

CoPA – Region 7
Minutes
February 24, 2009

Present: Karen Davis, Frontier Health; Cindy Bates, Wise Co. Schools; Lisa Pritchard, Wise Co. Schools

November workshop: The group reviewed the evaluations from the November 11, 2009 workshop for parents. Results from the 12 evaluations (8 family members, 1 ECSE, 1 SLP, 2 Counselors) were as follow:

On a scale of 1-5:

How effective was this training in providing you with new information and/or skills?

Poor		Satisfactory		Excellent
1- <u>0</u>	2- <u>0</u>	3- <u>0</u>	4- <u>3</u>	5- <u>9</u>

How helpful were the facilitator(s)/presenters(s)?

Poor		Satisfactory		Excellent
1- <u>0</u>	2- <u>0</u>	3- <u>0</u>	4- <u>2</u>	5- <u>10</u>

How useful were the materials?

Poor		Satisfactory		Excellent
1- <u>0</u>	2- <u>0</u>	3- <u>0</u>	4- <u>3</u>	5- <u>9</u>

I learned. . .

- More information about Autism. Activities to help teach parents they can use in their homes.
- How to integrate “The Hidden Curriculum” into our everyday life as relating to others.
- The sensory
- Some great resources and ideas
- How to write a social story.
- Tools to handle meltdowns. Understand sensory issues. More teaching techniques.
- new sensory issues to watch for & different ways to react.
- quite a bit about sensory issues
- Everything. My first to third workshop & the information/ideas were invaluable.
- about social stories
- that we have more resources available than I was aware of

I plan to change or do the following differently. . .

- Making more effective schedules, giving parents information to use for their family.
- to try to empathize with Kenneth when he is over-stimulated.
- giving into my son
- more aware of signs
- I plan to use more schedules. I also want to use the slant board.
- Try more social stories.
- to breath through some issues, take a moment so I can better help my child & keep my sanity too!
- use more patience.
- Find activities that target each of our children w/ ASD.
- I do language activities with children almost everyday but I have never used it in this manner. I want to start!
- use social stories w/ students

The session would have been better if. .

- N/A
- was very good
- more make and take
- There were more hands on activities with sensory distortion.
- Longer, more topics covered
- more info geared to younger autistic kids/ applications
- it was for a weekend. Reg. Ed. Teachers could really use this info.

What other comments do you have to share. . .

- I have enjoyed this workshop and the materials I am going to be able to share
- I have really enjoyed this and am thankful this is available for parents, caregivers and teachers. Very interested in future workshops (name and phone #)
- Love the "tool kits"
- Like to see more of this kind of info available and shared by the school. Also, like to see more teachers & aids to become involved, seems only a few are involved.
- Dickenson County Schools, along w/parents, could benefit from CoPA.
- This wan an excellent workshop. Thank you!
- We would like to have more training available in Dickenson County (for educators & parents).

Grant: Cindy shared that Wise Co. Schools has received a Project (grant) with the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders in partnership with the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (TEACCH). This is third cohort for the grant and Virginia is joining California and Texas for this cohort. Three sites in Virginia were identified to participate: Richmond City, Loudon County, and Wise County. Wise County will be visited by FPG in April when they will be assessed. At this time three target students will be identified and these students will be followed regarding their goals and progress. A team of school staff will attend a summer institute in Richmond where they will identify several of 24 research based practices that they will be implementing to teach targeted students. Throughout the next school year Wise County will continue to be visited by the FPC as they provide feedback and training as well as assessments of our implementations of research based practices in serving students with autism.

Lisa shared that they are in the planning stages of the HEART walkathon. Information will be forthcoming.

Next meeting: March 24, 2010. Future meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month. The room at Oxbow is booked for 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. on March 24, 2010, April 28, 2010, and May 26, 2010. Attendees can bring lunch and dessert will be provided.

*Respectfully submitted by
Karen Davis, CoPA Leader*