



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

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

Chairpersons:

Pam Lyle

Peter Tolisano, Psy.D.

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: July 15, 2014 10:00-12:00

Location: Lucy Robbins Wells Library in Newington

*Present:* Pam Lyle, Peter Tolisano, Jonathan Hauslaib, Tamara Mitton, Jennifer Bogin, John Tierney, Don Briere, Tesha Imperati, and Carolyn Teed-Ives.

**Presenter:**

Tesha Imperati: Executive Director of CT Family Support Network (FSN)

- CT FSN supports children and families with special needs. Staff works in locale where they live. Staff empowers parents, rather than advocating for them.
- CT FSN workshops are unique and free. Main attractions are discussing the resources, especially social groups available.
- They hold a yearly "One Voice Conference" for families to meet each other.
- Tesha suggested that for our PBS committee recruitment of families that we should use an approach of joining, partnering, scaffolding, and mentorship. Expectations for family involvement should be outlined.

**Topics Discussed:**

- Finding parents interested in the greater good, rather than very involved only during a crisis.
- Developing a simple brochure about PBS services (e.g., checking credentials, rules of thumb, do's and don't's, pick your battles, break things into smaller pieces, medicine before psychology/behavioral work, snapshot of existing resources, success stories).
- Developing a timeline for projects and working via email

**Announcements:**

- Chairs meeting will be held on July 18
- September 15 Big Event

**Next Meeting: August 13 in Newington**

- Presenters: Jane Hampton from CT Parents Advocacy Council will be asked to participate.

- Future Questions to Address:
  - Can individuals and families not in DDS be CoP members?
  - How do we increase PBS awareness (e.g., newsletter, website, posters, handbooks, brochures)?
  - While video conferencing from DDS locations might limit community accessibility because we would be tied to DDS locations for the technology, it might help with project work.
  - Should we find an alternate site instead of Newington or rotate. We could sign up for different months and various locations (e.g., Cheshire, Wallingford, and Manchester).
  - Jonathan to check with Journey Found families about participating.
  - Looking for presenters to inform us about a life span approach.