Indiana Resource Center for Autism

Indiana Resource Center for Autism Annual Report for 2012-2013

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

INDIANA INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AND COMMUNITY
“The Indiana Resource Center for Autism staff conduct outreach training and consultations, engage in research, and develop and disseminate information on behalf of individuals across the autism spectrum, including autism, Asperger’s syndrome, and other pervasive developmental disorders. Our efforts are focused on providing communities, organizations, agencies, and families with the knowledge and skills to support children and adults in typical early intervention, school, and community, work and home settings.”

Below is a summary of some of the activities of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism located at Indiana University’s Indiana Institute on Disability and Community in the areas of professional development, university coursework and supervision, information development and dissemination, research, grant writing, and community service.

**Professional Development**

During the past 19 years, Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA) staff have trained 360 teams (over 2500 family members and professionals) from local special education planning districts across Indiana to address the diverse learning needs of students across the autism spectrum. To support these teams at the local level, IRCA supports 150 autism leaders that are located in almost every school district in Indiana. Support is provided via regional and state meetings, and a collaborative listserv.

IRCA staff members provide training and ongoing consultations across Indiana. During the 2012-2013 year, 27,098 individuals and family members received some level of training through the center.

For the past five years, IRCA has been involved in a federal project to implement evidence-based practices in schools. The first two years of the Professional Development in Autism (PDA) Project, IRCA staff provided intensive coaching in three districts. The second year, IRCA staff were in 7 schools and the third year in 12 schools. Last year, we were in 25 schools and this year we are in 28 schools.

**University Coursework and Supervision**

This year, IRCA provided graduate credit course options to participants enrolled in Autism Summer Institutes and Autism Team Training. Individual staff members provided course lectures. Dr. Cathy Pratt supported students in their work towards graduate credit, doctorates and supervised seven students as they pursued becoming Board Certified Behavior Analysts.
Seven Social work and school psychology students were also supported through IRCA. Finally, 25 students on the spectrum are part of a self-directed club supported thought IRCA.

Information Development and Dissemination

Information is disseminated to families and professionals through the IRCA Reporter E-Newsletter, listservs, Facebook, the IRCA website, and through training events. The E-Newsletter is distributed to nearly 8,000 subscribers consisting of families and professionals in Indiana and available worldwide. Newsletters are distributed an average of once a month. IRCA maintains four listservs, including a network of speech-language/hearing specialists, autism leaders, parent group leaders and those involved in our PDA Project. These listservs reach 940 professionals and family members. Each person on the listserv is expected to disseminate information they receive. The IRCA website (www.iidc.indiana.edu) has approximately 394,000 hits per year and is ever evolving in providing information. The IRCA Facebook page is another host for information dissemination with 2795 followers and a total annual reach of about 360,000. In addition, IRCA staff respond to approximately 26,000 emails annually and numerous phone calls daily. And finally, IRCA develops and disseminates information worldwide. Approximately, 350,000 brochures and articles are disseminated via trainings events, or via participation in various regional events, including our brochure on Roadmap for Services. Below is a list of articles and books written during 2012-2013.

Books

Book Chapters

Reports and Monographs


Wheeler, M., (2012). *Indiana’s family supports Medicaid waiver (FSW) and the community integration and habilitation Medicaid waiver (CIH) go into effect September 1st*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.


**Research**

Indiana Resource Center for Autism staff were involved in eleven research studies from August 2012 through July 2013. Seven studies were completed the previous year, two have an anticipated completion date of July 2014, and one of the studies is ongoing. Below are the titles of the research studies:

- Program Evaluation: Assessing the Learning and Practice Outcomes of the Autism Team
- IRCA Family Needs Assessment Survey
- Qualitative Study: Change Process in Schools

**Grants**

During the 2012-2013, two grants were written.


**University and Community Service**

Staff at Indiana Resource Center for Autism participated in university-related, state and national committees during the 2012-2013 year.

**University-Related Committees:**
- Students on the Spectrum Club, Staff Advisor – Marci Wheeler

**National Committees:**
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities, Autism Special Interest Group, Coordinator – Cathy Pratt
- Autism Society of America, Chapter Leadership Committee, Member – Cathy Pratt
- Autism Society of America, Panel of Professional Advisors, Member – Cathy Pratt
- Autism Society of America, Professional Development Committee, Member – Cathy Pratt
- College Internship Program Board, Member – Cathy Pratt
- Inclusive Education Task Force, Member – Cathy Pratt
National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Member – Cathy Pratt
Network of Autism Training and Technical Assistance Programs, Co-Chair – Cathy Pratt
TASH, Membership Committee, Member – Cathy Pratt
Temple Grandin/Eustacia Cutler Autism Fund, Member – Cathy Pratt

State Committees:
Act Early Committee, Co-Chair – Cathy Pratt
Answers for Autism, Autism Information Store Chairperson – Marci Wheeler
Answers for Autism, Board Member – Marci Wheeler
Autism Society of Indiana, Advisory Board, Member – Cathy Pratt
Illinois Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project, Advisory Board Member – Cathy Pratt
Indiana Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, Advisory Member – Cathy Pratt
Indiana Speech Language and Hearing Association, Scholarship Committee, Member – Kristie Lofland
Maap Services Incorporated, Board President – Cathy Pratt

As the number of individuals diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder continues to increase, meeting the growing needs of those involved with individuals across the autism spectrum presents a tremendous challenge. Twenty years ago, the incidence of autism was 1 in 5,000. Today, Indiana’s Child Count Data the incidence is 1 in 50. Areas of continued need include: early identification, registry that reflects children on the autism spectrum, individuals who are dually diagnosed with ASD and mental health issues, bullying, and adult options.