

INTrain Newsletter



October 2007

INTrain Newsletter

INTrain is a representative group of individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, advocates & service providers from various disciplines and agencies.

INTrain Mission Statement:

Our mission is to *provide leadership in planning, coordinating, evaluating and updating an effective, comprehensive educational system. By promoting and facilitating access to this system for all members of the individual's Support Team, we seek to ultimately improve the quality of life for all.*



INTrain Station

As an active member of INTrain, the Indiana Association of Behavioral Consultants (IN-ABC) is always looking for ways to improve the knowledge and skills of the professionals who support individuals with behavioral needs. This trade association in the state of Indiana was founded for professionals who provide behavioral supports to individuals with developmental disabilities. A non-profit association (www.inabc.org) that began in 2003 formulates and maintains a unified voice and representation to state and federal agencies.

IN-ABC is an eclectic association, and its membership includes individuals with degrees and training from a variety of human services specialties. The association is proud of its diversity and while the majority of its members have masters or doctoral degrees in psychology, social work or special education, membership is open to all, regardless of experience, degree, certification or licensure.

Faced with the long-standing need to develop a comprehensive Level of Need Assessment tool that Behavior Consultants in the field can learn to use, the IN-ABC rate setting sub-committee recently formed a workgroup including a small number of behavioral support services providers to discuss the topic. Each of these providers are also closely involved with the OASIS pilot project in District 4.

Given that a functional tool that can be used to objectively determine an annual budget for behavioral support services does not yet exist, the purpose of this workgroup was to develop an easy to use Level of Need Assessment. The assessment will be based on a consumer's frequency and severity of behavioral instability, leading to an objective measure that will help to determine behavior support budget figures.

For perspective, the Annual Plan Process, initiated in September 2006, set a budget based solely on past billing by a provider during a

subjectively determined 12-month period. This methodology does not support determination of an individual's level of need. Further, the ICAP assessment score provides a "maladaptive" score but also fails to reveal a clear level of need.

Following a closely monitored test phase in regard to use and reliability of the Level of Need Assessment tool, approval for the use of the tool from DDRS will be sought. Upon DDRS approval, training in the use of the new needs assessment tool will be initiated with all providers of behavioral support services via the Medicaid Waiver as well as IPMG case managers. For questions and comments about this exciting new tool please contact:

Gail Kahl, IN-ABC President
15268 Herriman Blvd.
Noblesville, IN 46060 email:
gkahl@opgrowth.com
tel: (317) 776-8001
fax: (317) 776-7039

Self Advocates Spot

INTrain has made a commitment to ensuring that the voices of individuals with disabilities and their families are heard whenever training occurs in Indiana. To that end, on October 5 the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community hosted a training for individuals with disabilities and their family members who have expressed an interest in learning to be trainers. The morning session covered adult
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Self Advocates Spot



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learning styles, strategies for teaching and engaging audiences and roles and responsibilities of trainers. The afternoon was a time to give the new trainers a flavor of some of the content typically offered by DD providers in Indiana. Trainers are now available to co-train with organizations. Make your arrangements to co-train with a person with a disability and/or family member by contacting

Jennie Todd at:
812-855-6508 or
jeptodd@indiana.edu

Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.

Mark Twain



DSP Place

Patty Wallace, who is being supported by Cardinal Center, Inc., has long held a dream of riding horses. Yet, a stroke many years ago limits the use of one side of her body. Understandably, Patty was uncertain about riding. But, she and her Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) decided to set it as a goal for her this year and see if they could make it happen. The staff took time to research the potential opportunities for Patty and to make one of her dreams come true.

After doing the research they started making contacts. It was decided with Patty to meet with the staff at Camp Red Cedar. After meeting with the people at Camp Red Cedar in Ft Wayne, staff began taking Patty for lessons this summer for a 6-week period. It has been the realization of her dream!

With the help of knowledgeable Red Cedar staff, and the DSP's who work with Patty, she has now learned how to approach her horse, mount with assistance, and even ride around the ring on her own! It is an exciting development for Patty, learning this new skill she has eyed from a distance for so long.

