Kent CAN Minutes

May 16, 2018

1:00-3:00

Coldwater Room

Roles and Responsibilities
Facilitator – Alissa Hofstee
Note Taker – Joan Meyer
Transition Coordinator – Scott Bont and Liz Ensing
Website Coordinator – Lori Matthews
Kent CAN Coordinator – Jennifer Murchison
Assessment Tool Coordinator - TBD
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

Please stay tuned for information regarding the 2018-2019 restructuring of Kent CAN and how you can be involved.

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.
Additional START information can be found at the Grand Valley website: http://www.gvsu.edu/autismcenter/
Follow Up Items

Introduction of members – 20 committee members in attendance. It is a very busy time of year for all attendees!

Trainings and Program Updates

- START Conference – April 30th – members were very impressed with the conference. Paula Kluth was one of the keynote speakers and she was excellent. Attendees were given some very good ideas on how to include students that seem very logical and simple but sometimes we miss them. A couple of Paula’s favorite quotes were: “Find a Way, Make A Way” and “You say you have high expectations, prove it with your placement.” We have a few copies of her book “Don’t We Already DO Inclusion?” if members would like to read it. Send an email to Joan Meyer if you want her to send it to you.
  - START Spring RCN Meeting – May 1st - the main “take-away” for people who attended included caseload analysis (see below) and the START parent brochure. Discussion was held about creating something similar. Should this be at the district level, ISD level? How much information to put into it and whether or not it would be beneficial. Most agreed that something like this would be a great document to be able to give to parents in Kent County. The brochure will be shared with special education directors in Kent ISD. Attached is the START version, which can also be found on their website: https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/64CB422A-ED08-43F0-F795CA9DE364B6BE/school_services_brochure(2).pdf

New Items

START Update

- Light Blue Graduation Cords for Peer to Peer Programs – available from START. This is somewhat late for this school year as graduations are already taking place. Discussion was held about everyone getting the same color as some districts have many cords already for different things. Jana Benjamin from START said that they are available this year at a very reasonable price ($1.50 each plus shipping) so this is also something to consider. (Jana also said that this is a grant-approved expense).
- Visit START website for a full list of new Self-Management examples organized by category. Check this out on their website. Share these resources with your teachers and staff.
- End of Year Target Student Data Qualtrics survey link is available and is due by June 1, 2018. Jana will give us a reminder about how we are doing and what still needs to be done.
- 2018-2019 RCN Application is due by June 22, 2018
- End of year reports are due by July 13, 2018

Kent CAN/Kent ISD Updates

- Review 2017-2018 Contract Goals and Target Students
  - At this point in time, Rebecca has all the information she needs to finalize the grant.
- Peer to Peer – Day at the Ballpark – May 23rd – we have a photographer going along to take pictures. Peer-to-Peer is able to throw out the first pitch! Caledonia, Grandville, Kenowa Hills and Kentwood are participating this year and we purchased 143 tickets! Everyone is hoping once again for a nice day and a White Caps victory. 😊
- A New Year, A New Look – Changes coming to Kent CAN in 2018-2019 – Alissa Hofstee said that we are looking to change our format somewhat for the 2018-19 school year. Regular team meeting will turn into leadership team meetings, for grant objectives and implementation of these objectives. The leadership team will have added requirements for next year with focus areas that align to our grant goals. In regards to professional development, there is a need for teams to come together in a more focused way. Working towards creating mini intensive trainings (similar to Kindy Segovia’s “AT Mastery Series”). Take a group of professionals and put them through more intensive trainings aligning with START trainings. These trainings would be “on site” at different districts, not in classroom setting but a conference room, and Ron Houtman has agreed to video tape these trainings to share with others. Want to present the practice, present how other people have done it and plan on how you would implement this in your district. This would be the learning loop. A lead group would address each of the different objectives
from START. As the grant areas are addressed, there would be sub-groups to be more action-based. This is still in the planning stage and more details will follow.

- Kent CAN Leadership Award- was given this year to Rebecca Ryan from GRPS. The leadership team thanked Rebecca for the nice job she does and for always being willing to help Kent CAN in all of our endeavors. Congratulations, Rebecca!

