



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

January, 2005

Pat White, Editor

Honors

Sara Sack's significant contribution to the passage of the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 was detailed in the *Neighbors* column of the November 1 *Parsons Sun*. Sack, who, along with Chuck Spellman and others, developed one of the most comprehensive state assistive technology programs in the nation, testified several times before Congress on the critical need to continue federal funding to increase access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Sack co-directs the Assistive Technology for Kansans project under the auspices of the Life Span Institute in Parsons. (See <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/html/Temppages/Sackfullstory.html> for the entire article that appeared in the *Parsons Sun*.)

Grants Received

David Lindeman, Bobbi Wells, and Jeanne Fiscus received a grant from KACCRRRA (Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies) to expand services into Neosho, Woodson, and Wilson Counties, November 1, 2004.

Presentations

Cress, P., Sack, S., & Simmons, S. (2004, November). *Assistive technology: Impact on users and a model for improving access*. Presentation at the 2004 TASH Conference, Reno, NV.

Sack, S., Simmons, S., & Cress, P. (2004, November). *Outcomes data and policy recommendations from AAC users in Kansas*. Presentation to the American Speech and Hearing Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

Smith, C. L., Freeman, R., Kimbrough, P., & Zarcone, J. (2004, November). *How to use evaluation concepts and values to guide project development*. Presented at the Annual American Evaluation Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Smith, C. L., & Broyles, L. (2004, November). *Hitting a moving target: Building a collaborative evaluation process during times of treat organizational change*. Presented at the Annual American Evaluation Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Wells, B. (2004, December). *Child development associate credential advisor training*. Presented at the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Professional Development Initiative, Parsons and Wichita, KS.

Project Highlight

Southeast Kansas Community Action Program Mental Health Contract

Staff: Chris Smith

Chris Smith and Dave Lindeman have been working for over 3 years now with the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP, Inc.) in Girard, Kansas on a contract to provide technical assistance regarding program evaluation and continuous improvement processes. One significant result of this work was an additional contract to provide technical assistance to SEK-CAP, Inc. in the form of developing and evaluating mental health services for its early childhood programs (Head Start and Early Head Start).

This project will involve a significant collaborative effort between five Southeast Kansas mental health centers, SEK-CAP, Inc., and KUCDD to achieve its goal. The goal of the program is to develop and evaluate a comprehensive mental health system for all of the center-based providers in the SEK-CAP, Inc. system in 10 counties in Southeast Kansas. To ensure successful implementation of the project, each partner will undertake critical responsibilities including

MH Responsibilities

- Collaborate with SEK-CAP, Inc. and KUCDD to develop plans to provide trained professionals who meet service provision guidelines for SEK-CAP classrooms.
- Provide services in SEK-CAP, Inc. classrooms according to developed guidelines.
- Bill for services rendered according to contractual guidelines.
- Collect and report program evaluation data according to evaluation guidelines.
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SEK-CAP Responsibilities

- Collaborate with KUCDD to provide guidelines for trained service personnel who will work in SEK-CAP, Inc. classrooms.
- Provide guidelines for service provision in classrooms.
- Provide guidelines for appropriate billing standards.
- Provide evaluation guidelines in collaboration with KUCDD.
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KUCDD Responsibilities

- Develop a comprehensive model of evaluation for SEK-CAP, Inc. mental health services that allow for the integration of child, family, and community outcomes.
- Develop tools that allow for the timely and reliable collection of data for children and their families being served in SEK-CAP, Inc. classrooms.
- Develop tools for measuring the intensity and scope of mental health services provided in SEK-CAP, Inc. classrooms.
- Develop methods for collecting and analyzing data that allows for timely return of data from providers to KUCDD.
- Develop methods of data analysis that provide estimates of program effects and ongoing needs.
- Provide annual reports of findings.
- Develop a collaborative training model for mental health providers that promotes a continuity with existing SEK-CAP, Inc. models.
- Develop options for delivery of training model including distance and in-service models.

New Employees

We are happy to announce that Amy Reynolds has joined the staff of Child Care Focus as a Training and Technical Assistance Assistant effective January 3, 2005.