

## Communities of Practice in Autism Leader Application

**CoPA Mission:** The Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPAs) will share knowledge and information about evidence-based strategies in natural environments, focusing on infants, toddlers, and young children with autism spectrum disorders and their families, to assist providers to improve services in the Commonwealth.

**CoPA Overview:** In 2007, CoPA began as a collaborative effort between the Integrated Training Collaborative, the Part C office of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) and the Virginia Department of Education's Special Education Instructional Services. Using the Communities of Practice (CoP) model, practitioners and families passionate about working in natural environments with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) received training from nationally recognized experts. Ten CoPA Leaders were selected to facilitate Communities of Practice in Autism (CoPA) in their regions across Virginia. During this pilot year, CoPA members had the opportunity to deepen their understanding and expertise by sharing experiences, exploring resources, and reflecting on their practices.

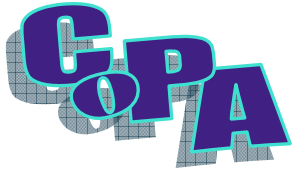
**Position Responsibilities & Requirements:** CoPA leaders are the facilitator for the CoPA in their locality.

### **Communities of Practice Leaders will:**

- ☆ Attend a 1-day CoPA Leader planning session
- ☆ Participate in quarterly CoPA Leaders' meetings via polycom, teleconference or face-to-face
- ☆ Interact with other CoPA leaders and the CoPA facilitator via the blog at least one time per month (post meeting minutes, articles, discussions, etc.)
- ☆ Develop goals and objectives for the local CoPA to be completed during the grant year
- ☆ Facilitate/coordinate 6-9 regional CoPA meetings during the grant year
- ☆ Collect data as required (pre and post tests, meeting evaluations, etc)

### **Qualified applicants will have:**

- ☆ Knowledge of group leadership and facilitation
- ☆ Experience with infants/toddlers in natural environments
- ☆ Knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices for infants/toddlers
- ☆ Experience with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- ☆ Knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders and intervention approaches
- ☆ Ability to implement the use of technology
- ☆ Ability to travel for trainings and meetings
- ☆ **A stipend is provided to support the cost of meeting facilitation and travel through a grant from the Integrated Training Collaborative and the Virginia Department of Education's Special Education Instructional Services**



## CoPA Regional Leader Application Background Information

Please complete the background information and question sections, sign, and submit your application by **11/5/08**. Applications can be submitted to the attention of: **Cori Hill, 34 Hermitage Estates Road, Waynesboro, VA, 22980**. Questions about the application can be directed to [corihill@ntelos.net](mailto:corihill@ntelos.net)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION	
Full Name:	
Title/Profession:	
Work Contact Information	<input type="checkbox"/> (Preferred Contact Method)
Agency:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Work Phone:	Work Fax:
Work Email:	
Home Contact Information	<input type="checkbox"/> (Preferred Contact Method)
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Home Phone:	Home Fax:
Mobile:	Home Email:
Region (Check One):	The following regions have vacancies:
<input type="checkbox"/> Abingdon (1 position)	<input type="checkbox"/> Roanoke (1 position)
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Virginia (2 positions)	<input type="checkbox"/> Valley (2 positions)
<input type="checkbox"/> Richmond/Central (2 positions)	

By signing below, I agree to:

- ◆ Attend the one day CoPA Leaders' planning session
- ◆ Participate in quarterly CoPA Leaders' meetings
- ◆ Interact with other CoPA leaders and the CoPA facilitator via the blog
- ◆ Develop goals for the local CoPA to be completed during the grant year
- ◆ Facilitate/coordinate 6-9 regional CoPA meetings during the grant year Collect data as required

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

## CoPA Regional Leader Application Questions

1. Describe your experience in facilitating meetings or group activities for adult learners.
2. What ideas do you have for broadening the role of the CoPA in your region? Who else in your region cares about young children with ASD and their families but is not a current participant in your CoPA?
3. Please describe your experiences with infants and toddlers.
4. Please describe your experiences with children diagnosed with ASD.
5. Why are you interested in being a Communities of Practice in Autism regional leader

(Applications are due on 11/5/08 to Cori Hill: [corihill@ntelos.net](mailto:corihill@ntelos.net) or 34 Hermitage Estates Rd, Waynesboro, VA 22980