

Vision & Voice

A QUARTERLY NEWS AND EVENT PUBLICATION OF THE INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

winter 2010



Bookstore Spotlight

We Thought You'd Never Ask (DVD)

by Paula Kluth, John Hussman, Beret Strong, & John Tweedy

Too often in the fields of autism and disability, we look only to the medical, teaching, or therapeutic

communities for answers, insight, and guidance. In this revealing documentary, you will meet six adults with autism labels who communicate their views on issues ranging from sensory problems to communication needs to the celebration of special interests. Their powerful words illustrate why the "autism experts" we need to listen to and learn from are those who live with the autism label. Available for \$19 at www.iodbookstore.com.

Join Our Mailing List

The IOD produces a variety of publications, including *Vision & Voice*, which communicate the ways we are connected to individuals and activities in New Hampshire and across the country. **If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call 603.862.4320.**

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IOD Opens New Professional Development Center

Over the past 20 years, the IOD has established itself as a premier source of unique, comprehensive leadership and professional education products and services. Through progressive, culturally relevant, and increasingly diverse leadership training and professional development opportunities, the IOD continues to reach an ever-broadening audience of consumers and professionals.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust of Manchester, NH, the IOD is pleased to announce the opening of the new Institute on Disability Professional Development Center (PDC) next door to the IOD's office location in Concord, NH. The PDC will serve to anchor the IOD's professional development offerings in the coming years by providing a physical identity to the IOD professional development brand.

"One of the biggest benefits of the new PDC is now when people attend our trainings, they'll directly associate them with the IOD," said Conference Coordinator Mary Ann Allsop. "We've been able to educate the public well in other locations, but now that we have our own space, we'll be able to do it better and more conveniently—for participants as well as presenters on our staff."

Mary Ann hopes that the PDC will serve as a



IOD staff members gather outside the Professional Development Center

model to other organizations when it comes to accessibility and technology. "By providing state-of-the-art technology and accessibility accommodations, as well as having complete control over room setup to complement the diverse learning styles of our workshops, we hope that other organizations will follow our lead when hosting trainings in their own spaces." @

Improvements to the Professional Development Center are ongoing. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please contact the IOD Concord office at 603.228.2084. For more information on upcoming workshops and trainings, visit www.iod.unh.edu/events.html.

NH Leadership Series Participant Helps to Amend NH State Building Code

On November 13, 2009, the NH State Building Code Review Board voted 14 to two in favor of requiring the installation of power door openers in at least one accessible entrance during construction of new public buildings or when a public building is renovated. Current *NH Leadership Series* participant Lisa Dimartino, Family-to-Family Coordinator at Lakes Region Community Services and mother of a child with disabilities, was instrumental in seeing this code amendment pass. The revised NH building code will take effect April 1, 2010.

Below is an excerpt of the amendment letter that Dimartino submitted to the Review Board:

Last summer, I went to [a] grand opening of [a] new building. I was shocked to find out that there were no automatic door openers. When I approached the director about the openers, she stated that they were not

required, and were costly. I was perplexed by her answer. This is a public building; doorways, bathroom and sidewalk grades all met ADA codes, but no automatic door openers?...What good is having ADA requirements in and around a building if you can't even get through the door? This barrier defeats the purpose of true accessibility...

Imagine if when you planned to go anywhere, you had to first check to see if something as rudimentary as opening a door could put a halt to your plans...Yes, many new buildings do meet ADA requirements, and thus allow opportunities for people with disabilities, but even so, many of these buildings are still lacking the ability to provide access through which the entire community can pass. Requiring that automatic door openers be added to the current state building code will provide for the necessary access that individuals with disabilities need for true inclusion in our communities.

"Our hope is this decision will be viewed as a significant victory not only for individuals with disabilities but for anyone who has difficulty accessing entrances in public buildings," said Dimartino in an e-mail announcing the change. @

For more information on the *NH Leadership Series*, visit www.nhleadership.org.

