

Feb 9, 2011

I will give you a quick overview of what is going on in my world with respect to autism services, though – feel free to share this with your group.

1. CADET continues to do twice-monthly evaluation days, seeing two children each day. We are seeing children ages 18 months to about 9 years. We have an early intervention/autism specialist (Nicki Mack), speech/language pathologist (Renee Schaefer), motor therapist (Laura McGuckin), and myself. We also continue to have a bilingual psychology graduate student working with us during our evaluations, and he is also working with several families, post-evaluation, regarding behavior management. The Children's Developmental Center (CDC) also continues to run a parent-based behavior management training (Children's Behavior Management Workshop; CBMW) 2-3 times per year. I supervise these activities in my role as Clinical Director.

2. Dr. Paul Strand, an associate professor of psychology at WSU Tri-Cities, and I were awarded funding for 2 psychology graduate student assistantships for academic year '11-'12. This is our fourth year of funding for this training experience. One of the students for next year is bilingual and will hopefully be spending some of her time at the Responding to Autism Center. I e-mailed Christine Lindgren to initiate discussions about collaborative efforts; we will be working with her to discuss how best to extend services in our community through the availability of trainees.

3. The CDC was awarded funding to have Nicki Mack go through the RDI training/certification process, which should help expand treatment services in our area. The Autism classroom at the CDC has also expanded – they now have a morning and an afternoon early intervention program. The CDC is also in the process of becoming a formal neurodevelopmental center and meeting with a local pediatrician, who will become the Medical Director. This should open some additional doors for service provision.

4. Peter Stewart, a clinical child psychologist and my officemate, and I are in the process of recruiting for a third child psychologist to join our practice. Our emphasis in this recruitment will be someone with interest/expertise treating youth with ASD's.

I think that captures what is going on, at least as far as I am involved. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the meeting on Friday, but I look forward to hearing from you about the outcome.

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