Presentations:

- EBP, Peer to Peer, and Transition End of Year Project Presentations –

Anne Pacanovsky and Kristina Koning presented Kenowa Hills’ peer-to-peer program with some of their high school students. They are growing the program slowly and it has been a great experience for all involved. General Education classroom teachers were pleased and impressed with the student’s abilities. Some teachers were unaware of student’s abilities and were very impressed. One of the high school peers, Erika, shared and said that the program has changed her life and she is now considering becoming a special education teacher after college. She got emotional when sharing how the interaction with her peer changed her life. She said it helped her much more than her peer. Another peer, Kaitlyn, shared a blog that she has created with her peer, Charlie. Kaitlyn shared how she took Charlie to Prom and what a good experience it was. Through the blog, it was great to walk through the day with Kaitlyn and Charlie. It was a learning experience with all students involved. A question was given to the two students as to what kind of training they had before they began. Basically they said it was just giving them the expectation of being a friend to their student. They were then able to develop their own strategies as to how this could be accomplished.

Grandville sent an update from Grandville High School as their committee members were not able to attend. This was their first year involving seven of eight of their self-contained students with 20 peers. It was a very impressive year. General education teachers felt it might be too distracting in their classrooms, but reported that it was much less distracting than they thought. Looking to expand to students outside of the self-contained rooms and will grow to 40 peers. Inclusion surveys will be attached with these minutes, and make sure you take time to read this.

Jen Amorose helped start a peer-to-peer program last year at East Kentwood High School. A foundation grant was used to purchase necessary materials. Kentwood went to Caledonia and observed what worked for them and modified their program to work for them. They had some great learning times and they are taking their class to the White Caps game on May 23rd. They have 18 peers signed up for next year and will have 1 class each semester. In addition they are looking to present a peer panel at the EK CON teachers teaching teachers PD day next year.

Evidence-based project. Rebecca Ryan (GRPS) used CETA as a coaching tool with a new teacher. Started at ground zero and worked to implement daily schedule and visual supports. They are just starting but are improving each day. Their target student has a complex communication program and they are working through this.

Jen Amorose (Caledonia) in coaching for implementation discovered the difficulties in selecting a student already on her case. Found challenging as she already had many practices in place. Discussed need to build system supports at all building levels. She needed to adapt and it was good coaching moments for Jen, herself.

Alissa shared that it is good to have all buildings in each district having all of the necessary components in each individual building. All buildings should be “equal” as much as possible. This is easier said than done.

Transition was presented by Liz Ensing from Forest Hills. They had an incident when the father of one of their ASD students passed away and the student was home alone. It was a very trying experience for all involved. There are very few relatives for this student and so teachers are literally “building his future.” The teachers and staff are making a difference in this student’s life as the Forest Hills School District is this student’s family. They were able to get this student a job at McDonalds (a success!) and the Forest Hills family is committed to continue in this endeavor, helping
him eventually get an apartment, where he can have his cats and live somewhat independently. (Kelly Rogers said that forget any forms to fill out for this transition goal – it was reached and exceeded!)

Jen Amorose (Caledonia) had a community goal but “the best laid plans of mice and men” changed. Their Community Conversation 2.0 turned into 1.5 given district staff changes and change in approach. Did a tour of GRPS programs and are going to create a micro-enterprise (fire starters). Also discussed the need to schedule time to debrief after hold a Community Conversation. Looking to host their next event in the Fall.

- START Spring RCN resources – Kent CAN members
  - Caseload Analysis – was brought up and presented by Kelly Rogers. We treat all the students as equal, as one. In fact some students need more support than others. Get an idea of who your students are on your caseload. Find what supports they need and what services they are currently getting. This tool can help with these issues. You can customize this analysis as needed. This is a way to be more cognizant of what individual buildings needs are based upon their student needs. A good tool to put intentionality behind the needs.

Show and Share – there was some informal discussion on what some people are using.

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

- Discussed Seeing AI app – which allows you to take a picture of text and it automatically reads it
- Sock Puppet app – good for turn taking and social skills building, great for use with peers too
- Julia Cook picture books for social thinking curriculum good for K-3 population