

Western Regional Inclusion Connections

Date: November 14, 2008

Location: Buncombe County Child Care Services

Facilitator: Libby Wilson, PFI Inclusion Specialist

Number of Participants: 20

Highlights of Meeting

This meeting focused on resources to support inclusion. This topic was chosen by the group present at the August RIC meeting. Several persons present in August were not able to attend this meeting due to budget related travel restrictions.

We were fortunate to have persons present who were not in attendance at the August meeting and several who were able to attend both meetings. We had great discussions on a number of issues and concerns, as well as sharing of useful resources.

After a welcome and introductions persons in attendance shared information about various resources including:

- a list of current CDSA information for each CDSA with information on satellite locations.
- information on how outcome statements are written for IFSPs.
- information about inclusion of children who are deaf and hard of hearing and the challenges for those children when they are in noisy environments.
- information about licensing regulations that specify that certain behavioral interventions cannot be used in licensed facilities. This information, requested at the last meeting, was distributed to participants.
- An inclusion specialist shared information about her position funded by a United Way grant. The grant also provides stipends to centers that enroll a child with special needs.
- information and print materials on SpecialQuest.
- information about the role of the regional CCR&R behavior specialists.
- information about infant toddler specialists and school age specialists. Training offered by the specialists is advertised in the CC R&R training calendars and could be attended by persons from other agencies.

The discussions included:

- how to make it easier for teachers in child care centers to have access to the IFSPs. One way that might expedite the process would be if center staff could access the CDSA release of information form to get permission from parents to request a copy of the IFSP.
- concern was shared that children who are deaf and hard of hearing do not hear language as well in an inclusive setting because the typical noise level interferes. This often goes unnoticed and is an issue that needs attention if children who are deaf and hard of hearing are to be fully included and have their special needs for hearing language met.

- how training offered by CCR&R specialists would be a way for professionals in other settings to obtain training at a lower cost and could increase communication and collaboration.
- The need for more early care and education professionals to have training on the CSEFEL (Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning) content.

A book entitled: Relationships, The Heart Of Quality Care, Creating Community Among Adults in Early Care Settings, authors Baker and Petit, available from NAEYC was mentioned by several people as an excellent resource.

Resources once again will be the focus of the next meeting especially since some people were unable to attend who have resources to share. Also, due to the number of resources presented and the great discussions, there was not sufficient time to look at the table of Partnerships for Inclusion's resources displayed by Libby.

For the next meeting, there seemed to be particular interest in information on funding, waiting lists, sliding fees and pre-tax payment options. So, any of you who have information or resources to share on any of these topics are encouraged to bring them. As always there will be time on the agenda for sharing successes, issues of concern agency updates, etc. The overall purpose of Regional Inclusion Connections is for collaboration about interests and issues pertaining to supporting inclusion; therefore the content will not be structured like a training event even though 2 hours of training credit is given to those who attend the 3-hour meeting.

Next Meeting: Friday, April 24th, at the same place and time, Buncombe County Child Care Services from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.