

PSI PARADIGM[®]

A PSI Communique for the Educational Community

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OCTOBER 2012

In THIS Issue

Special Education Services may have more acronyms than any other department at PSI: IDEIA, MFE, IEP, ISP, RtI, FAPE, ETR!! It is not a wonder that school administrators often feel overwhelmed with keeping abreast of Special Education Services and Special Education Law in particular.

This issue highlights some of the services and resources that are readily available to all PSI schools. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Colleen Lorber at colleenlorber@psi-solutions.org if you have any questions on Special Education compliance. One of her supervisory staff can also be of assistance: Bob Murray, Julie Goldyn, Karen Heichel, Linda Grimm, Chris Worthington or Robin Caston.

In addition, see Page 4 for information on PSI's Special Education Training Program.

SPECIAL Education Matters!

A Special Education Newsletter for Educators

Team PSI Delivers Presentations For University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children Pediatric Residents Grand Rounds



Team PSI explains the intricacies of educational services to Pediatric Residents at UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Grand Rounds. From L to R are Layla Nelson, Colleen Lorber, Julie Goldyn, Karen McKelvey, and Meredith Sitko.

During a recent two-day presentation at Grand Rounds, University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children Pediatric Residents attended a presentation on educational services in public, charter, and private schools. Because their future patients may indeed require educational services, this information could allow physicians to be more effective advocates for their patients in the areas of Special Education, School Health or School Counseling services.

During the first session, PSI's Director of Educational Support Services, Dr. Colleen Lorber, along with PSI's Coordinator

of Educational Specialists, Dr. Layla Nelson, provided the audience an overview of Special Education definitions, School Referral Flow Charts for a Parent Suspecting a Disability in their child, a description of 504 Plans vs. IEP Plans and general information from the Ohio Department of Education on disability qualifications and procedures. Colleen and Layla used a mock case study of a child to walk the audience through the steps of a school referral.

During the second session, Colleen and Layla were joined by Julie Goldyn, Karen McKelvey, and Meredith Sitko to answer

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PSI Supports Peterson Scholarship Schools

The new Jon Peterson Scholarship is a success, thanks to our brave principals who took the leap of faith and welcomed the Peterson Scholarship into their schools. Layla Nelson, PhD, has led the PSI effort to provide full support to principals who choose to have Peterson services at their schools. Dr. Nelson is the Coordinator of Educational Specialists at PSI, and her experiences as a school administrator and special education teacher enable her to understand principals' needs regarding the Peterson Scholarship.

Currently, PSI has many non-public partner schools with Peterson Scholarship students enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year. The Peterson Scholarship mimics the Autism Scholarship of previous years, and PSI was an Autism Scholarship provider before becoming a Peterson Scholarship provider. The Peterson Scholarship has had a major impact on the services offered by the provider schools. Over the summer of 2012, several schools transformed from providing part-time remedial services to staffing complete special education departments.

One of the advantages to working with PSI on the Peterson Scholarship is that principals and staff are supported every step of the way without any extra expense. We help principals decide whether to become Peterson provider schools, and if so, we provide support throughout the application process. Once a school is accepted as a Peterson provider, we help schools complete student applications and obtain parent buy-in. After students are awarded scholarships, we help with budgeting and on-going consultations. We take care of staffing, and we provide on-going oversight and support of the special education staff to ensure compliance with state and federal special education laws. In addition to the benefits of stronger special education services, our partner schools are enjoying slight increases in enrollment as a result of the



ABOVE: PSI Intervention Specialist Jessica Pardee works with a Jon Peterson student at St. Jude School in Elyria.

Peterson Scholarship. Considering that approximately 14% of students in the United States qualify for special education services, we anticipate even more enrollment increases as the Peterson Scholarship gains public awareness. The Peterson Scholarship can be used to cover tuition and fees before being applied to special education services, so many families who could not previously afford private schools are now looking at the Peterson Scholarship as the only way to obtain a private or religious education for their children.

