Communication Partners Training
IM4Q Statewide Training
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The Communication Project was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council
Please visit the Council's website at www.paddc.org

Our Initiative
We believe effective communication is a basic human right for all individuals.
Problem Statement

Overview
- Of the individuals that Montgomery County Office of Developmental Disabilities serve, 24.5% do not communicate effectively with speech (as of 2010).
- Of the individuals that Montgomery County Office of Developmental Disabilities serve, 16% are in a minority group, i.e., African American, Asian, or other.
- Of the 24.5% that do not communicate effectively with speech, minorities make up 20%.
- Montgomery County is consistent with the National Core Indicator Project in that we have between 30–35% of individuals receiving developmental disabilities services who do not use spoken language to communicate and that there is a formal communication system in place for only about 1/3 of those who do not use spoken language.

Project Implementation

- Montgomery County Office of Developmental Disabilities is intent on ensuring that direct support professionals receive training to facilitate effective communication for all recipients of service with a focus on minority consumers.

Progression of IM4Q Data

IM4Q Data ➔ QM Subcommittees ➔ Communication Leadership Council ➔ Communication Partners Training ➔ Communication Assessments ➔ Next Steps
Specifcics of the Project

- Data Utilisation
- Selection Criteria
- Training Description and Logistics
- Measuring Success
- Next Steps

Trainer

Kevin J. Cohen M.S. CCC-SLP

Mr. Cohen is a speech and language pathologist specializing in Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology.

Faculty of the College of New Jersey where he teaches Augmentative Communication.

Previously worked as a direct care provider for individuals with developmental disabilities, prior to completing his degree in speech pathology.

Training Dates

September 19th
October 10th
November 19th
December 19th
January 19th
February 19th

All trainings will be held from 9am - 5pm at the Montgomery County Human Services Center 1350 Delafield Street Norristown Pennsylvania 19401. Lunch will be provided.
Training Topics to be Covered

- An Introduction to Communication, Language and Augmentative Communication
- Structuring the Environment to Promote Communication and Remove Communication Barriers
- Creating and Using a Low-Tech Communication System
- Creating a Communication Profile
- High-Tech Communication Devices (Light Tech Communication Devices)
- Using the iPad to Meet Communication Needs
- Selecting Appropriate Vocabulary
- Addressing Challenging Behavior through Increased Communication
- Promoting Social Relationships and Inclusion through Increased Communication

Stakeholder Collaboration

- All non-verbal minority consumers have been identified and have been matched with service provider team members
- IMAG Team responses was cross-referenced with minority consumer identification

Project Impact

- January 2014 - 40+ people were directly impacted by the project
- July 2014 - 15 additional people directly impacted by the project through next steps
Thank you