



*The Insider*

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***Life Span Institute at Parsons***

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*March, 2005*

*Pat White, Editor*

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## **Honors**

Bobbie Wells recently attended the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) Policy Symposium in Washington DC as a Kansas representative along with six other Kansas R&R leaders. While there she was honored as one of the first recipients of the NACCRRA Emerging Leaders Award. The Emerging leaders have been assigned the task of developing an Emerging Leaders program for NACCRRA that will help develop the future leadership of the national organization. This was the first year for the award and there were 12 awards nationwide.

## **Grants Submitted**

Three new proposals were submitted to the DE/OSERS/NIDRR Field Initiated Program (Research or Development) on January 18, 2005:

Pamela Cress, Kathryn Saunders, and Charles Spellman resubmitted a 3-year research project "Teaching Tactile Discrimination of the Braille Alphabet."

Pamela Cress and Charles Spellman submitted a new, 3-year research project "Research to Enhance the Accessibility of Educational Media for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired."

Muriel and Richard Saunders submitted a new, 3-year development project "Development of Two Products Essential for Evidence-Based Practices with Adaptive Switches."

## **Grants Received**

David Lindeman received a new, 1-year award "Early Learning Guidelines Training Program" from the Kansas State Department of Education that began December 17, 2004.

Dean Williams has received notification that his R01 "Laboratory Models of Maladaptive Escape Behaviors" will begin April 1, 2005 and end March 31, 2010. This grant is in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Medical School--Kennedy Krieger Institute, and West Virginia University. Co-investigators are Kate Saunders, Michael Perone of West Virginia, and Iser DeLeon and Michael Cataldo of Kennedy Krieger Institute.

## **Presentations**

Cress, P. (2005, March). *Universal design and the web*. Paper presented at the Mid-America Association for Computers in Education Conference, Manhattan, KS.

Smith, C. (2005, February). *Outcomes and integrated service delivery in Kansas: Planning for success and measuring it*. Presentation to Kansas Integrated Outcomes Project statewide conference in Wichita, KS.

Smith, C. (2005, February). *Integrated outcomes: Making outcomes work for you and your agency*. Presentation to Kansas Integrated Outcomes Project regional symposium in Wichita, KS.

Smith, C. (2005, February). *Integrated outcomes: Making outcomes work for you and your agency*. Presentation to Kansas Integrated Outcomes Project regional symposium in Salina, KS.

Smith, C. (2005, March). *Integrated outcomes: Making outcomes work for you and your agency*. Presentation to Kansas Integrated Outcomes Project regional symposium in Topeka, KS.

## **Publications**

Reed, P., & Doughty, A. H. (2005). Within-subject testing of the signaled-reinforcement effect on operant responding as measured by response rate and resistance to change. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 83, 31-45.

Saunders, M. D., Saunders, R. R., Mulugeta, A., Henderson, K., Kedzioriski, T., Hekker, B., & Wilson, S. (2005). A novel method for testing learning and preferences in people with minimal motor movement. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 26, 255-266.

## **Other**

Bobbie Wells served as facilitator for a series of three distance learning training sessions on Advocacy in Wichita, co-sponsored by NAEYC (The National Association for the Education of Young Children) and The Knight Foundation. This was a pilot project by the Knight Foundation the Dates were: Jan 28, Feb 15, and March 8.

Bobbie Wells has been appointed to the Education Program Review Committee for Labette Community College's North Central Accreditation process. She currently serves as adjunct instructor for early childhood education classes at the college. She has been working With Dr. Pearson to revise the Early Childhood Program to better reflect the needs of the students entering the Early Care and Education Field.

## **Project Highlight**

### **Project Highlight: Kansas Association of Community Action Programs**

**Staff: Chris Smith**

Since the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964, Community Action Programs have been providing anti-poverty programs in the U.S. Many of these agencies have an emphasis on the provision of Head Start and Early Head Start Programs. For the past several months, Chris Smith has been working with the Kansas Association for Community Action Programs

(KACAP) to develop and deliver two levels of technical assistance and training that focus on quality improvement processes. These levels are described below.

**Level I:** Level I focuses on developing and delivering a number of statewide, regional, and local workshops and training options for Community Action Programs regarding integrated outcomes for children. The training focuses on the development of internal and external outcomes teams, common values and language, fact-based needs assessments, logic models, strategic planning, and continuous assessment processes. The work of Level I is broken into three phases including:

- Phase I: Develop and deliver an address to a statewide conference regarding integrated outcomes for children. (Feb. 2-3, 2005)
- Phase II: Develop and deliver three regional workshops in Salina, Wichita and Topeka regarding integrated outcomes. (Feb. 17-18; Feb. 23-24; and March 3-4, 2005)
- Phase III: Develop and deliver approximately 12 locally-defined technical assistance opportunities regarding integrated outcomes for children. (April through June, 2005)

**Level II:** Level II focuses on working with three Community Action Programs to undertake a comprehensive self-study process that requires a self-evaluation of the organization according to newly established national standards of excellence for the programs. These standards include 7 categories of excellence, including 36 indicators and 96 questions that are designed to elicit information relevant to the standards. Dr. Smith attended training in New Orleans last year to become a trained evaluator for these national standards. These standards include:

1. Organizational Leadership
2. Strategic Planning and Direction
3. Customer, Constituent, and Partner Focus
4. Human Resource Focus
5. Organizational Process Management
6. Information Systems Management
7. Organizational Results

As a part of this Level II effort, Dr. Smith will work with the participating Community Action Agencies as they undertake their self-study process using the new national standards. His work will focus on providing training and technical assistance to local agency staff regarding the meaning of the standards and how the agency can improve its services and processes to meet the national standards of excellence.

## **Employees**

If you've missed Lisa Chaney it is because she has taken a position at Greenbush. She says the job is really a challenge, but she is enjoying it.

Linda Folks is a new employee of Child Care Focus.