Becoming a Peterson provider enables principals to live the school's mission.

For decades, principals in our non-public schools have wrestled with the contradictions between the school's ideals and the practice of turning away students with special needs. We teach our students to accept and love everyone, but then we must deny enrollment to students with severe needs. With the Peterson Scholarship, we can teach our children by example. General education students will learn compassion and love by working with challenged classmates, not simply by reading about compassion in a book. In addition, multi-child families can create a family legacy by enrolling all of their children in private schools not just the ones without special needs.

Paula Harris, RN



PSI introduces NEW School Health Special Needs Division!

PSI has expanded its School Health Department to better serve the many schools requesting one-to-one health services for medically complicated students. PSI's Special Needs Nursing Care is coordinated by Paula Harris, RN. Paula has a wealth of experience in pediatric care, having proven herself an invaluable resource to the many schools and students we serve. Paula works in coordination with Lynn Chrostowski, Debbie Osysko, Laura Sheeks, and Meredith Sitko, PSI's Health Management Team.

Paula's primary responsibility is the management, training and coordination of the many PSI Special Needs students who require individual services. She conducts the treatment assessment in the school or, when need be, in the student's home, to design the treatment care model needed. This is done in consultation with the school, the parents and the student's doctor. Paula recently worked with the family of a medically fragile child entering school for the first time. The family's expectations of the child's needs were extensive and the school was overwhelmed in trying to

meet these needs. An important first step was a home visit involving the family and the child. The parents and school knew they had an advocate in Paula and an educational plan was established. Finding the correctly qualified medical person was important. In addition to medical expertise, the nurse needed to be compatible with the family, needed to blend well in the classroom setting, and had to be sensitive to the importance of the child's educational and socialization needs

At present, the parents of this child are confident and pleased with the educational plan for their child. The nurse is a visible part and extension of the class and a welcome asset to all involved. Most importantly the special needs child feels accepted and happy about her new setting.

If you have any questions about special needs students or any other school nursing concern, please don't hesitate to contact us at the PSI Health Office (health@psi-solutions.org).

Paula can be reached at ext 234 or via E-mail at: paulaharris@psi-solutions.org.

Building Academic Success through Parent Partnerships

Speaker: **Perry White, MSW, founder and former head of Citizens Academy**

Time: 9-11 AM,
Registration begins at 8:30 AM;
Continental breakfast included

When: Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Location: Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County,
5700 West Canal Road,
Building B,
Valley View, OH 44125

To Register: Email [Brenda Anderson](mailto:Brenda.Anderson@psi-solutions.org) or call 800-841-4774, ext. 237 providing complete details including your name, position, school, email address and phone number.

Seating is limited so register soon!

Rainbow (Continued from page 1)

questions on special education, school health services, and school counseling services. At this session, the interns submitted questions that directed the discussions. They were interested in the differences in public, charter and private school services, the Special Education referral process and how they could assist parents, how they could deal with and direct treatment for the special health needs of students (they were particularly surprised by the sometimes inadequate services that exist for health services in schools), what types of mental health and counseling services that might be available for students, how to help a parent with concerns about a child who is bullied, and questions about summer break and what happens to services for their patients. These sessions provided a wonderful opportunity for "two worlds" to share their respective views on vital services for children.

PSI customizes Special Education Programs to meet the needs of your students.

PSI's Annual Fall Training Program

PSI holds many training programs for our staff each year. Our largest meeting is held in September for Educational Support Services Staff. All staff assigned to your schools is urged to attend these meetings so that we can provide our client schools with the best possible service and up-to-date procedures. A summary of our most recent meeting follows:

Keynote Address.....

