



**Community of Practice
for Supporting Families of Individuals
with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities**

**Positive Behavioral Support Committee
*Community of Practice***

Chairperson: Peter Tolisano, Psy.D.

Meeting Date: December 5, 2013 10 – 12 AM

Location: Lucy Robbins Wells Library (Lienhard Room) in Newington

Talking points from Community of Practice discussion with Robin Wood and Peter Tolisano (11/8/13):

- Looking at our PBS Committee as a non-traditional group
- Exploring new strategies within PBS, especially by identifying a unique project
- Approaching VSP families/RFS directors in each region for recruitment of new members and establishing focus groups
- Contacting DCF about crisis management strategies
- Developing family-oriented process groups
- Drafting a webpage flyer to help with recruitment

12/5/13 Meeting:

Present: Peter Tolisano, Robin Wood, John Tierney, Jessica Kremer, Lisa Gelaola, Jonathan Hauslaib, Tamara Mitton, Lori LaCroix, Eva Bula, Taci Lowe, Jerusia Chasse, Jennifer Gillotti, Erin Wegner-Vincent, and Robert Kliminsky

Absent: Jennifer Bogin, Shirley Boron, Kyle Mansfield, Debra Anderson, Sara Hinman, and Tracey Walker

Introduction:

- Introductions by the members present.
- Peter handed out an overview of the Community of Practice, segments of the Wingspread Report tied to PBS, Action items from the October Retreat, and minutes from the first meeting in November.
- Robin spoke about the Community of Practice in general terms, which was very informative toward helping the group members better understand the larger context.

Key Points from the discussion:

1. Overarching goal is to recruit members to represent the entire lifespan
2. We may reach out to self-advocates, families, and providers who families prefer to be either members of the PBS Committee or to present even once to inform our process and help to recruit others.
3. Understanding that the CoP is a four-year project, and that the current efforts can be focused on recruitment (i.e., “having the right people at the table”) and education.

Ideas for possible projects to meet the needs of families:

- What are ways that staff can be better trained to work with families?
- Determining the role of Respite Centers.
- Identifying the differences between group home placements versus family involvement.
- Educating families on the PBS services available and how they can be delivered.
- Focusing on Birth to Three issues and the use of “Scaffolding”
- Increasing awareness about the benefits of family counseling (by providers who are preferably familiar with the PBS model and are willing to collaborate with team members)
- *Increasing social supports, especially spirituality and mentoring as protective factors*
- Developing a screening (intake) process to determine family priorities
- Determining how the PBS Committee fits into the “community” of families
- Tying into the CT Family Support Council
- Designing social events for families and peer support groups
- Reaching out to high school and college students to help with various projects
- Consider offering practicum and externship opportunities
- Asking VSP families to participate and find ways for them to contribute even if they are unavailable to attend our meetings directly
- Develop a recruitment flyer to be placed on the DDS website

Next Steps:

- Determine the ideas from the agenda items and the best practices that the committee members prefer, those they are invested in, and what they are excited about.
- Invite others to our meeting(s) for conversation
- Tie into the CoP Communication team to help our membership and research efforts

Next Meeting:

To be scheduled by Julie Bouchard for January or February