Lehigh County
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force
Minutes from April 17, 2008 Meeting

Attendees: Jill Kratzer, Pat Theodore, Mike Paulik, Marianne Bear, Bonnie Unangst, Ann Sheafer, Jeff Rudski, Tee Decker, Joanne Laudenslager, Becki Fahs, Donna Reinhard, Heather Coleman, Julie DePhillips, Corey Smith, Veronica Jarvis, Sheri Miltenberger, Tim Boyer, David Wall, Lynn Kovich, Alvaan Dunton

I. Introductions

II. VIA Grant – Corey Smith, Julie DePhillips
   A. VIA received 2 grants; 1 from Autism Speaks and 1 from the Bureau of Autism Services.
   B. The one grant was for $25,000 for individuals with a disability to support in obtaining a job. More individuals seem to be going into sheltered workshops than Supportive Employment. There are new waivers with opportunities for people to be able to work. Data from the Office of Disability Employment reports that there are too many individuals that are not working.
   C. For the grant VIA will serve 8 individuals with Autism. They currently have 5 individuals. VIA will have weekend trainings and will work on Person Centered Planning.
   D. VIA’s Autism Employment Pilot Program – works with families and individuals with autism to attain highly personalized jobs in the community. They will work with students transitioning from school and adults age 16-64. The program is made possible by grants from Autism Speaks and the PA Bureau for Autism Services. For more information contact: Corey Smith, Via Director of Employment Services c.smith@ViaNet.org 610-317-8000 x 496.

III. HCQU (Health Care Quality Unit) - Heather Coleman, Becky Fahs, Donna Reinhard
   A. The Eastern PA Health Care Quality Unit is funded by ODP Training and Education is offered for families and individuals involved in their care. This program is through the Advocacy Alliance. www.theadvocacyalliance.org
   B. A list of trainings was handed out. Trainings are offered for an audience of 50 to 100 people. You can obtain more information about the educational programs by going to this web address http://www.easternpa-hcqu.org/Trainings/trainings.htm
   C. The primary activities of the HCQU include: assessing the person’s health and systems of care; providing clinical health care expertise to residential and day program providers; providing health related training; and integrating community health care resources with state and regional quality improvement structures and processes. The primary goal of the HCQU is to assure that the persons served by mental retardation programs are as healthy as they can be, so that each person can fully participate in community life.
   D. Discussion ensued about possibly having some of the trainings at the ARCH.
E. There are Web-based educational programs. The Advocacy Alliance has been doing trainings in the group system. Now they are ready to branch out and expand into the community. Mike Paulik in the Lehigh County MR office is involved in this initiative; questions could be directed to him at 610-782-3843.

F. A suggestion was offered to add when/where trainings will be offered on the website and the time so that families could possibly call to see if a space would be available for them to participate.

IV. ARCH of Lehigh Valley (Autism Resource Community Hub of Lehigh Valley) – Ann Sheafer

A. The next Stakeholder’s meeting will be held Tuesday May 20th 11am-12:30 and 6:00-7:30

B. ARCH Director - Interviewing process, about 30 have been interviewed. There are 2 potential candidates.

C. Architect Update was given. Will have to do more fundraising. The Website is being updated.

D. You can view Stakeholder’s Updates and other information at http://www.elwyn.org/BHS/ARCH_of_Lehigh_Valley/ARCH.html

E. Ann handed out the table of contents for the Autism Speaks 100 Day Kit.

F. The Autism Speaks 100 Day Kit is created specifically for newly diagnosed families, to make the best possible use of the 100 days following the diagnosis of autism. The kit contains information and advice collected from trusted and respected experts on autism as well as from parents of children with autism. There is a week by week plan for the next 100 days, as well as organizational suggestions and forms that parents/caregivers can use to help with the paperwork and phone calls, as they begin to find services for their child.

Newly diagnosed families (within six months of diagnosis) can order a kit which will contain personalized information specific to the child's age and location. Please fill out the survey (click here) and an Autism Speaks Autism Response Team coordinator will contact you by phone, to get some additional information so that we may personalize a kit for you and your child. The kit is available on line in pdf format for all to view and download (please click here). Users also have the ability to personalize their own kit with local resources in their area using the Family Services Resource Guide.

V. Self-Directed Care grant Update – Rebecca Procopio, MBH

A. No Update

VI. IFSP Update (Integrated Family Service Plan) – Pat

A. High Fidelity Wrap Around – Only six counties in PA were chosen to be early implementers of High Fidelity Wraparound: Allegheny; Chester; Erie; Fayette; Lehigh; and Montgomery. Meetings are scheduled in April and May. Lehigh County has chosen the population of transitional ages, 16 to 21 year-olds. 50 youth and families will be served with 4 facilitators, 2 family support partners, 1 youth support partner and 1 supervisor/coach.
VII. **Respite Care** – Veronica Jarvis – 610-782-3519  
A. There are 25 individuals on the waiting list.

VIII. **BHRS discussion**  
A. No update, the next meeting is scheduled on 4/30/08

IX. **Autism Lecture Series for Parents, Grandparents, Siblings and Friends discussion**  
A. Individuals volunteered for a committee: Jill Kratzer, Paulette Hunter, Tee Decker, Natalie Krebs, Karen McCullin, Jeff Rudski, Ann Sheafer  
B. A suggestion was to have the lecture series at the ARCH and have one there on the opening day.  
C. Karen Johns had presented one of the segments at the original lecture series.

X. **ASA-LV information - Sheri Miltenberger**  
A. For more information go to [www.asalehighvalley.org](http://www.asalehighvalley.org) If you would like to have any events added to the newsletter, contact Sheri Miltenberger  
   [asa_lehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:asa_lehighvalley@yahoo.com)  
B. Sheri handed out the ASA LV Spring Conference announcement to be held at Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest on April 19. The Honorable Dennis O’Brien, Ann Wagner, PhD, and Diane Williams, Ph.D, CCC-SLP will be presenting.  
C. Dorney Park Day is in June

XI. **Information Sharing**  
A. Jill shared information about the Social Security redbook which is a summary guide to employment. Tim will try to get copies for the group.

XII. **Wrap-up**

XIII. **Next Meeting:** June 19, 2008, 6:00-8:30 at Lehigh County Government Center in room **123**