Barbara Miller, (photo at right)

Educational Consultant of Squire Sanders & Dempsey, LLP and a frequent advisor to



school systems, delivered the opening address at PSI's 36th annual fall meeting. Her presentation, *Providing Special Education for 2012-2013: Are You On Top Of Your Game?*, provided PSI staff with information on RTI, IDEIA, and compliance issues regarding multi-

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education plans (IEPs), and documentation required from the Ohio Department of Education. Barbara also brought a unique perspective as she highlighted cases from both school and legal standpoints. Her case scenarios, enthusiasm, and wit made an important but sometimes dry topic exciting and engaging for the PSI staff.

Breakout Sessions

PSI staff concluded the annual fall meeting with discipline-specific breakout sessions. Our School Psychology Field Supervisors presented information on legal updates, reviewed evaluation policies and procedures, and discussed hot topic trends for the current school year. The supervisors focused on compliance issues with state paperwork and discussed the most common questions that our field supervisors receive each year. This session was a great forum for PSI staff to discuss best practices and mingle with colleagues in their field.

The PSI Speech Pathology Training Program was designed to update speech staff on new programs, rules and legislation pertinent to the schools we serve. Policies and procedures were reviewed to ensure that all staff is up to date and thoroughly conversant with Best Practice Policies and Procedures. PSI's new tele-practice program was highlighted as we kick off the 2012-2013 school year, using the state of the art



ABOVE: Dr. Steve Rosenberg and Dr. Colleen Lorber pictured at PSI's Annual Fall Training Program, September 20, 2012

technology. PSI is growing this program to reach those students in rural communities where there is limited access to speech therapy services, or to those students who have any variety of issues preventing them from attending traditional therapy. The speech supervisors also targeted the top 15 most asked speech questions from our staff. This prompted great discussion from the attendees, and we were able to communicate a significant amount of information in a short time period.

Educational Specialists participated in an afternoon session entitled, *Individualized Solutions for Educators*. Covered in this lively presentation was information on Professional Development, LPDC Options, and Individualized Educational Projects. As the ODE has changed licensing requirements for Resident Educators in recent years and has introduced a new Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, PSI is dedicated to supporting its teachers and partner schools as they navigate these requirements.

PSI provides a wide variety of school health, special education, ESL, foreign language and intervention services.

Contact us for more information.



**SPECIAL
EDUCATION Matters!**



It's Good News At Horizon Science Academy



We all entered education to make a difference in the lives of children. It's especially exciting when such a change really happens! One example where change occurs before our eyes is the Cleveland based Horizon Science Academy, where Fatih Sumer is the Director, and Murat Efe is the Superintendent. The Concept Schools Educational Management Organization manages the Horizon Science Academy.

Since its beginning in 1999, the Horizon Science Academy has sought academic excellence. Mr. Sedat Duman, the then School Director and now CEO of Concept Schools, strived to establish an environment that helped ALL students achieve educational success. The awards soon started flowing in. Beginning in 2007, it was named as a School of Promise for four consecutive years by the Ohio Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award and National Title I Distinguished School Award for closing the achievement gap was earned in 2009, recognitions given to very few charter schools. U.S. News and World Report gave HSA the Bronze Medal as the Best High School in 2010. Director Sumer was himself a finalist for OAPCS's School Leader of the Year award in 2011. HSA is also **accredited by AdvancED since 2009.**

According to Mr. Sumer '... communication on all levels is the key to our success. "We interview every potential enrollee. This is a college preparatory high school and we spell out in detail our rules, policies and most importantly our expectations of staff and the students " Sumer says.

Teachers meet weekly by grade level to review student status. Parents are invited to attend these weekly meetings, when necessary. Home visits are also a priority. The aim is to build rapport between the school and parents. "Our policies are strict, but when the parent sees the school is trying, they appreciate it. We consider our school a family school. Everyone knows one another. Students and parents alike see us as a role model." We expect success and academic achievement, and through hard work and the dedication of our staff and parents, we achieve it!"

This school's success is written in the story of each individual student. The graduation rate and college acceptance rate are both 100%. This one statistic rivals any private school anywhere ... especially when one considers the baseline of student achievement when they first begin with us!"

