



December 16, 2015

## Telehealth at MN LEND: Delivering Communication and Behavioral Support

This fall, the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (MN LEND) of the Institute on Community Integration began participating in an innovative project to implement telehealth (e.g., video conferencing) to improve access to Functional Behavior Assessment and Functional Communication Training for families in Minnesota and western Wisconsin needing in-home support. The MN LEND Telehealth Training Project, a collaboration with Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the University's Special Education Program in the Department of Educational Psychology, is designed to improve access to high quality assessment and intervention related to early communication needs for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families, including those outside the Twin Cities. The MN LEND joined in this ongoing work of Jennifer McComas and Frank Symons, faculty in the Department of Educational Psychology, LEND Fellow Jessica Simacek, and Dr. Breanne Byiers, Research Associate in the Special Education Program. The MN LEND brings a train-the-trainer model to the partnership that will enable service providers to deliver in-home support services to families; the model trains agency staff to supplement their services with telehealth parent coaching and follow-up.

Access to expertise may be a barrier to the provision of high quality intervention for children with severe neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families who reside outside of metropolitan areas. Previous research has demonstrated telehealth as an effective service delivery method to remotely coach parents in the delivery of Functional Analysis and Functional Communication Training intervention to improve challenging behavior for children with autism. "Advances in the delivery and supplementation of services through telehealth could provide services much earlier, and may help family stakeholders become more active and proficient in addressing their children's needs in communication and problem behavior," says MN LEND director Joe Reichle.

Faculty and students associated with this project have researched the effectiveness of behavioral assessment and intervention delivered with coaching via telehealth to parents or care providers of children who require early assessment and intervention in areas addressing problem behaviors and improving communication skills. The MN LEND's role in this project – training agency staff – builds on the Special Education Program's work. In addition, the project has collaborated with a physician at Mayo Clinic to develop a plan for clinic referrals of families to the telehealth project. Mayo and the project staff are currently developing a project that would provide technical support in acquainting Mayo staff with Functional Behavior Analyses that could be implemented to better inform intervention objectives.

The telehealth project also offers an opportunity for University of Minnesota graduate students who are LEND Fellows to participate in a telehealth rotation, gaining direct experience (under the supervision of experts) in delivering high quality intervention while accumulating an evidence base regarding the efficacy of the procedure. Project coordinator Jessica Simacek observes, "As a post-doc LEND Fellow, I research telehealth as a service delivery mechanism; therefore, the value to me and other participating Fellows lies in the unique research opportunity that telehealth affords us."

The MN LEND is an interdisciplinary leadership training program spanning 12 disciplines across the University of Minnesota, and is funded by the Maternal Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FFI about the MN LEND's telehealth project, contact Jessica at [sima0034@umn.edu](mailto:sima0034@umn.edu).

## Staff Update

- **Staff Hires:** None. **Staff Departures:** **Sandy Schmitz**, Research Associate, Systems Improvement Group; and **Sharon Mulé**, Education Program Specialist, Check & Connect.
- **Amy Hewitt's** term as an at-large member on the AUCD board of directors began during the AUCD 2015 Conference in Washington DC, November 16-18.
- Numerous ICI staff presented at the AUCD 2015 Conference in Washington DC, November 16-18. The staff and presentations were:
  - **Rebecca Dosch Brown:** "Resisting Normal: Poetic Response to History of Disability and Its Impact on Our Lives."
  - **Libby Hallas-Muchow, Lynda Anderson,** and **Sherri Larson:** "Changing the Landscape of Living Options for People with IDD: Medicaid-Funded Supports in Family Homes and Individualized Settings."
  - **Jennifer Hall-Lande** and **Anab Gulaid:** "Building the Act Early Delegate Network in Diverse Communities in Minnesota."
  - **Amy Hewitt:** "National Goals 2015: Connecting Research, Policy, Practice and Advocacy for Change" (co-presented).
  - **Kelly Nye-Lengerman:** "Predicting Vocational Rehabilitation Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder"; "Bringing Employment First to Scale: Integrating the Evidence for a Comprehensive Model for Change" (co-presented); and "Taking the Lead: Driving Change in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" (panelist).
  - **Jessica Simacek** and **Joe Reichle:** "Using Telemedicine to Improve Access and Care."

