

Positive Behavioral Supports Committee  
*Community of Practice*  
Chairperson: Peter Tolisano, Psy.D.

Date: November 5, 2013 1pm – 2:30 pm

Present: Peter Tolisano, Debra Anderson, Eva Bula, and Taci Lowe

Absent: Sara Hinman, Jessica Kremer, Tracey Walker, Jerusia Chasse, Jennifer Gillotti, Jennifer Beglin, Shirley Boron, and Kyle Mansfield

Introductions by the members present were done. Collectively the four members in attendance represent many years of experience both within DDS and as Private providers.

Introduction:

- Peter handed out a variety of information for the committee to review. In particular, parts of the Wingspread Report tied to PBS were identified as something that would be most helpful for the members to review and to see what from the report will be pertinent for the committee's work.
- The committee was first formed in September of this year during the Communities of Practice Kick-Off. This is one of six sub-committees formed to develop recommendations to enhance supports that are provided to families.
- Also, in October, a Clinical Behavioral Retreat was held with the supervising psychologists facilitating six groups, which identified proposed action items focused on Positive Behavioral Supports for families.

Discussion Items:

1. Our mission might be to focus on the *best practices* for PBS that impact families and looking at the current behavioral trends in Connecticut. Also, viewing our committee as a resource to DDS to help keep individuals in their family homes.
2. Standardizing PBS Services: Developing a behavioral support plan template; it was drafted and briefly discussed at the October Retreat. It will be shared next with qualified behaviorists.
3. Recruiting new members to our committee with a goal of having 10 to 12 members representing a diverse population. Some ideas for recruitment were to reach out in the following areas: Self-Advocate Coordinators (Eva), Department of Education representative: Colleen Hayles (Peter), a residential staff representative and child psychiatrists (Debra), behavioral modification specialists (Peter), case managers (Eva), family members (Tacie). Debra will also contact Beth Caldwell in MASS to explore best practice information and representation (Coercion-free environments).

Personal Interests:

- Tacie: Building diversity in interests

- Eva: Developing a roadmap for improvement and a timeframe to accomplish our goals

Ideas for Possible Projects:

- As our unique project, could we help improve accountability for family-directed money and ensure quality by developing a *family satisfaction survey for PBS services*, besides relying on case management oversight?
- Developing a SharePoint Collaborative site (it would not be accessible to non-DDS personnel)
- Exploring the possibility of an externship site for bachelors and masters level students to help with the PBS Committee, especially providing education to families.

Next Steps:

- PDF of the complete Wingspread Report to be sent to members by Peter (done on 11/8/13)
- Continue to develop a committee mission statement
- Discuss further development of unique projects
- Build recruitment!

Next Meeting:

To be scheduled by Julie Bouchard in late November or early December

Community of Practice Follow-up Meeting Robin Wood and Peter Tolisano (11/8/13)

Talking Points:

- Looking at the PBS Committee as a non-traditional group
- Approaching VSP families/RFS directors in each region for recruitment of new members
- Contacting DCF about crisis management
- Developing family-oriented process groups
- Drafting a webpage flyer to help with recruitment (Peter)