

Kent CAN Minutes
December 7, 2016
1:00-3:00
Grand 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 2016-17 School Year (Please note that meeting type may vary)

January 25, 2017 ESC Coldwater Room

February 15, 2017 ESC Coldwater Room

March 15, 2017 ESC Coldwater Room

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

February 1, 2017 IEP Boot Camp with an Autism Focus @ Kent ISD- Grand Room

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?
Introduction of Members – 20 members present. Members were introduced as well as the guest speakers.	Jennifer Murchison	
Trainings and Program Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BYF Team and Evidence Based Practice student updates - BYF on December 1st was held at Thousand Oaks. Jen Amorose reported that it was a good review for them but good for new folks. Parents are an integral part of this entire process. Challenges arise when parents are not as proactive. Jill Krueze liked the organization of the process used in the training. Lori Pitts indicated that it has been easier for them to work through this process with students still in high school. Resources and student engagement is more difficult in transition programming. Rebecca Ryan felt it was good for team building and working with students who present with medical needs and that are nonverbal also. Many school teams are represented in the process and it gives great information.• START Fall RCN meeting – November 7th was reported out. Sarah Hammer liked the presentation of Project Search. Good options for this available locally.. Caledonia has a student for Project Search and they are looking to apply for the next one coming up. "Strategies that Work" book was a good resource. Also, Peer to Peer was shared in a new manner, where a group focused on 4-H activities in Lapeer.• Evidence Based Evaluations training – November 30th at Eberhard Center – 200 at Eberhard Center and 150 at the livestream sights. Was a success and everyone was pleased.• START is having another Educational Supports and Strategies Statewide Training on February 9 and 10 in Grand Rapids (Crowne Plaza) Registration will open December 10th. Please contact Joan Meyer (joanmeyer@kentisd.org) if you are interested in registering for this.	Kent CAN members	

<p>Sarah Hammer (Byron Center) gave an example of Unified Champion Schools that they started. They meet twice a month with general education and special education students. They share disability awareness throughout the high school. Kids participate in disability awareness activities as well as learn about specific disabilities. Their Unified Sport is bowling – bowl twice a semester. Students come up with opportunities to fund raise – they are doing a Polar Plunge team. Students helped put on a Thanksgiving Feast for the entire staff, again, to raise money for additional activities. They will be hosting a basketball tournament for Special Olympics for another activity. Sarah applied for the money through Unified Schools and the monthly contact, midyear and end of year reports were easily accessible online. She also provided two stories per year for the monthly newsletter. Sarah highly recommends using Unified Schools.</p>	<p>Sarah Hammer, Byron Center</p>	
<p>Scott Bont and Jen Amorose - (Caledonia), is using Unified Schools for their programs. Incorporated LINKS, and did disability awareness. Dan from Unified Schools helped their fund raising by getting shirts for LINKS and they could bring extra students to the Whitecaps game as well. The last week of school is a peer-to-peer partnered with CI classrooms to John Ball Zoo, they did bowling, had an ice cream social, and funding for transportation came from Project Unify. Using it this year for peer-to-peer in elementary. Also helped fund bowling and with students moving to middle school from elementary. Bocce Ball was also an activity, ending the year with a tournament. Unified Schools is a great avenue to incorporate peer-to-peer programs. A simple process that opened lots of doors that they would not have had access to before, and it is easy to use.</p>	<p>Scott Bon and Jen Amorose</p>	
<p>Parent Input Carol Lippert is looking for support as her 14-year-old son goes through puberty. Looking for any suggestions and how to approach different topics with a nonverbal child. Different suggestions were given by various committee members from teaching “public and private” and other avenues.</p>	<p>Carol Lippert</p>	

<p>Resource: Jen Amorose from Caledonia has some help she will share with Carol and also suggested this book http://woodbinehouse.com/main.asp?product_id=978-1-890627-33-1&.asp</p> <p>This a resource that Caledonia used to help develop our health curriculum: http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/locations/family-planning/education/FLASH.aspx</p> <p>START update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STARTism: Social Skills Only Develop with Social Opportunities: Age-appropriate social skills developed with social opportunities and participation in integrated environments. Social interaction occurs in a context, not as isolated skills. Learning social skills in integrated settings with peers leads to natural experiences, real world feedback, and, most of all, friendships. • Spanish Passport – START has developed a Spanish version of their Passport and will be printing them. People need to bring the number of Spanish Passports they need to the January 25th Kent CAN Meeting, so we can request the proper amount for START to print for us. <p>Kent CAN / Kent ISD update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Night survey update – The results from the survey indicated that the 5:00-8:00 pm time period would work best (we would supply child care). March 20th is the scheduled date at this point. Possible topics would be: “What you need to know about your child’s IEP” (Laurie VanderPloeg to present), Alissa Hofstee (new 		Jennifer Murchison	
		Jennifer Murchison	
		Jennifer Murchison	
		Jennifer Murchison	