Horseback riding is particularly beneficial for people with impaired mobility because the movement of a walking horse's back duplicates the "normal" movements made by an able-bodied person when walking. This movement helps to strengthen and build muscles in ways that cannot be achieved through physical therapy.

In addition, riding builds self-esteem and, as in Patty's case, brings great joy. Just ask her about riding and she will tell you, "All my life, I love horses – and now I love horseback riding!"

Stephen Liebsch—Cardinal Center

Trainer Territory

Meaningful Day Training Opportunity:

Would you like to attend a training focused on creating meaningful, quality-driven experiences for people with developmental disabilities? This will be very "hands on" so please plan on coming ready to learn and participate.

Meaningful Day presented by Dr. Virginia Meehan and the FAST Team at IRL on December 13. There will be two sessions, one from 9:00—12:30 and another from 2:00 - 5:30. Seating is limited and on a 1st come—1st served basis. To reserve your space or for more information contact Chris Perry, Director of Training at cperry@irlinc.org.

WHAT'S NEW!

Have you heard about the new Regional Training Coordinators?

The INTrain Initiative has three new Regional Training Coordinators! Their job will be to support and provide resources to organizations across Indiana to educate and train staff who support individuals with disabilities. Their offices are located at IIDC in the Center on Community Living and Careers.

Kristi McCann comes to the project with many years of direct care, supervisory, human resources/training experience. She can be reached at ksmccann@indiana.edu or by calling 812-855-6508.

Marcy Thompson brings a wealth of knowledge about direct support, case management, employment and advocacy for individuals with disabilities and training. Reach Marcy at mlthomp@indiana.edu or by calling 812-855-6508.

Ron Smith has 23 years of social service experience and most recently was a training coordinator with the department of child services. Contact Ron at ronsmith@indiana.edu or by calling 812-855-6508.

Please feel free to contact your new Regional Training Coordinators to welcome them and ask questions about best practices in training or get resources to better meet your training needs.

Mark Your Calendar

INAPSE: The Network on Employment Conference, December 5 & 6, at the Holiday Inn North in Indianapolis. See <http://www.inapse.org/> for more information.

Every Issue of the INTrain Newsletter will highlight future trainings that may interest you. Remember to check out the INTrain online calendar!

(<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/training>).

Contact Us

Do you have ideas and suggestions for INTrain about training you'd like to see in the future? Do you have any questions about our growing system of education and training? Please feel free to contact Mary Held (maheld@indiana.edu).

Next Issue

Our next issue will be available in January and we *need your help* to make sure that the newsletter is useful to you.

In order to make the INTrain newsletter both useful and informative, we encourage you to help by submitting an article.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length, style and content.

Send articles to:
Mary Held
Indiana Institute on Disability and Community
2853 East Tenth Street
Bloomington, IN 47408-2696
812-855-6508
Fax: 812-855-9630
TT: 812-855-9396
maheld@indiana.edu



*You cannot
teach a man
anything. You
can only help
him discover it
within himself.
Galileo Galilei*

Library Links

Did you know that INTrain has a growing library of training resources? To see what is currently in the library, go to <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/training/library.htm>

Borrowing is as simple as contacting IIDC/CEDIR on the web at <http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/cedir/> or by calling 812-855-9396 or by emailing cedir@indiana.edu. Items will be mailed to you at no cost and all you have to do is pay for the return postage.

Here are some of our most popular items!

DiLeo, D. (2007) Raymond's room: Ending segregation of people with disabilities.

Gabriel, S. (2004). Quandaries: Understanding mental illnesses in persons with developmental disabilities.

Reid, D. (2007) Positive Behavior Support Training Curriculum 2nd ed.

Hewitt, A. (2006) Find choose & keep great DSP's: A toolkit for people with disabilities looking for quality, caring and committed direct support professionals.

Hewitt, A. (2006) Find choose & keep great DSP's: A toolkit for families looking for quality, caring and committed direct support professionals.

Higher Ground: The dedication of direct support professionals during and after Hurricane's Katrina and Rita (2006).

