

# **Tidewater (Southside) Community of Practice in Autism**

March 17, 2010

12:00 – 2:00

## **Present**

Kerry Lambert, Bert Reid, Emily Chebetar, Linda Bourdon, Dana Childress, Cindy Barnhurst, Laura O'Neal, Lauren Wiley

## **Overview of Meeting**

Began meeting with introductions, sharing of ideas, resources, and new information.

Dana shared that in the current *Child Health Alert* mailing, there is a brief column on incidence/prevalence of autism, as well as information regarding Dr. Wakefield's vaccine studies. (Child Health Alert Inc, ISSN-1064-4849).

Shining Stars- Cindy & Dana asked questions re: registration; email Linda I. for copy of draft agenda

Discussed state budget updates per email from Sandy Hermann @ CHKD.

Bert shared a training 5/16-5/17- introductory ABA workshop in Alexandria, VA, provided by Kane ABA Consulting. \$125 for professionals, \$100 for family members.

Kerry: keep in mind, this focuses greatly on DTT, which our group has generally agreed is not necessarily the best intervention method for infants and toddlers, so we need to be aware and be good consumers of information.

Kerry shared that Tuesday, 3/23/10 from 1-3pm at Child Development Resources in Williamsburg, VA, they will be discussing ABA and PRT. Kerry and Linda I. will be going.

TTAC is looking to bring trainings to area; has spoken with Dr. Gretchen Meyer; she and Kelly Koons will tentatively do training on principles of ABA.

Kerry will email Mitch in Northern VA re: their PRT training.

Group discussed: How do we bring DIR/Floortime info back to our agencies/the community?

Entire DVD series is too much at once; pull clips.

Linda B.- observation scale (pg 45, training manual 1) very useful; show clips while viewers use scale to apply.

Do we want to take it back to our individual programs our put together a larger training and invite many agencies? Group agreed to plan larger training.

Dana's program would like basic, foundational training.

Linda B. likes to focus on following child's lead and helping people understand how following child's lead works with circles of communication.

Bert shared idea to use one child/case and analyze according to DIR/Floortime principles.

Kerry- each program could bring one case from program and group can analyze/discuss.

Bert- give DVDs, questions/suggestions to our individual agencies in the meantime for them to self-study

Bert suggested including content on how to tie DIR/Floortime to IFSP goals/objectives.

Reference Serena Wieder's "Creating Connections" activities.

Emily- checklist can be useful for goals

Group agreed to plan half-day seminar/session in order to disseminate information to therapists, educators, service coordinators, etc.

Laura suggested asking Dr. Meyer if she would be willing to do an "ask the doctor" session at some point to give parents a chance to ask questions in a panel format.

Discussed planning seminar:

Group agreed we should limit clips/cases to our age range/level of function.

Timeframe: early August, use DVD clips, Larua suggested bringing clips from our work or YouTube, etc.

Homework: begin gathering clips from multiple sources (ie online, DVDs, etc).

**Next Meeting:**

**Wed. April 21, 2010**

**Endeppence Center**

**Norfolk, VA**