

Tidewater (Southside) CoPA 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

Dana Childress – Early Childhood Special Educator/Program Supervisor

CoPA Core Group

Emily Chebetar – Early Childhood Special Educator

Alberta Reid – Service Coordinator/Educator

Julie Palmer – Children’s Services Director

Cindy Barnhurst – Service Coordinator

Kristie Dailey – Early Childhood Special Educator

Debbie Jones – Service Coordinator

Dr. John Harrington - Pediatrician

2009 Goals

Goal 1: Explore specific strategies/approaches that work well with infants and toddlers suspected of having ASDs

- CoPA core group and other members will:
 - Identify 1-2 approaches for further study through book review, DVDs, group discussion to target how to implement strategies/techniques in natural environments and use during coaching with families and caregivers
 - Assist with identification of people within CoPA for sources of strategies information
 - Assist with linking with members of the community who have expertise in strategies specific to the 0-4 population
 - When available, provide presentations or other information to members

Goal 2: Develop strategies to share with families/care providers on a variety of topics

- CoPA core group and other members will:
 - Develop handouts for families on a variety of topics based on issues commonly addressed with families (ie., potty-training, community outings, discipline, use of TV)
 - Disseminate handouts across the region as a resource for families/care providers and staff who support them
 - Develop a “toolkit” of resource in how to apply 1-2 approaches in NEs with children and families after study (see above)

Goal 3: Share information about best evidence-based practices

- CoPA core group and other members will:
 - Disseminate handouts, articles, case studies, etc that provide information about best practices for serving families of children with ASDs

- Share information with local EI and Part B system following CoPA meetings

Goal 4: Share information about resources and training opportunities across the region and state

- CoPA core group and other members will:
 - Share flyers, announcements, etc. across region via CoPA email list and at TRICC meetings