



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

July, 2005

Pat White, Editor

Honors

Kansans Mobilizing for Direct Support Workforce Change has been selected as a finalist for the 2005 Moving Mountains Award. This national award recognizes best practice initiatives designed to improve competence, status, compensation, and stability of direct support staff. KMFC has been successful in introducing systemic solutions to direct support workforce challenges in Kansas. Among the outcomes, is a 15% decrease in staff turnover and increased training opportunities for direct support staff and supervisors.

Case studies on each of the award finalists will be completed in October of 2005. The award will be made in Winter 2006 at the Reinventing Quality conference sponsored by Minnesota's Research and Training Center on Community Living and the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services. The Award is Cosponsored by the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals.

Kathleen Olson and Patricia Black Moore, KUCDD staff at Parsons, have provided leadership to community stakeholders on this project with initial funding from the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Kate Saunders has just completed an 8-year term on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Experimental Analysis of Behavior which publishes *JEAB* and *JABA*.

Grants Submitted

Sara Sack and Charles Spellman submitted their thirteenth-year, grant performance report "Assistive Technology for Kansans Project (ATKP)" on June 8, 2005.

Sara Sack submitted her third-year continuation "Equipment Exchange" Increasing Access to Durable Medical Equipment" to the Kansas Department of SRS on June 10, 2005.

Sara Sack submitted her eighth-year continuation "Assistive Technology Project" to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on June 17, 2005.

Kate Saunders submitted "Computerized Instruction of Fluent Letter Naming" to the U.S. Department of Education

Kate Saunders submitted a Training Grant to NIH.

Dick Saunders submitted "A Research and Technology Driven Curriculum for Infants and Children with the Most Severe Disabilities" to the U.S. Department of Education.

Dick Saunders submitted "Development of Two Products Essential for Evidence-Based Practices with Adaptive Switches" to the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research for a Field Initiated Program of Research and Development

Dick Saunders submitted "Communication of People with Mental Retardation" Program Project to NIH

Chris Smith, Dave Lindeman, and Todd Little submitted "Head Start and University Partnerships: Curriculum Enhancement and Evaluation" to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Grants and Contracts Funded and/or Renewed

Lindeman, Southeast Kansas Respite Care - Contract with PSH

Lindeman, Coordinated Resource and Support Services (CRSS) - Contract SEKRS, Inc. in collaboration with Area Mental Health Centers and DD Organizations

Lindeman, Kansas Inservice Training System - Grant from Kansas State Department of Education (awarded for 5 years)

Lindeman, Kansas Inservice Training System - Infant/Toddler Component - Contract from Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Lindeman, Child Care Focus: Resource and Referral Center - Grant from the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Lindeman, Child Care Focus: Infant/Toddler Initiative - Grant from the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Lindeman, Child Care Focus: Professional Development Initiative - Grant from the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Lindeman, Geary County Infant/Toddler Training - Contract with USD 475

Smith, C., and Lindeman, D., Southeast Kansas Community Action Program: Program Evaluation Project - Contract with SEK-CAP, Inc.

Smith, C., Integrated Outcomes Technical Assistance. Funded by the Kansas Head Start Association.

Smith, C., Kids Crew: Evaluating the USD 446 Independence School District After School Program

Presentations

Cress, P. J. (2005, May). *Web resources for accessible information technology*. Presentation to the National Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium, Overland Park, KS.

Fiscus, J., Heying, K., Gottesman, J., & Reynolds, A. (2005, June). *Using infant toddler specialist to improve the quality of care for babies and toddlers*. Panel presentation at the 9th Annual Birth to Three Institute, Washington, DC.

The following presentations/posters/symposiums were presented at the 31st Annual Convention of the Association for Behavior Analysis. Chicago in May:

Rafael Bejarano, & Dean C. Williams. *Effect of Response-Timeout Contingencies Under Controlled Probability of Timeout Presentations*.

Dean C. Williams, Adam H. Doughty, Kathryn J. Saunders, & Michael Perone. *Local Determinates of FR Pause Duration in Multiple Schedules*.