In the senior year, each student enters a "College and Career Path." The first term addresses the college application procedures and the preparation of a résumé. The second phase focuses on career decisions. The entrance hall of the school is filled top-to-bottom with pictures of seniors and the colleges they will soon be attending. Academic success and college acceptance has become a part of the virtual culture of HSA. It is perhaps best represented at HSA, but it is a theme found throughout the Concept School system.

PSI has worked at the Horizon Science Academy since its inception, with staff providing Psychology, Special Education, School Health And Speech Services. "PSI plays an indispensable role here and at all the Horizon Schools" adds Mr. Sumer.

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Partners for Success and Innovation

October 2012

Two Schools Implement Comprehensive Anti-Bullying Programs

Yes, there is more bullying than ever; and yes, we are trying harder than ever to stop it; and NO, we have not found any solutions. These are the frustrated feelings commonly expressed at the beginning of every anti-bullying workshop for staff, parents and students conducted in the past several years by Karen McKelvey, EdS, PSI's Coordinator of Prevention/Intervention services. Her workshops are based on the theories of Izzy Kalman, the creator of *Bullies to Buddies*™. "The problem is that we are spending our energies trying to force bullies to change their behaviors rather than to teach kids how *not to be victims*," says Karen. She explains that unwittingly we are playing into the very things that motivate bullies: **power and revenge**. In addition, by owning the problem for the victim, we are not helping them learn how to control and choose their reactions to the bullying. This ultimately weakens the victims and often makes them even less respected and liked by their peers. While there are exceptions to this method's usage, for example, when true crimes such as assault or theft are occurring, it can be effective with approximately 90% of the situations that we label as bullying.

Bullying is in every type of school, no matter the demographics, type, or size of the school. "A comprehensive approach is the answer," says Karen, "Staff, students, and parents need to be on the same page with a bullying solution." This academic year, two

PSI partner schools have made the commitment to prevent and/or reduce bullying in their buildings.

Using the concepts from *Bullies to Buddies*™, Karen McKelvey trained staff at **St. Mary of the Falls Elementary School** at the request of principal, Sandie Isabella. "We wanted to explore this method as part of a school-wide approach to prevent bullying." After the staff was trained, Ms. Isabella also offered a parent workshop. Because staff can use the methods the next day, parents needed also to be informed. It is really a change in philosophy rather than an expensive, complicated program. The final steps in Ms. Isabella's comprehensive program were the student sessions conducted by Karen McKelvey and PSI Psychology supervisor, Bob Murray, EdS. While Bob and Karen trained the 4th-8th graders, PSI school psychologist, Jane Gardner, PhD, completed the training for K-3rd graders as part of her regular assignment at St. Mary of the Falls School. Among the many positive responses from teachers is, "The ideas make sense & could be put into action tomorrow!"

Also in the midst of a comprehensive bullying prevention program is **Hope Academy West**, a Cleveland **White Hat Management** school. Again, staff was trained by Karen to begin the intervention. Principal, Mr. William Byrd and Assistant Principal Mr. Tony Townsend contacted Karen about



PSI's Bob Murray and Karen McKelvey play the roles of bully and victim. — photo by Martin Siegel

bullying concerns that they wanted to address before there were real issues. Said Mr. Townsend, "This workshop was very informative. We will use the information to address the many types of incidences of bullying in the school." Additionally, 300 students in grades 3rd through 8th participated in the role-playing workshops to ensure a continuity of approach and understanding. Mr. Philip Sisto, IS for grades 3-8 wrote, "Good tools for practical classroom application--an aspect not always found in typical professional development seminars."

For information on providing these interventions at your school, contact karenmckelvey@psi-solutions.org



ABOVE: Students of St. Hilary Elementary School learn effective ways to deal with these bullying situations. One girl turns her view away from the drama. —photo by Martin Siegel

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