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
Developmental Services, Inc.
Training Program

Developmental Services Inc. has developed and implemented a high quality Training Program. An example of the commitment of DSI to empower their staff through knowledge was the establishment of the DSI Training Center in the United Way building in Columbus IN, October of 2004. The Training Center started with modest surroundings and a limited menu of training opportunities. Both the surroundings and the training syllabus have expanded and continue to improve. Presently the Training Center offers a full schedule of classes, trainers also customize training schedules to meet the needs of employees in remote locations and many of the required trainings can now be accessed through the internet at the DSI Online Training Site (http://training.dsiservices.org/)

DSI’s current training syllabus includes but is not limited to: CPR/Standard First Aid, Agency Orientation, Navigating the World of Autism, Enhancing Verbal Skills, Louder than Words, Bloodborne Pathogens, Seizure First Aid, Client Rights, Client Protection, Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation, Core A, Core B, Medication Orientation, Medication Administration classes, Incident Reporting and Home Management.

In an effort of continual improvement and in collaboration with the Department of Labor, DSI implemented a DOL Apprenticeship Program for Direct Support Professionals, April 2007. DSI was honored to have their unique training model endorsed by DOL as it was the first in Indiana and among a limited few in the nation. In October of 2007 DSI partnered with DOL to certify 200 employees at our first Apprenticeship Graduation. DSI is projecting that an additional 120+ employees will receive their certification in April 2008.

For more news about what exciting things DSPS are doing, check out this website:
http://www.nysacra.org/content/view/436/2/

Self Advocates Spot
September 4-7
Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered National Convention
The Marriott Downtown, Indianapolis, IN www.SABE2008.org

The Arc of Indiana is excited to announce the establishment of a statewide resource for people with developmental disabilities and their families -

The Arc Network

The Arc Network is a group of ten family advocates and eleven self-advocates, working in each Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District.

The Arc Network is a program of The Arc of Indiana, led by Nanette Whightsel, Director of Family Education and Community Resources; and Betty Williams, Coordinator of Consumer Education and Training.

The Arc Network includes parents of persons with disabilities of all ages, self-advocates with a variety of experiences and ages, and siblings of persons with disabilities.

The Arc Network is a local resource to:

* Provide information on Supported Living and Medicaid Waivers.

* Provide information to residents of nursing homes on programs and supports available to help them move to the community.

* Help connect people who have moved from a state institution with local self-advocacy groups.

* Assist in the development and promotion of consumer participation in self directed care initiatives and FSSA quality assurance outcome measures.
**Direct Support Professionals Place**

**More than a job**

I work as a group leader and job trainer at ADEC in Elkhart, IN. I support 19 individuals with different developmental and physical disabilities. They work assembling, bagging and packing parts.

I love my job and the individuals I work with. It is so rewarding to see each person exceeding other people’s expectations of them. They are doing physical labor and earning a real paycheck. These individuals strive to have a “normal” life without letting their disability hold them back, and I get to be a part of that by helping them every day. I guide them in the right direction and teach social skills. I also teach them new jobs. All these skills will help them eventually get a job in the community if that is what they wish to do.

Seeing self advocates succeed at learning new jobs makes me feel good as a trainer. It is more than just a job, it is part of my life, and they are part of my life. I recently had a house built by Habitat of Humanity. Volunteers did most of the work. Some of the individuals I support came out and picked up trash at the site. It made them feel so good to be able to help me, since I help them. It made me feel good having them be part of something that meant so much to my children and me.

Not only does helping them build up their self-esteem, but it makes me feel good about myself, too, because I know I am doing my part in the world to help make a difference in their lives. I am helping them to be accepted and treated with the same respect as everyone else.

The world has come a long way in accepting individuals with disabilities into society. I just want to do my part to give what I can, to teach my children to accept people, and to help change someone’s life for the better. At the end of the day they are happy, and that makes me happy.

Jennifer Canen
Direct Support Professional

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**Trainer Territory**

The Trainers’ Network is beginning to pick up the pace once again! The second survey was sent out to all the trainers and the data has been collected. Thank you to all who responded, this will help us in determining where training needs are in our state and what support is needed for agency trainers.

The biggest news for trainers in Indiana is the upcoming website for the Trainers’ Network! This website will have many resources to use and lots of opportunities for trainers to network with each other. The following key points of information will be a part of the new website: Links to other professional training organizations, Resources for our field and general training needs, What is new in training, Newsletter, Training calendar, and a Members only section. Stay tuned! Watch for information in the next couple months about this website and how it can help trainers and training across the state.

Also noteworthy is the new e-mail address for the Trainers’ Network. This new e-mail address is: intrain@indiana.edu Feel free to begin sending your comments and questions about training in Indiana.

**WHAT’S NEW!**

Independent Residential Living is working with an Ivy Tech Intern to develop self-advocacy training and educational modules for consumers, staff and families. The intern is partnering with SAI to assist.

We just held a training on Intimacy and Relationships that was very well received and this month, we are providing training on balancing Risk and Choice. If other providers would like to send their staff to any of our training opportunities or would like more information, please have them contact Chris Perry at 571-1042 ex. 1021.

**CHECK IT OUT!!!**

Look here for the latest on DSPs: http://www.youneedtoknowme.org/
A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.

Mark Your Calendar

Every Issue of the INTrain Newsletter will highlight future trainings that may interest you. Each event is also on 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).

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

Here’s some new material we received:


Borrowing is as simple as emailing mlthomp@indiana.edu Items will be mailed to you at no cost and all you have to do is pay for the return postage.

Next Issue

Our next issue will be available in July 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.

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