetings will be held to showcase Southwestern Virginia programs that are working well

- A. Scott County
- B. Wise County (HEART)

Objective 3 – In order to increase buy-in of the school systems, at one of their monthly meetings Directors of Special Education in Region 7 will learn about our CoPA through a presentation utilizing the core group.

Objective 4 - Infant and Toddler programs will be encouraged to provide staff trainings for their Special Instructors and Service Coordinators utilizing members of the CoPA team

Objective 5 - Working with the already trained T-TAC individuals of the HEART program the CoPA will ask that they assist others school divisions get a “jump-start.”

Objective 6 – The group will set up a Southwest Virginia list of contacts by county to distribute and use for immediate resource and explore ways to make the web-based directory easier to access.

Goal 4: To provide support and networking within the group

Objective 1 – Community services such as Frontier Health and Family Preservation may use a CoPA member when working with mental health professionals for in-services and trainings, individuals with intellectual disabilities, individuals with autism and their families.

Objective 2 – Facilitate on-going interaction and communication among members and the community