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Using ARRA Funds to Improve Schools

Education funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) create an exciting opportunity to invest in resources that strengthen teacher quality, improve child outcomes, and close the achievement gap for students with disabilities. With its broad staff expertise and programs, the IOD is uniquely equipped to provide the customized on-site technical assistance that addresses the individual and systemic needs in your school. Areas of expertise include:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Transition to Employment
- Literacy Assessment and Training
- Team Planning Model
- Designing Communication Supports
- Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA)
- Person-Centered Planning
- Addressing Social Interactions and Social Needs for Students
- Developing Positive Behavioral Support (PBIS) Plans

To learn more about how to partner with the IOD, call 603.228.2084 or visit us online at www.iod.unh.edu/ta.html.



Did You Know?

According to the most recent data (2008) from the U.S. Census Bureau, there are approximately 1.3 million people in New Hampshire, with about 141,000 reporting a disability. In other words, people with disabilities comprise 10.9 percent of New Hampshire's population.

Nationally, people with disabilities comprise 12.1 percent of the population. Utah has the lowest percentage of people with disabilities (8.9 percent), while West Virginia has the highest percentage of people with disabilities (19 percent).

For more statistics on people with disabilities, visit www.DisabilityCompendium.org. This is a collaborative effort of IOD, Hunter College, New Editions Consulting, and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD).

Feedback

Have a comment, suggestion, or story idea? We value your input. E-mail contact.iod@unh.edu or call 603.862.4320 to let us know how we're doing and how we can better serve you.

Share the IOD with a friend:

Please let friends or colleagues know about us. *Pass us along!*

Career Opportunities at the IOD

The IOD is currently experiencing growth and is searching for highly-motivated professionals to fulfill roles as IOD Director, NH-LEND Training Director, and Project Manager for the New England Genetics Collaborative. Below are further details regarding each position:

Director of the Institute on Disability

As Director of the Institute on Disability, the appropriate candidate will work directly with the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services and the IOD Deputy Director to ensure that the vision, mission, and goals of the Institute on Disability are realized. Along with providing expert leadership and management oversight to the IOD's more than 30 funded projects, the Director will continue to build a growing body of applied and basic research and scholarship that advances the mission of the IOD and the College of Health and Human Services while promoting best practices. Among numerous responsibilities, the Director will participate in strategic College, University, State, and Federal policy activities, as well as work closely with interdisciplinary University departments and Institutes.

NH-LEND Training Director

Under the direction of Principle Investigator Dr. John Moeschler of Dartmouth College, the New Hampshire Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (NH-LEND) Training Director is responsible for the leadership and administrative management of the NH-LEND program, which includes a strong emphasis on autism spectrum disorders and medical home improvement, teaching

coursework, faculty liaison activities, student advising, and clinic work. The purpose of the NH-LEND program is to prepare professionals in health care and related disciplines to assume leadership positions in the provision of health and related services and social supports for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

Project Manager for the New England Genetics Collaborative

Under the direction of the principal investigator of the New England Genetics Collaborative (NEGC), the Project Manager is responsible for the administration, supervision, coordination, and execution of a major federally-funded cooperative agreement in the field of genetics and public health. The Project Manager will be responsible for the planning, development, design, administration, supervision, and implementation of the project work plan and affiliated research activities. The NEGC provides technical assistance, accessible information, educational opportunities, and other support for public health officials, consumers, advocates, primary and specialty health care providers, and other agencies and individuals who serve as formal and informal supports to those with genetic disorders throughout the New England region. @

Full details, including position qualifications and instructions for application, are available at www.iod.unh.edu/jobs.html.

Highlighting IOD Donors

Ensuring Access to Affordable Training for Educators, Service Providers, and Families

The **Cogswell Benevolent Trust** awarded a generous grant of \$20,000 in October 2009 to support the renovation and furnishing of the IOD's new Professional Development Center. The training facility, which represents a 1,800-square-foot expansion of the IOD's offices in Concord, will help to ensure that high quality learning opportunities and professional development programs will remain affordable and accessible for teachers, paraeducators, counselors, and family members across the state.

"This is something we have wanted to do for a long time," said IOD Interim Director Linda Bimbo. "Professional development is an important part of what we do—supporting teachers, caregivers, and families so that they can best help those they serve. With this convenient, accessible location, we can continue to keep fees for our programs low and quality high."

