

Caring & Sharing

February 13, 2009

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Minutes

In attendance: Rosie Duran, Robert Evans, Mark Dorr, Lizzy Slatt, Pam Rud, Lisa Ratajczak, Anna Dickerson, Karen Bettis, Jill Golke, Paula Hinson, Linda Bensey, Jessica Hunterberg, Candace Sindoris, Laley Harper, Kiersten Guerrero, Phyllis Stoner, Carrie Landers, Dana Lindsay, Sarah Morales, Virginia Clark, Michelle Myers, Pia Jansen, Elise Kormas, Christie Brucher, Gail Barrera, Kim Sharpe, Andrea O'Connell

Presentation—Learning Solutions Network

- Learning Solutions Network began with a brainstorming session around how to help families get access to information around children with learning disorders. Have collaborated with a variety of providers to organize options for services, products, resources, etc., all of which can be found on the website. Can be searched by needs or modalities. Willing to list non-profit events on their community calendar.
- Education has been a big component of the network. Their first event was bringing the speaker Dr. Scott Shannon to the Lincoln Center and had a huge turnout. Want to bring more community events as people seem interested
- Monthly support group for parents with a series of speakers/presenters
- Dr. Aaron Skalicki, a neurodevelopment therapist in Fort Collins is a good resource for determining which issues a family might focus on in trying to treat a child with a learning disorder

Dr. Ron Bateman, Vision Therapy specialist

- General vision exams broken out into 4 categories: eye tissue, refractive status, visual information acquisition skills and visual information processing skills. The latter two are learned skills and children who haven't learned those skills are at a great disadvantage in learning. These children show similar symptoms to ADHD.
- One study has shown that at least 65% of kids in the juvenile justice system have visual information problems. Another study has shown that these kids who have visual therapy have 10-15% recidivism rates compared to 50-70% of kids without the therapy
- Program called InfantSee in Fort Collins which provides free preventative care for children ages 0-10. 12-15 providers involved with this in the community
- Top 3 signs of visual information problems: performing under potential in some areas of academics but not all; Difficulty sustaining visual assignments like tests; careless errors in school work
- If a child is suspected of having ADD, they should have a visual test

Dr. Tammy Jenkins, Nutrition and Wellness specialist

- Focus on natural treatment of learning disorders and keeping kids off of medication
- Thinking is that ADD is caused by toxins in the system
- Try to provide education on true eating for optimal health with a lot of focus on mom's. Recommend foods such as fresh produce, nuts, eggs, legumes, meats, etc., food without labels
- Studies have found essential fatty acid deficiency in kids with ADHD. These include fish oils, flax oil, and omega 3's. Have seen improvement in kids when they get these returned to their diets. Have also found these kids tend to have yeast overgrowth and a variety of parasites
- Office provides nutrition response testing which can find toxins in an individual's body. Provide free health lectures every month and free initial evaluations

Brain Integration Technique—Nancy Evans

- Born from acupressure and how it can affect the brain
- Idea that for some children under 5, some type of trauma has caused various pathways in the brain to be shut down which can cause a variety of difficulties, including learning disorders.

- Therapy includes light touch pressure and muscle bio-feedback. Can permanently open pathways back up. Have precise measurement techniques to measure changes.

Round Robin Discussion

- Lutheran Family Services—now providing foster care for unaccompanied refugee minors now residing in the United States. Starting to recruit foster families
- Disabled Resource Services—April 24 winefest fundraiser at the Hilton. Tickets are \$50
- Suicide Resource Center—Oscar Fundraiser on Sunday, February 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$50
- Children’s Speech and Reading Center—Jewelry party fundraiser on March 5 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- Housing Authority is having a piggy bank contest to focus on issue of savings
- Health District—Community Forum for families with children with mental health and/or substance abuse issues on March 10 and 11 from 6-8 p.m.