



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

September/November, 2005

Pat White, Editor

Announcement

Early this year the Life Span Institute at Parsons initiated a search for a faculty level scientist to join the program and become a part of the team at Parsons. The LSI/Parsons is pleased to announce that the position has been offered and accepted by Dr. Chris Smith. Chris has roots in southeast Kansas and has been at the Parsons site for the past few years. He is a graduate of the KU Special Education program and worked with Tom Skirtic and Wayne Sailor. Currently, Chris has grant projects focusing on training with community agencies in the development of continuous improvement systems and projects that focus on program evaluation and improvement in quality of services.

Honors

The Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA) presented Sara Sack the Special Service Award for Special Service at their statewide conference in Overland Park September 29-October 1. This award is given to individuals who are well known throughout the nation and the world for innovative clinical practice, insightful and rigorous research, creative administration, effective legislative activity, outstanding teaching, or other distinguished professional contribution. The President of KSHA, Heidi Daley, presented the award and commended Sack for her service on behalf of persons with disabilities throughout the state and nation.

A paper by Jennifer O'Donnell and Kate Saunders, "Equivalence Relations in Individuals with Language Limitations and Mental Retardation," published in July 2003, was ranked the 14th most popular article in the *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior (JEAB)* during the past year. The ranking covers articles published since 1996, and is based on the number of downloads from the *JEAB* web site. Jennifer was a Postdoctoral Trainee in the Training Grant "Interdisciplinary Research Training in MR/DD."

There are two invited contributors with Parsons' ties in the upcoming "Handbook of Applied Behavior Analysis." Joe Spradlin is contributing a chapter entitled "Stimulus Control and Generalization," and Kate Saunders is contributing a chapter entitled "A Stimulus Control Analysis of Early Reading Skills."

Grants Submitted

Richard Saunders resubmitted his application for Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Students with Disabilities: A Research and Technology Driven Curriculum for Infants and Children with the Most Severe Disabilities.

Grants and Contracts Funded and/or Renewed

Chris Smith has received notification that “Community Action Agency Training in Excellence System” has been funded from August 31, 2005 through September 30, 2006. This contract is intended to provide a series of site-based technical assistance visits to specified Community Action Agencies.

Sara Sack has received the following grant awards:

Three-year award from United States Department of Education to conduct the Kansas State Plan for Assistive Technology from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008. The award was for \$321,988 per year.

One-year award from KS Social and Rehabilitation Services, “Assistive Technology Services for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Customers” from 9/30/2005 to 9/29/2006. The award is for \$375,000.

One-year award from KS Department of Health and Environment, “Assistive Technology Project for Infant-Toddler Services” from 7/01/2005-6/30/2006. The award is for \$35,000.

One-year award from KS Department of Administration, “Kansas Equipment Exchange: Increasing Access to Durable Medical Equipment” from 7/01/2005 to 6/30/2006. The award is for \$224,632.

Presentations

Cress, P. J. (2005, July). *IT in education accessibility checklist: A resource for including all students*. Presentation to the Mid-America Technology Institute conference, Overland Park, KS. (Presentation given twice.)

Cripe, K., Woods, J. J., Kataoka, J., & Lindeman, D. P. (2005, October). *Supporting system change toward family-centered natural environments through staff development*. Poster presented at the DEC 2005 21st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Portland, OR.

Lindeman, D. P. (2005, September). *Changing the landscape through interagency collaboration*. Paper presented at A Collaborative Training for Head Start, Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Service Programs, Topeka, KS.

Olson, K., Stiffler, K., Duden, B., & Merklein, G. (2005, October). *Apprenticeship for direct support professionals. Be instrumental*. Presentation at the Annual InterHab Conference, Overland Park, KS.

Sack, S. (2005, September). *Understanding the Kansas State Plan for Assistive Technology*. Presentation at the Assistive Technology for Kansans Advisory Council, Topeka, KS.

Schwartz, J., Maxey, B., Miner, D., Sack, S., Macek, R., Horton, T., Reed, K., & Simmons, S. (2005, October). *Increasing self-directed services among persons with developmental disabilities*. InterHab Conference, Overland Park, KS.