The IOD has been a leader locally and nationally for more than 20 years in the development and delivery of professional learning opportunities for teachers. "While studies indicate that intensive professional development efforts that offer at least 50 hours of support each year can raise student test scores by an average of 21 points," said Linda Darling-Hammond, author of a recent report on the status of teacher development in the U.S., "the majority of U.S. teachers receives no more than 16 hours of training in their subject areas."

By comparison, teachers in the Netherlands, Singapore, and Sweden are provided with

a minimum of 100 hours of professional development each year. "The idea that teachers go off and get training and that is it for the rest of their career is something we know doesn't work," said Darling-Hammond.

The IOD's Professional Development Program provides trainings, workshops, and conferences throughout the year in locations across the state. In 2009, more than 2,500 educators, paraeducators, nurses, counselors, case workers, and parents participated in one or more of these programs, which included new approaches to supporting students in inclusive classrooms, training in the use of assistive technologies at school and at home, and disseminating lessons learned in reducing school dropout rates through innovative new models.

For more information or to register for an upcoming workshop or training, visit www.iod.unh.edu. @

To learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to the IOD, please contact:

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or visit www.iod.unh.edu for easy and secure online donation.

CALENDAR

E V E N T S / W O R K S H O P S

2010 Research to Practice Series The Pathway from High School to a Career: Promising Strategies, Supports and Partnerships in Secondary Transition

Focuses on several unique strategies for developing effective, outcome-based educational experiences that promote the successful transition of students with disabilities and students at risk to their chosen post-secondary experiences.

Remaining Sessions:

March 1, 2010 – Employment Sector Job Training Programs for Young Adults

Time: 9am-12:30pm

Cost: \$30

Presenters: Heidi Wyman, Jennifer LeDuc Cusato, and Emily Manire

April 15, 2010 – Assistive Technology and Transition

Time: 9am-3pm

Cost: \$75

Presenter: Therese Willkomm, Ph.D.

May 13, 2010 – High School is Transition: A Framework for Reform that Allows Schools to Educate All Students

Time: 9am-3pm

Cost: \$75

Presenter: JoAnne Malloy, MSW

Location: Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

The Paraeducator's Toolbox: Practical Strategies to Support Academic Achievement for Students with Learning and Behavioral Challenges

Provides effective and proactive approaches that promote successful academic outcomes, social competency, and management of behavioral challenges. Specifically designed to address the complex social, emotional, and learning needs of students.

Dates & Locations:

Preschool and Elementary School

March 4, 2010 – Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

April 6, 2010 – Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Middle School and High School

March 11, 2010 – Highlander Inn, Manchester, NH

May 6, 2010 – Holiday Inn, Concord NH

Time: 9am-3pm

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Cathy Apfel, M.Ed.

Person-Centered Planning for Older Adults: Facilitation Skills Training in Consumer-Directed Life Planning

Offers an introduction to person-centered planning, including an overview of a person-centered system of care, information on how to facilitate planning meetings, and tools to use in the planning process.

Dates & Locations:

March 11, 2010 – SERESC, Bedford, NH

March 25, 2010 – Sheraton Harborside, Portsmouth, NH

Time: 9am-4pm

Cost: \$25

Presenters: Susan Fox, M.Ed., MA and Patty Cotton, M.Ed.

Fundamentals of Inclusive Education

Workshops on the evidence and practice of including students with disabilities in the general education classroom.

Remaining Sessions:

March 12, 2010 – From Special Educator to Inclusion Facilitator: Role Revelations and Revolutions

Cost: \$125

March 26, 2010 – From Knowing to Doing: Sharing Inclusive Education Lessons and Problem-Solving the Challenges

Cost: \$99

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Presenter: Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D.

Assistive and Universal Design Technologies

Focuses on the development and implementation of quick and cost-effective assistive technology solutions and embraces universally-designed technology to support all students.

Remaining Sessions:

March 17, 2010 – Building and Using and Assistive Technology Transformer Kit for Solving Everyday Challenges in the Classroom

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Therese Willkomm, Ph.D.

April 1, 2010 – IntelliTools Level II: Next Steps with Classroom Suite 4

Cost: \$75

Presenter: Dan Herlihy

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Picture This! The Art of Graphic Facilitation

Offers an accelerated learning experience in graphic recording and facilitation.

