

Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers for Autism

Goal:

- ❑ The goal of this proposal is to secure start-up funding to establish Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers across the state of Kansas to serve children, youth, and adults with autism spectrum disorder, their families, and the personnel who serve them.

Outcomes:

- ❑ All individuals will receive timely early identification and treatment by adequately trained personnel.
- ❑ All people will be served in their home community across their life span.
- ❑ Services will be coordinated across agencies such as the CDDOs, mental health, early intervention, education, Children with Special Health Care Needs, vocational rehabilitation, assistive technology, etc.

Purposes of the Diagnostic and Outreach Centers for Autism:

The regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers for Autism will have two teams of personnel: a Service Team and a Training Team.

The regional Service Team will:

- ❑ Provide a diagnosis
- ❑ Develop and individualized home and community plan that is based on empirically validated techniques, which are selected based on the needs of the person.
- ❑ Provide training to educators, mental health professionals, medical professionals, and parents on how to implement that plan.
- ❑ Provide on-site consultation and follow-up to ensure that goals of the treatment plan are met.
- ❑ Provide outreach training across the region that meets needs (i.e., paraprofessional training, respite care training, etc.).
- ❑ Each service team will consist of:
 - a. physician
 - b. psychologist
 - c. occupational therapist
 - d. speech/language pathologist
 - e. three educational consultants (early intervention, school aged, and adult).

The Training Team will establish regional sites across the state, train personnel in these sites, and monitor the progress of the sites. It is hoped that after all of the Diagnostic and Outreach Centers are established, the training team function can be largely absorbed by the service team members from the five sites. The training team will also develop quality assurance standards. There will be annual site reviews using these standards.

Referrals:

Referrals will be accepted from any source.

Timeline:

Year 1

- ❑ Establish the first Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Center Service Team consisting of personnel from the Autism Asperger Resource Center, Neurologic Disabilities Support Project and Developmental Disabilities Center. This team will provide assistance to children, youth, and adults with autism spectrum disorders, their families, and the personnel who serve them.
- ❑ Establish a Training Team from the above resources with across state representations whose job it will be to establish Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers throughout the state. The Training Team will:
 - Prepare and/or modify instructional modules
 - Coordinate linkage services with agencies throughout the state (CDDOs, Mental Health, Special Education Infant/Toddler, Education, Children with Special Health Care Needs
 - Develop plan to select and implement Diagnostic and Outreach Centers throughout the state
 - Develop a fiscal plan
 - Develop a quality assurance plan with standard for services
 - Develop a monitoring plan

Years II to IV

- ❑ Continue to operate and refine Kansas City based Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Center.
- ❑ Establish Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers service teams throughout the state in locations which must include Emporia State University, Fort Hays, Wichita State University, and Parsons State Hospital. Diverse locations would allow families, individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and those who serve them to have statewide access. Location at university and college sites will allow for pre-service training of students and access to telecommunications for outreach training and consultation.
- ❑ After a site is opened for two years and the intensive training is completed, it will become self-supporting and no longer rely on grant funds. It is expected that the site would operate from the SRS Positive Behavior Support Project, billing for services, training contracts with local schools, mental health and CDDOs, summer camps, fund-raising, foundation grants, conferences, etc.

Employee Recruitment:

Those who are employed by the Regional Diagnostic and Outreach Centers would have medical, psychological, educational, speech/language, psychology, or occupational therapy-related background in autism and other pervasive developmental disorders, as well as applied experience working with these populations. These professionals are available in the state of Kansas. They have already received training through a variety of projects (i.e., Autism Asperger Resource Center, Neurologic Disabilities Support Project, Developmental Disabilities Center, Graduate Program in Autism, from Departments of Special Education, and other departments at universities).

Overall Budget

Year 1

- Start the service team in Kansas City \$ 513,140
- Recruit the training team
- Develop the curriculum
- Develop quality assurance program guidelines and mechanism

Year II

- Continue service team in Kansas City 1,217,140
- Develop a service team at such sites as Fort Hays and Wichita

Year III

- Continue service team at such sites as Fort Hays and Wichita 1,569,140
- Develop a service team at such sites as Emporia and Parsons

Year IV

- Continue a service team at such sites as Emporia and Parsons 704,000

TOTAL

\$4,003,420