Indiana Resource Center for Autism
Annual Report 2011-2012
Submitted by: Dr. Cathy Pratt, BCBA-D
Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism

“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, 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 18 years, Indiana Resource Center for Autism (IRCA) staff have trained 346 teams (over 2400 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 140 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 2011-2012 year, 19,244 individuals and family members received some level of training through center.

For the past four 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 were in three districts. The next year, IRCA staff were in 7 schools and last year in 12 schools. This coming year, 25 schools have requested to work with center staff.

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 six students in their work towards graduate credit and supervised six students as they pursue becoming Board Certified Behavior Analysts. Seventeen 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 7,000 subscribers consisting of families and professionals in Indiana and available worldwide. Newsletters are distributed an average of twice 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 850 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 250,000 hits per year and is ever evolving in providing information. The IRCA Facebook page is another host for information dissemination with 2132 followers and a total annual reach of about 500,000. 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, 200,000 brochures and articles are disseminated via trainings events, or via participation in various regional events. Below is a list of articles and books written during 2011-2012.

BOOKS


TECHNICAL REPORTS AND NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS


NEWSLETTERS


Research

Indiana Resource Center for Autism staff were involved in eleven research studies from August 2011 through July 2012. Seven studies have been completed, two have an anticipated completion date of July 2013, and two of the studies are ongoing. Below are the titles of the research studies:

- Social Skill Interventions for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Meta-Analysis of Interventions Implemented in Clinical Settings
- IRCA Family Needs Assessment Survey
Program Evaluation: Assessing the Learning and Practice Outcomes of the Autism Team Training
Using Video Self-Modeling to Increase Compliance in Children with Conduct Disorders
Increasing Social Engagement in Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders using Video Self-modeling and Peer Training
An Examination of Attentional Deficits in Youth on the Autism Spectrum
The Feasibility and Acceptability of an Evidence Based Practices for Youth on the Autism Spectrum:
Qualitative Study: Change Process in Schools
Social Skill Outcomes of the Social Skills Research Center
Examination of National and Regional Identification Rates of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
A Comparison of Social Stories and Generic Social Narratives for Increasing Social Responses in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Grants
During the 2011-2012, three grants were written and funded.


University and Community Service
Staff at Indiana Resource Center for Autism participated in 19 university-related, state and national committees during the 2011-2012 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 83. 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, the use of seclusion and restraint, and adult options.