Schwartz, J., & Sack, S. (2005, October). *Self-direction in Kansas*. Presentation at the Self-Advocacy Coalition of Kansas Conference, Wichita, KS.

Schwartz, J., Sack, S., & Leu-Burke, G. (2005, August). *Self-direction in Kansas*. Presentation at the Kansas Disability Caucus, Topeka, KS.

Simmons, S. (2005, September). Assistive Technology for Kansans contractual commitments. Presentation at the Assistive Technology for Kansans Advisory Council, Topeka, KS.

Simmons, S., & Sack, S. (2005, September). *A model for assistive technology services and supports*. Presentation at the European Conference of the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe, Lille, France.

Smith, C. (2005, August). *Outcomes and strategic planning*. Onsite workshop and training to Olathe Head Start, Olathe, KS.

Smith, C. (2005, June, July, August). *Outcomes and integrated service delivery: Planning for success and measuring it*. Onsite workshop and training to Abilene Child Care Center in Abilene, June 29-30; Heartland Head Start in Salina, July 6; Hays Head Start in Hays, July 7-8; Southeast Kansas Community Action Program, Girard, July 13-14; Clay Center Child Care Center, Clay Center, August 15; Community Action Inc. in Topeka, August 16-17

Smith, C. (2005, August). *Community assessments and strategic planning: A strategy for integrating actions and outcomes*. Onsite workshop and training to Northeast Kansas Community Action Program in Hiawatha, August 18 and Mid America Community Action Program in Augusta, August 25-26.

Publications

DeLeon, I. G., Williams, D., Gregory, M. K., & Hagopian, L. P. (2005). Unexamined potential effects of the noncontingent delivery of reinforcers. *European Journal of Behavior Analysis*, 6, 57-69.

Mellstrom, B. P., Saunders, M. D., Saunders, R. R., & Olswang, L. B. (2005). Interaction of behavioral state and microswitch use in individuals with profound multiple impairments. *Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities*, 17, 35-53.

Saunders, R. R., & Saunders, M. D. (2005). In search of contingency learning: Something old, something new, something borrowed. . . *Behavioral Developmental Bulletin*, 1, 23-30.

Project Highlight

Integrated Outcomes Technical Assistance

Staff: Chris Smith

This contract with the Kansas Head Start Association has been undertaken as a final phase to a previous contract with the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs. All of the work has focused on providing workshops and training to direct support and administrative staff regarding integrated outcomes for children and families. The combination of these contracts formed a three-phase process outlined below.

- 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. (June through December, 2005)

This current contract is intended to fund Phase III work as outlined above. The focus of these technical assistance efforts is to provide the Kansas Head Start and Community Action affiliates and other agencies with intensive, site-specific information about integrated outcomes and adaptations to local systems. These efforts have focused on the integration of comprehensive needs assessments, logic models, strategic planning processes, and continuous evaluation systems. Each site's work plan was determined through initial phone and email conversations to ensure that the site-specific work was timely and relevant to the organization's work.

Staff News

Laura Doyle is the project assistant working with Diane Salyers and the Respite Care Program.

Bobbi Wells has resigned her position at Parsons and has accepted a position with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) in Virginia.

Tammy Schoenhofer has returned to her former position—Glad to have her back.

Sara Sack and Sheila Simmons have just returned from a trip to Lille, FRANCE where they attended the European Conference for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe. They said this was an exceptional conference and brought back lots of information.

Sara Sack will be working part time in Washington, DC for the next year. Starting October 23rd Sara will be on extended travel status and will be working in Washington for approximately 3 weeks each month and then back in Kansas for a week. She will have an apartment in DC—and offers to share her sofa bed with anyone visiting the area—and will work with government entities, assistive technology programs, University Centers on Disabilities, non-profit organizations, and others to extend disability research and service programs. She will serve as

the President of the National Association of Technology Programs this next year and will meet frequently with program directors. Sara will continue to direct the grants that she's associated with in Kansas and will be available by phone and electronic communication.