

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PLANNING WORKGROUP

**August 30, 2006
MEETING SUMMARY**

Present: Ruth Anan, Janice Bach, George Baker, Barb, Byers, Anne Carpenter, James Carr, Mary Chaliman, Connie Cory, Joan Ehrhardt, Sheri Falvay, Jan Frederick, Dohn Hoyle, Jackie Igafo teo, Linda LeBlanc, Barbara LeRoy, Amy Matthews, Debbie Milhouse, Michele McManus, Chitra Raman, Rick Solomon Andrea Velez, Joanne Winkelman

Present via phone conference: Amy Esler, Amy Helmuth, Shari Krishnan, Lucy Hough-Waite,

Staff: Audrey Craft, Lori Irish

Absent: Tom Brown, Sally Burton-Hoyle, Connie Cullip, Joan Deschamps, Dan Field, Susan Kangas, Dawn Ham-Kucharski, Debra M. Hernandez Jozefowica-Simbeni, Mark Moody, Price Pullins, Mary Spence, Jocelyn Vanda, Jessica Watson, Judy Webb, Bill Weil

1. Sheri Falvay convened the meeting. Sheri welcomed Workgroup participants and introductions were made. The ground rules were reviewed.
2. Michele McManus, Results/Outcomes and Indicators Subcommittee member, presented the revised Results/Outcomes. The Results/Outcomes were revised to align with other subcommittee recommendations.
3. George Baker, one of the Screening and Assessment Tools and Processes Subcommittee co-chairs, presented an update from the Screening and Assessment Tools and Processes Subcommittee on the Assessment Tools and Processes recommendations. The subcommittee has reviewed the Workgroup comment from the June 14 ASD Workgroup meeting and is in the process of revising their recommendations. Amy Helmuth, another co-chair for the Screening and Assessment Tools and Processes Subcommittee, gave an update on the development of the Care Planning and Coordination recommendations.
4. Jackie Igafo teo presented the draft recommendations from the Intervention Models and Processes Subcommittee. The subcommittee will be finalizing their recommendations to present to the Workgroup at the October 25 meeting. Linda Le Blanc provided information to the Workgroup regarding a change of terminology on the recommendations.

The subcommittee has now used the umbrella term Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) rather than Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) as this is the most appropriate term for this modality when applied to practice with young children. Amy Matthews provided information on a model that has been added to the Classification System, Developmental Social-Pragmatic Language Intervention (DSP).

5. Sheri Falvay facilitated the discussion on the draft Intervention Models and Processes recommendations. The following comments were made on:

Recommendation #1

- Concern about focus on evidence based models to the exclusion of models that are not as well researched.
- Concern that models such as Facilitated Communication are not considered evidence based.
- Very limited research on these models and it is important that parents understand there is little research.
- Suggest moving up in the recommendations reporting individual outcomes; this is requirement for education. If schools are limited to only one therapy then this may not be in line with IEP mandate to an individual approach.
- Needs to be a disclaimer that these recommendations are about individualized services.
- Subcommittee has addressed aggregate and individual outcomes for children; single subject design research was reviewed.
- Should look at the learning styles of the children and try to match interventions. Per subcommittee members, there is little research to support making specific recommendations linking learning styles and specific interventions.
- EBP is important, but clinical experience is also important in making decisions about interventions.

Recommendation #2

- Good recommendation as it provides parents choice and a means to make an informed choice.
- Need to teach families how to sift through the information/research on models.
- Current system is not good, as many families don't have choice of EBP.

Recommendation #3

- No comments.

Recommendations #4

- Make this recommendation broader to include other systems (schools). Schools are not required to use Person Centered Planning, however, the mental health system is.

Recommendation #5

- No comments.

Recommendation #6

- Acceptable Practice (per the criteria) should not be considered evidence based practice.
- There are no practices classified under 'Acceptable Practice' at this time. There should be such practices as speech and OT under acceptable practice. Subcommittee response: Speech and OT are not models; practitioners use many different models and not all are acceptable for young children with ASD.
- Clarification from subcommittee: The subcommittee has not drawn a line as to what cannot be publicly funded.
- 'New' parent would probably choose EBP since they wouldn't necessarily understand what the other choices are. Suggestion: Look at learning styles of the individual as a way to match effective practices. Are there models that work better with 'non-verbal' vs children with Aspergers? Is there research that supports a way to match models to learning styles?
- Suggestion: Additional way to share information with parents is to provide brief videotapes demonstrating each model.
- Concerns about how PBS is classified. Unlike some of the other classified models, PBS is not a comprehensive model for children with ASD, but a specific strategy for the reduction of disruptive behaviors.
- The way the subcommittee has chosen to classify models, they either fall into EBP or not.
- An evidence/research base ensures studies that control for extraneous variables have been reviewed. When other variables are controlled for, there is clear indication of whether a specific intervention was effective. Anecdotal reports on the effectiveness of particular interventions do not clearly delineate which variable may be responsible for reported change/improvement.
- Clinical judgment is the term for those interventions that do not yet have research but parent report supports their effectiveness.

Recommendation #7

- No comments.

Recommendation #8

- Add all the National Research Council recommendations in the committee recommendations. Comment: There are many recommendations and this should be a brief summary.

Recommendations #9

- If research shows that an intervention is NOT working, then a change may need to be made.
- Reporting data to all state agencies: Education can't do this on each intervention-concerned about unfunded mandates. Comment: Mental Health does do this for individual child outcomes for children with mental health issues (not children with DD). Part C (Early On) must report on individual child outcomes.

Recommendation #10

- Annual review of practices should result in practices being added/changed from classification to classification.
6. Debbie Milhouse, a co-chair of the Training and TA subcommittee, reported that they met on July 13 and the subcommittee will be meeting again on September 5.
 7. Barb Byers, a co-chair of the Fiscal Resources Subcommittee, reported that the Fiscal Resources Subcommittee is exploring how other states have funded services for children with ASD. George Baker has given the subcommittee information on Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) and Ruth Anan has provided information regarding billing insurance for services delivered by the HOPE Program at Beaumont Hospital.
 8. Next Steps:
 - The Screening and Assessment Tools and Processes Subcommittee will disseminate the recommendation on Assessment Tools and Processes to the Workgroup for final comment.
 - The Screening and Assessment Tools and Processes Subcommittee will complete their recommendations on Support Planning and Coordination to post to the website for public and Workgroup review and comment.
 - The Intervention Models subcommittee will review comment from today's meeting at their September 26th meeting and finalize their recommendations to present to the Workgroup at the October 25 meeting.
 - The Fiscal Resources Subcommittee will continue to meet to develop their recommendations.
 - The Training and TA Subcommittee will continue to develop their recommendations.
 9. Next meeting dates:
 - October 25, 2006 1:00pm-4:00pm State Board of Education/Hannah Bldg.
 - December 6, 2006 1:00pm-4:00pm UP #3/Hannah Bldg.
 10. Sheri Falvay adjourned the meeting.