Dates:

March 19, 2010 and April 9, 2010

Time: 9am – 3pm

Location: IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Cost: \$99

Presenter: Patty Cotton, M.Ed.

Engaging All Learners with Paula Kluth: Practical Tools to Create More Inclusive Classrooms

Dates:

April 12, 2010 – “You’re Going to Love This Kid!”: Educating Students with Autism in Inclusive Schools

April 13, 2010 – Joyful Learning: Creating Active and Differentiated Instruction

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Center of NH Radisson, Manchester, NH

Cost: \$120 each

Presenter: Paula Kluth, Ph.D.

Introductory Training for Facilitated Communication

Provides a general overview of facilitated communication (FC), FC’s history, basic FC technique, determining FC candidacy, and a review of research and best practices.

Date & Location:

April 13, 2010 – IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Time: 9am–3:30pm

Cost: \$95

Presenter: Pascal Cheng, M.Ed., C.A.S.

Facilitated Communication 2: Beyond the Basics

Provides in-depth information on selected FC topics, including literacy, developing independence and conversational skills for FC users, and research on FC.

Date & Location:

April 16, 2010 – IOD Professional Development Center, Concord, NH

Time: 9am – 3:30pm

Cost: \$99

Presenter: Pascal Cheng, M.Ed., C.A.S.

Save the Date

Student Personalization: Personal Plans for Progress and Student-Led Conferences

Date & Location:

May 5, 2010 – Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Time: 9am – 3pm

Cost: \$165

Presenter: Joe DiMartino

Powerful Tools for Caregivers: Class Leader Training

Dates & Location:

May 12-14, 2010 – Holiday Inn, Concord, NH

Time: WR: 8am–5pm; F: 8am–1pm

Cost: \$750 (\$700 for teams of 2 or more)

Presenter: Miriam Callahan

12th Annual Autism Summer Institute

Dates & Location:

August 9-12, 2010 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nashua, NH

IOD Leadership

Linda Bimbo, MS – *Interim Director*

Mary C. Schuh, Ph.D. – *Associate Director of Development and Consumer Affairs*

Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D. – *Research Assistant Professor*

Matthew Gianino, BA – *Manager of Marketing and Communications*

Susan Fox, M.Ed., MA – *Clinical Assistant Professor*

Amy Schwartz, MPH – *Project Manager*

Andrew Houtenville, Ph.D. – *Research Director*

Executive Committee

Gordon Allen – *Executive Director*

New Hampshire Developmental

Disabilities Council

www.nhddc.org

Matthew Ertas – *Bureau Chief*

Bureau of Developmental Services

New Hampshire Department of Health

and Human Services

www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BDS

Barbara Arrington – *Dean*

College of Health and Human Services

University of New Hampshire

www.shhs.unh.edu

Santina Thibedeau – *State Director of*

Special Education

New Hampshire Department of Education

www.ed.state.nh.us

Richard Cohen, JD – *Executive Director*

Disabilities Rights Center

www.drenh.org

UCED Partners

Institute for Health, Law and Ethics

Franklin Pierce Law Center

Tom Bunnell, JD – *Director*

www.fplc.edu

Dartmouth Center for Genetics and Child Development

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

John Moeschler, MD – *Program Director*

www.dhmc.org

Consumer Advisory Council

Kathy Bates – *Somersworth, NH*

Denise Brewitt – *Concord, NH*

Regina Bringolf – *Hancock, NH*

Stacey Brooks – *Madbury, NH*

Robin Carlson – *Laconia, NH*

Joyce Chisholm – *Concord, NH*

Gina Colantuoni – *Bow, NH*

Bonnie Dunham – *Concord, NH*

Jocelyn Gallant – *Salem, NH*

Nathan Gams – *Hampton, NH*

Amy Howe – *Hopkinton, NH*

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Julie Smith – *Durham, NH*

Jim Tobin – *Effingham, NH*

Maureen Tracey – *Merrimack, NH*

Pat Vincent-Piet – *Concord, NH*

Kathryn Wallenstein – *Concord, NH*

Marian West – *Concord, NH*

Support the IOD!