Adam H. Doughty, Dean C. Williams, & Michael Perone. *Experimenter-Imposed Delays Attenuate Disruptive Effects of Negative-Incentive Shifts in Humans*.

Adam H. Doughty, S. P. Da Silva, & K. A. Lattal. *Differential resurgence and response elimination*.

Issues in Aversive Control: Spanning the Basic-to-Applied Continuum

Chair: Adam H. Doughty

Discussant: Joseph E. Spradlin

Stimulus Control and Punishment: A Critical Review of the Literature.

Jennifer O'Donnell, Adam H. Doughty, Shannon S. Doughty, Kathryn J. Saunders, & Dean C. Williams.

International Symposium: Minimal Verbal Units Control in Reading : What We Know So Far

Chair: Martha Hübner (USP)

Discussant: Deisy de Souza (UFSCAR)

Developing Prerequisites for Reading and Spelling in Adults with Mental Retardation. Katherine L. Stewart, Monika Suchowierska, & Kathryn Saunders (University of Kansas)

Publications

Doughty, A. H., Cirino, S., Mayfield, K. H., da Silva, S. P., Okouchi, H., & Lattal, K. A. (2005). Effects of behavioral history on resistance to change. *The Psychological Record*, 55, 315-330.

Freeman, R., Smith, C., Zarcone, J., Kimbrough, P., Tieghi-Benet, M., Wickham, D., Reese, M., & Hine, K. (2005). Building a statewide plan for embedding positive behavior support in human service organizations. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 7(2), 109-119.

Saunders, R. R., McEntee, J. E., & Saunders, M. D. (2005). Interaction of reinforcement schedules, a behavioral prosthesis, and work-related behavior in adults with mental retardation. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*, 38, 163-176.

Project Highlight

Dean Williams' New Grant
Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors
June 1, 2005 for \$1.25 million (5-year R01)

The purpose is to study environmental conditions that make typically reinforcing conditions aversive for persons with developmental disabilities and chronic destructive behaviors. Collaborators are Kate Saunders at the Parsons LSI, Mike Perone from West Virginia University, Iser DeLeon and Mike Cataldo from the Kennedy Krieger Center of Johns Hopkins Medical School. This project, which is a follow-up of a previously funded R03 grant from NICHD, continues the translation of Dr. Perone's basic behavioral research using animal subjects to address a clinical problem. The findings will inform the development of new behavioral treatments for chronic aberrant behaviors (CAB) in persons with MR/DD.

The previous project (also funded by NICHD) showed that the animal research could be replicated with human participants with mild MR. The primary finding is that normally reinforcing activities can become aversive and generate disruptive, escape, and off-task behaviors when they are embedded in specific environmental contexts. Like the animal participants in previous studies, the human participants would easily complete tasks for monetary reinforcement when that task was presented by itself. However, when opportunities to complete a more preferred task, "B," in which they received a larger reward than in task "A," were randomly alternated with task A, responding on task "A" was severely disrupted. Behavioral research on CAB has shown that escape functions maintain the majority of undesirable behaviors in persons with developmental disabilities. What the research on escape-maintained aberrant behavior does not address are the environmental conditions that make typically reinforcing or neutral activities aversive, and capable of generating and maintaining these maladaptive escape behaviors.

The present research is designed to address the question of whether these environmental conditions will differentially produce self-stimulatory, or destructive behaviors in persons with histories of CAB. The early studies, supported by the R03, were conducted with humans in laboratory settings. In the new series of studies, we also will investigate tasks that are selected from activities that are functional to the participants. In this phase, preference for the activities will be assessed and we will determine whether transitions from preferred to less-preferred activities will induce CAB, while transitions from one less-preferred activity to another less-preferred activity do not produce CAB. The final studies will be to observe participants in their actual living settings and manipulate daily activity schedules. Experimental treatments have been suggested by the laboratory studies and will be tested in the naturalistic settings.

Employees

Nancy Tiede, Respite, has resigned her position to work for PSH&TC.

Doug Hull and Tammy Schoenhofer have both resigned their positions (we wish the best to both).

Patty Black-Moore has moved from the UCDD building to the Research Center.

Adam and Shannon Doughty have left for Charleston, SC.