

Muriel and Dick Saunders Development of Two Products Essential for Evidence-based Practices with Adaptive Switches.

Grants and Contracts Funded and/or Renewed

Chris Smith has received a new, 15-month proposal “Developing a Quality Management Strategy for the Ohio Quality Assurance Systems Change Initiative” from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Chris Smith has received a new, 18-month proposal “Developing a Performance Measurement Strategy for the Ohio Quality Assurance Systems Change Initiative” from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Host National ADA Symposium and Expo

Pamela Cress and colleagues with the Great Plains ADA & IT Center hosted the National ADA Symposium and Expo April 10-12 in St. Louis. Over 500 participants from throughout the U.S. attended sessions dealing with a variety of topics related to the Americans with Disabilities Act and other disability rights issues.

Presentations

Benham, T. (2006, April). *Research-based strategies for teaching early literacy skills*. Paper presented to the Kansas Library Association, Kansas Association of School Librarians, and the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology, Tri-Conference, Wichita, KS.

Lindeman, D. P. (2006, March). *Inter-university teacher training collaboration: ECHO update*. Paper presentation at the SIG/IHE Subgrant Meeting, Topeka, KS.

Lindeman, D. P. (2006, May). *ECHO update: Relationships of preservice to inservice*. Paper presentation at the Kansas Head Start Association Board Meeting, Salina, KS.

Sack, S. (2006, May). *Developing the blueprint for a national equipment reutilization program*. Paper presentation to the National Conference on Equipment Reutilization, Atlanta, GA.

Sack, S., Morton, S., & Simmons, S. (2006, March). *Assistive technology for Kansans services*. Information booth for Kansas legislators at Independent Living Day at the Capitol, Topeka, KS.

Sack, S., & Simmons, S. (2006, April 27). *Atmatch.com: An online AT and DME Marketplace*. NATTAP Webcast.

Sack, S., & Simmons, S. (2006, May). *Developing a model equipment reutilization program*. Paper presentation to the National Conference on Equipment Reutilization, Atlanta, GA.

Simmons, S., & Morton, S. (2006, April). *Reusing durable medical equipment*. Workshop presented for the Southwest Plains Regional Education Service Center, Sublette, KS.

Simmons, S., & Sharp, J. (2006, March). *Assistive technology supports for employment*. Workshop for the Hays Independent Living Center staff, Hays, KS.

Stewart, V. J., & Benham, T. J. (2006, April). *Kansas reads to preschoolers: 2005*. Paper presented to the Kansas Library Association, Kansas Association of School Librarians, and the Kansas Association for Educational Communications and Technology, Tri-Conference, Wichita, KS.

Staff House

An open house was held April 28 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the Research Center staff house. Punch and cookies were enjoyed by all who came to see the house renovation (new flooring in the kitchen and bathroom and newer used carpet through the rest of the house, new stove, and living room furniture). Between 25 and 30 people came by to visit, even though it was a rainy day.

Project Highlight

Southeast Kansas Multi-systemic Therapeutic Foster Care Project Program Information Sheet

Katie Hine

The SEK Therapeutic Foster Care Project provides support and training for families and youth receiving therapeutic foster care. The project goal is to use a family-based setting to successfully support youth whose antisocial behavior puts them at serious risk for multiple foster care placements, referral to in-patient treatment and Juvenile Justice. The project is not appropriate for youth whose primary issues are substance abuse or sexual predation.

Youth Served

- Boys and girls 8 to 18 years of age
- With or without mental retardation, autism or other developmental disability
- With or without mental illness
- For whom viable aftercare has been identified

Service Delivery Area

Foster and aftercare homes may be located in any of the 12 southeast Kansas counties. Participating counties include Allen, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford, Elk, Greenwood, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho, Woodson, and Wilson.

Project Description

- Positive and behavioral: An emphasis is placed on recognizing, teaching, and rewarding good behavior while understanding that bad behavior is often a reality. The support team establishes consequences for good and bad behavior for each youth individually. Contingencies are consistently applied at home, in the community, and at school. Like any other skill, good behavior becomes easier and more natural with practice.
- Birth family/aftercare resource involvement: The youth's support team includes those people responsible for aftercare. The Family Counselor works with the family to improve parenting skills, reduce conflict, and create an aftercare network that continues to promote the progress made by the youth during placement in the therapeutic foster home.
- Short-term: After 6-9 months of therapeutic foster care the youth return to their biological/adoptive family or to an appropriate permanent aftercare setting. The foster home is a therapeutic setting, not a permanent placement.
- Data based: Behavior support plans are written and evaluated based on behavior data collected daily. Project personnel collect the data each day in a telephone call to the foster parents.
- Team driven: The entire support team evaluates and makes treatment decisions. Project personnel are responsible for assuring that all team members have an opportunity to review and discuss the data and to effect the team's course of action.
- 24-hour on-call support: Someone from the project staff is available to foster parents and aftercare providers at all times.
- Medical services: All participating youth will be under the care of the physician working in conjunction with this project.

Foster Care Homes and Services

- Foster and aftercare homes must be within the 12-county service area
- No treatment (i.e., medication changes, therapy, counseling, etc.) outside SEK Therapeutic Foster Care will occur during placement
- Only one youth at a time will be served in each therapeutic foster home
- Project personnel provide ongoing training and support to the foster care family
- Biological/adoptive families receive family therapy
- Youth receive individual therapy and skills training

Staff News

We failed to recognize that Melissa Peak was hired in February to fill the vacancy left by Bobbi Wells on the Child Care Focus project.

Sara Major has taken a position on the Foster Care Grant and has an office in the Research Center.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Tammie Benham at the loss of her mother last month.

Wilma Hull's mother and Doug Hull's grandmother passed away Saturday, April 29th. Our sincere sympathy to this family.

Jim Lent (a former researcher with us—Director of Project MORE) passed away Friday, April 7, 2006 at the age of 76.

Dick and Muriel Saunders are happy to announce that they have a new granddaughter (Sophie Drew Kilmer) born April 4.

Laura Cruz has just become a grandmother again with twin grandsons (Carter and Conner Millbern) born May 4.