As a community oriented non-profit focused on ensuring that equal opportunities and a satisfying quality of life are accessible to all persons, we rely on the generosity of supporters like you to help further the mission of the IOD. If you would like to contribute to the IOD, tax-deductible donations can be made:

Online

www.iod.unh.edu

Mail

56 Old Suncook Road, Suite 2
Concord, NH 03301

Phone

603.228.2084

An IOD staff member will assist you with the process and answer any questions you may have about your contribution.

APEX Schools See 60% Reduction in Dropout Rate

As a result of the work of the Institute on Disability's Achievement in Dropout Prevention and Excellence (APEX) II grant, several high schools throughout New Hampshire have seen significant reductions in their student dropout rates.

Between 2005 and 2009, APEX II project staff worked with 10 high schools that had higher-than-average dropout rates to implement the three-tiered Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model, a systematic, data-driven behavioral support and improvement process. APEX staff also provided continuous and comprehensive training and consultation to the schools in several topic areas, including middle to high school transition and capacity building; Functional Behavioral Assessment and Function Support planning; and Rehabilitation, Empowerment, Natural supports, Education and Work (RENEW), an intensive individualized school-to-career service for the most at-risk students. In addition, APEX staff worked with each high school to improve the validity and reliability of their data systems for identifying, reporting, and analyzing discipline problems.

Project outcomes were significant: the aggregate average annual dropout rates of the 10 schools fell from 6.2% in 2004-2005 to 2.52% in 2008-2009, a collective reduction of 60%. Somersworth High

School was able to improve their dropout rate by nearly six full percentage points.

“For many of the schools,” said APEX Project Director JoAnne Malloy, “we believe that the PBIS system contributed to their successes by introducing data-based decision-making and a process for critically examining and revising their discipline systems, along with comprehensive training provided by the project.”

APEX II was funded by the U.S. Department of Education and directed by the New Hampshire

Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Along with the IOD, project partners included the NH Center for Effective Behavioral Interventions and Supports (NH CEBIS), the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University, and Main Street Academix at New England College.

“For many of the schools, we believe that the PBIS system contributed to their successes by introducing data-based decision-making and a process for critically examining and revising their discipline systems.”

Because of the extensive and proven success of the APEX II grant, the IOD has been awarded a third APEX grant for an additional two years. APEX III will feature continued RENEW and behavior support services for at-risk students, as well as statewide training opportunities and a fifth-annual APEX Summer Leadership Institute to be held in August 2010. ☺

For more information on the APEX project, visit www.iod.unh.edu/apex.html.

IOD Welcomes New Consumer Council Members

People with disabilities and their family members are central to how the Institute on Disability plans, carries out, and evaluates its activities. By maintaining a Consumer Advisory Council, the IOD ensures constant and consistent consumer involvement in setting the direction of the IOD's strategic plan and providing feedback as the IOD moves forward in its mission.

The IOD's Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) is currently made up of 21 people of different age groups, disabilities, and regions of New Hampshire, and it strives to represent the state's racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity.

Its membership includes representatives from a number of organizations including the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Disabilities Rights Center, People First of New Hampshire, the Parent Information Center, and graduates of the *NH Leadership Series*. At least one-third of the members are individuals with disabilities, and at least two-thirds are parents, other immediate relatives, or legal guardians of individuals with disabilities.

“The Consumer Advisory Council is an invaluable resource to the IOD for direction-setting, offering a fresh perspective, and giving us the personal view of the challenges that exist in our state in supporting people with disabilities to lead ordinary lives,” said IOD Associate Director Mary Schuh. “The IOD regularly seeks



(L-R) Michelle Jarvis, Robin Carlson, and Julie Smith at a CAC meeting

out the opinion of the Council when deciding on grants to pursue or on moving forward with new initiatives.”

At the Council's most recent quarterly meeting, the group welcomed four new members to its ranks: Denise Brewitt of Concord, NH; Amy Howe of Hopkinton, NH; Julie Noel of Concord, NH; and Chrissy Shaffer of Litchfield, NH. The group also elected Maureen Tracey and Julie Smith as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for the coming year. ☺

For more information on the IOD's Consumer Advisory Council, contact Mary Schuh at 603.228.2084 or visit www.iod.unh.edu/cac.html.

Follow the IOD

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