## Dates to Remember...

- December 24-25: University closed
- January 1: University closed
- January 5: ICI Council, 10:30-12, 118 Pattee

## From the Front Office

News from ICI's Administrative Staff

- **W-2 Tax Statements Available Electronically.** The University is now offering employees the option to receive their W-2 tax statements online through MyU Self-Service in an IRS-approved PDF format allowing printing and submitting the online form with your tax return. To give consent to get your W-2 electronically, click on the My Pay tab in MyU. Then click on the W-2/W2C Consent link. Check the box giving your consent, then click Submit. The system will prompt you for your password (the same one you use to log in to MyU).
- **Absence Reporting.** Just a reminder to staff who enter absence requests (e.g., vacation/sick, depending on your classification), to be careful about the codes you select. Your options are:
  - Absence Name = Personal Holiday, Reason = Personal Holiday
  - Absence Name = Vacation, Reason = Other
  - Absence Name = Sick Leave (FOR CS USE ONLY), Reason = OtherAny other options in these sections are to be used only as directed by Human Resources.
- **Personal Holiday Reminder.** Just a reminder that Civil Service (CS), Labor Representing (BU), Professional and Administrative (P&A) employees, and Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) may use their Personal Holiday once between July 1,

2015 and June 30, 2016. GRAs should work with their supervisors on recording and tracking personal holiday use. All others (CS, BU, P&A) should record their personal holiday as such at MyU portal > My Time > Request Time Off. Questions? Contact kuro0008@umn.edu.

- **Verify Your Home Address.** As the year comes to a close, and W-2's will be mailed out, now is a good time to verify your home address. Visit your MyU portal and review your home, mailing, and campus information under the My Info tab.
- **Updated Phone List.** An updated ICI phone list will be sent out by the end of the month. Let kuro0008@umn.edu know if there are any edits.
- **Kitchen.** Please clean up after yourself in the kitchen, including washing any dishes you use. Also, feel free to send an announcement out to CEHD-ICI@lists.umn.edu when you place leftover food there from a meeting. Please monitor food you put in the refrigerator, and please don't dump food down the drain. Also please rinse any cans you place in recycling.
- **Job Openings.** There is one job opening at ICI. All positions must be applied for online at <http://myu.umn.edu/> employment, and enter the Job ID # in the keywords box under "Basic Search."
  - ID # 302076, Developer 2, 100% FTE, Research and Training Center on Community Living.

## Miscellaneous

- **MN LEND Fellowships: Call for Applicants.** ICI's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities Program (MN LEND) is seeking graduate students (pre-doctorate and post-doctoral) and community members interested in becoming LEND Fellows in 2016-2017. The MN LEND is a stipend-based training program designed to support individuals to become leaders in the field of autism and related neurodevelopmental disabilities. FFI, visit <http://lend.umn.edu>, where online applications are now being accepted. Applicants under-

represented in disability research and higher education are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline is February 29, 2016. Questions? Contact Rebecca Dosch Brown at [dosch018@umn.edu](mailto:dosch018@umn.edu).

- **Birthdays.** Claire Benway (12/24), Xueqin ("Shirley") Qian (12/31), Jon Goldman (1/6), John Westerman (1/7), Debbie Hansen (1/14), Tony Baisley (1/14), and Sofia Bilkadi (1/17). Did we miss your birthday? Let us know! Call 4-2380 or e-mail kuro0008@umn.edu.

## Bits & Pieces

New Publications and Web Resources

- **New Publication.** The following new ICI publication is available:
  - *NCEO Data Analytics 3: Graduation Policies for Students with Disabilities Who Participate in States' General Assessments* (November 2015). Published by the Institute's National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). Available on the Web at <http://nceo.info/Resources/publications#2015-publications> and click on the publication's title.
- **Brief on Supports and Services.** Lynda Anderson of ICI's Supporting Individuals and Families Information Systems Project (FISP), and Sandra Magaña of the Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago, co-wrote *Research Brief 1: Family Experiences with Long-term Supports and Services for Family Members with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. It was published in Fall 2015 by the Family Support Research & Training Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in partnership with FISP. It is available on the Web at <https://fisp.umn.edu/documents>; click on "Family Experiences with Long-term Supports and Services for Family Members."
- **Journal Article on Assessments and ELLs with Disabilities.** Kristi Liu, Jenna Ward (formerly of ICI), Martha Thurlow, and Laurene Christensen co-authored "Large-Scale Assessment and English Language Learners With Disabilities," an article published in *Educational Policy* in November. Available on the Web at doi:10.1177/0895904815613443.
- **Book Chapter on Formative Assessment.** Renáta Tichá and Brian Abery wrote "Beyond the Large-Scale Testing of Basic Skills: Using Formative Assessment to Facilitate Learning," a chapter in *The Global Testing Culture: Shaping Education Policy, Perceptions, and Practice*, published by Symposium Books, ISBN 978-1-873927-72-4. FFI, visit <http://www.symposium-books.co.uk/books/bookdetails.asp?bid=94>.
- **FYI Deadline.** Items for the next FYI should be submitted to Tom (donag003@umn.edu) by January 8.