<p>BCBA at Kent ISD coming from Caledonia) would speak on “behavior strategies”, and SSI vs. SSD presentation by Hillary Canady from Social Security might also be a useful topic. It will be a conference style here at the ISD. Perhaps peer-to-peer students could help with child care (Forest Hills has said they could assist with this).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PECS training – putting it to good use. Joy Ostrander from Lowell could not attend but sent her comment through Jennifer. She appreciated the training. It is working well with her student and they are beginning to see growth in using their picture schedule also. Lindsey Nicholson shared her experience in Forest Hills, eight people attended, CI teachers and ASD Teachers. The two-day training was intense PECS training was very useful as to why it works and why it is done that way. Presenter was incredible and 100% realistic. Forced people to do the exchanges with each other and watched the people practice to make sure they learned it correctly. It was a great training. Gave examples as to why something is working and why something is not working.• IEP Boot Camp with an Autism Focus is planned for February 1st here at the ISD (see attached flyer). It will be a complete training on an IEP with a portion very ASD specific. Lindsey fielded and answered people’s question about this training and took a list of what they wanted to see addressed. Committee members requested that it be a webinar so		<p>Lindsey Nicholson</p> <p>Lindsey Nicholson</p>	
--	--	---	--

<p>staff could network with all teachers. The emphasis will be on socialization and independence rather than academic goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASD Conference –A sign-up sheet was passed around for people to sign up and help plan the ASD Conference on November 8th, 2017. Ideas of topics were also collected on the sign up. • START Conference – May 1st and the START RCN Spring Meeting on May 2nd, 2017 - A sheet was passed around for people to sign up if they are interested in attending. We have budgeted for 12-15 people to attend depending on how many stay overnight. This sign-up sheet will also be passed around at the January meeting. <p>Presentations: Area 11 Special Olympics information was presented by Lori DeYoung, a mom of a special needs daughter who wears many other hats as well. Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers. A sheet is attached listing all of the sports that Special Olympics sponsors. Lori gave an example of their swimming program. Many students with ASD enjoy swimming as a personal sport that works well. East Grand Rapids' swim team helps work with student's one-on-one teachings strokes, and other swimming aspects. This is very, very successful as it not only helps with their swimming skills but is also a great example of peer interaction. Young athletes from ages 2 to 7 develops basic skills. Special Olympics is always looking for volunteers of all different kinds. If someone is interested in having a student participate in Special Olympics, have the parent call (616) 583-1202 or visit their website www.somi.org/area11. Their website</p>		Jennifer Murchison	
		Jennifer Murchison	
		Lori DeYoung	

<p>also contains all of the necessary applications for both athletes and volunteers.</p> <p>Unified Champion Schools was presented by Dan Ekonen. He highlighted their program by stating how well it is working with schools in Kent County. Their Polar Plunge fund raiser is scheduled for February 25th – in a pool in front of DeVos Place rather than at Reeds Lake as it has been in the past. Dan works out of their office at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant. Unified Champion Schools has three main goals: (1) Youth leadership, (2) unified sports, and (3) education, school-wide awareness of disabilities. General education students meet with special education students to plan what they want to do in designing the program. It is mainly youth driven. General ed students and special ed students on a sports team together (bowling, Bocce Ball, soccer, track & field, basket all, etc.) Enough basketball teams now exist that they are questioning interscholastic games with other schools. The purpose is to bring together students with and without disabilities in sports activities, which in turn carries over to all aspects of school and community. The educational component is to be school-wide awareness, combining anti-bullying and respect. An example was given at Meadowbrook Elementary in Forest Hills they displayed fish throughout the school: “we are all different but we all swim together.” Committee members were encouraged to check out their website and apply.</p> <p>SOMI Resource Center (forms) - http://www.somi.org/whoweare/resourcecenter.html#.WEldsLlrK70</p> <p>Unified Champion Schools Registration</p>		<p>Dan Ekonen</p>	
--	--	-------------------	--

<p>Form - http://www.somi.org/projectunify/project-unify-registration.html#.WEldyrlrK70</p> <p>Unified Schools can fund unified sports activities, reimburse equipment costs, transportation, food for activities, t-shirts for peer-to-peer programs, and many other things. They pay the company direct. Can apply online, easy to apply. Reports are also online and easy to use. Currently 162 schools in the program – goal is to hit 250 schools statewide this year.</p> <p>“Show and Share” – Kindy Segovia presented the following resources:</p> <p>Apps for Students with Autism Wheel by Mark Coppin – Version 4, updated for 2016 http://bit.ly/ASDAPPSV4 (also attached)</p> <p>Doorway Online: http://www.doorwayonline.org.uk/ Interactive, accessible, free activities including early literacy, counting and numbers, money and time, keyboarding, memory and matching. (This site is out of the UK, so the money is in pounds and some vocabulary is British)</p> <p>Kindy's new AT website: www.kisdat.org replaces Kindy's wikki</p> <p>Bluebeepals is a wonderful interactive stuffed animal speaker that was not designed for special education but works so well, everyone is talking about it. A few of these of have just been added to the Kent ISD Assistive Technology Lending Library. The special animal was also a door prize for Rebecca Ryan at AssisTechKnow. She began using it and her students loved it and began interacting almost immediately. Rebecca and her</p>		Kindy Segovia	
---	--	---------------	--

teachers let the company know about it by sending a picture and they, in return, donated 6 more animals to her program! Check it out:
<https://bluebeepals.com/>

Next meeting is January 25th – hope everyone has a blessed Christmas season!