

Kent CAN Minutes
March 15, 2017
1:00-3:00
Coldwater Room

Roles and Responsibilities

Facilitator – Rebecca McIntyre

Note Taker –Joan Meyer

Transition Coordinator – Scott Bont

Website Coordinator – Lori Matthews

Kent CAN Coordinator – Jennifer Murchison

Assessment Tool Coordinator – Amy Bufka

Peer to Peer and Trainer/Coaches – Jen Amorose and Sarah Hammer

Evidence Based Practice: Jill Kreuze and Lindsey Nicholson

Our Mission - To build a comprehensive model for identification, training, shared resources, and effective practices which promotes collaboration and consistency between families, educators, and community partners in support of our students with ASD.

Our Philosophy Supports:

- Multi-disciplinary collaboration.
- Services that are individualized and utilize evidence-based interventions and strategies.
- Intervention driven by the student's present level and on-going assessment.
- Use of positive behavior support and proactive approaches to address challenging behaviors.
- Inclusion of families and community partners as critical team members.
- Continuous improvement of programs and services based on current data.
- Focusing on opportunities in integrated environments.

Calendar

Kent CAN Meeting Dates

**All meetings are held from 1:00-3:00 PM unless otherwise noted with optional lunch available prior to meetings.*

*** E-mail future agenda items to Jennifer Murchison (murchisonj@grps.org)*

Kent CAN Meetings for 2016-17School Year

May 24, 2017 ESC Coldwater Room

Additional START and Kent CAN Trainings and Conferences:

**Anyone wishing to attend a START training should contact Joan Meyer (joanmeyer@kentisd.org) for registration via Kent CAN*

May 1, 2017 START Conference @ Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing

May 2, 2017 START Spring RCN meeting @ Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing

Additional START information can be found at: <http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/>

Follow Up Items

Activity	Who	Completed?
<p>Introduction of Members. Twenty-seven members present. Introduction of everyone including many guests. May 1 and 2nd is the upcoming START Conference.</p> <p>Trainings and Program Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BYF Team updates – Next meeting is March 28th. Trainings are going well and teams are working together to complete tasks. Updates will be given at May meeting, once trainings have ended. <p>Evidence Based Practices student update – checklist due and there will be presentations at the May Kent CAN Meeting. Teams should use survey monkey, what you did for the student's baseline. Survey Monkey will open on May 1st and will close around June 1st.</p>	<p>Jennifer Murchison</p> <p>Kent CAN members</p> <p>Nicholson/Amorose/ Ryan/ EGR rep</p>	

New Items

Activity	Follow-Up Needed	Who	Timeline
<p>START update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelly Dunlap was not in attendance and Jana Benjamin said there were not specific START updates. Spanish Passport list was once again passed around for the number of Spanish Passports needed in individual districts. Additional Non-Spanish Passports are available through Joan Meyer (joanmeyer@kentisd.org) . <p>Kent CAN / Kent ISD update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Night event is March 20th. We moved to the Grand Room for parents because of the large turnout. There are 29 students in childcare. Seventy-two parents are registered to attend. We have more than one-on-one student peer-to-peer volunteers coming. Each room will also be staffed by a staff from our district. We are looking forward to a great time. The LEAP Conference had over 100 people in Alissa Hofstee's behavior presentation (was the most popular). Alissa will present the same training again at the ASD Parent Night. GET Supports for Autism Conference – November 8, 2017 is all scheduled and a second "call for 		<p>Rebecca McIntyre/Jennifer Murchison</p> <p>Rebecca McIntyre/Kent CAN members</p> <p>Alissa Hofstee</p>	

given out and that went to Amy Krajewski from GRPS.

Presentation:

Ability Weavers – owners Eric & Beryl Bartkus and his wife started a company called Ability Weavers. It is located in a storefront in downtown Lowell and it is to employ people with ASD and other impairments. Seven looms are set up in the store and people come in to shop and watch the people weaving. They currently employ ten weavers, who work as independently as possible, though may get assistance from CLS staff, parents, or shop staff. It is open 30 hours per week and any money that comes in goes to pay the weavers. They are paid a comparative wage to other non-handicapped workers. The company was developed to specifically employ students who age out of special education services and are now ready for employment. This social enterprise has been a great success and attached to the minutes is their brochure. We encourage all of you to go and visit this establishment and check out their website: www.AbilityWeavers.com.

Beryl Bartkus

- Celebrating: Peer-to-Peer in our schools. Sandy Brooks from East Grand Rapids did a presentation from their high school along with two students. It was good to hear from the student's perspective what they thought about the program. They were both very pleased with the program and felt it helped them as well as their special education peer. This encourages peer socialization. Students gave information about what they like best about the programs. It is being able to interact with students you might not normally interact with. Job sites are fun because businesses interact with special needs students. They have a classroom store, and they take this around the school during time change in hallways and students have to make change for the items that they sell. They also showed a movie in the auditorium on the big screen with popcorn! Parents indicated they enjoy the Facebook page so they can see exactly what their students are doing rather than just read about it. Very well received! Good interaction between committee members about how to work through problems and other challenges.

Sandy Brooks,
EGR HS students
and Carol
Lippert

Caledonia presented an update on their Peer-to-Peer. They were having some burnout when students started in elementary and burned out by middle school. The students themselves have been encouraging others to keep their energy up. Caledonia's Jen Amorose presented to East Kentwood High school Mary Thomasma and Kathy DeHaan to start a LINKS program there. Caledonia is also planning a community conversation event for May 4th and are just beginning working with the parent for planning this event. Jen presented a link from Mercantile Bank where Caledonia can win \$5,000. Please check it out and vote! ☺

LINKS Program to win a \$5,000 donation!

Please spread the word to your students, co-workers, friends, and family on Facebook and encourage them to vote for the CHS LINKS program. *Voting will close at 9am on March 27th* and the winner will be announced on Facebook later that day.

Thank you for supporting our special education students and Cal community with your vote. Feel free to reach out with any questions you might have.

Voting link: https://mercbank.fbapp.io/giving-together/in706e?from=user_link

Jen Amorose
and Scott Bont

Rebecca Ryan

Emily Molesta
and Chelsea
Kittridge

- Riverside Middle school with Rebecca Ryan presented about their program. This, too, is very well received. Peer-to-Peer Riverside Middle school students have had a long history of programs that worked well. Their middle school programs had puzzles, games, crafts, jewelry, attending dances, etc. BYF student was withdrawn and nonverbal (he is tube-fed and medically complex). The first step was communication. Started input with devices or pictures and hopefully they will use pictures talking back. Developed communication wallets with 12 core words and other on the side. This has been successful.
- Emily Molesta and Chelsea Kittridge from Rockford have programs at elementary and hoping to build into middle and high school. High school students need to be able to interact with general education students. Three classroom in their program, lower, middle and full inclusion classrooms. 4th and 5th grade buddies video was shown with them indicating

what they like to do. The power of the peer is great! General education students come in to speech with special needs and it has also been successful. Peered with River Valley Academy and that has been successful. It allows leadership opportunity for these students. They have something to offer other than being problem students.

“Show and Share”

Let's get interactive!

- Wonderful Websites
- Marvelous Materials
- Resource Review
- Agency/Community Awareness

Kent CAN
members