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## University of South Florida

**Center for Autism and Related Disabilities**

**Final Report and Year End Summary**

**2014 – 2015**

Submitted By

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Executive Director

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**University of South Florida**

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

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**CARD-USF Current Registry**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Registry Data as of June 30, 2015 | Comparative Data from June 30, 2014 |
| **Registry Total** | 5078 | 4445 |
| Constituents on Registry by County |  |  |
| Charlotte | 98 | 87 |
| Collier | 155 | 138 |
| Desoto | 19 | 14 |
| Glades | 2 | 2 |
| Hardee | 13 | 13 |
| Hendry | 23 | 23 |
| Highlands | 84 | 72 |
| Hillsborough | 2069 | 1768 |
| Lee | 327 | 299 |
| Manatee | 161 | 147 |
| Pasco | 582 | 503 |
| Pinellas | 867 | 782 |
| Polk | 475 | 414 |
| Sarasota | 203 | 183 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Constituents on Registry by Age Registry Data  as of June 30,2015 | | Comparative Data from  June 30, 2014 |
| 0-2 | 22 | 18 |
| 3-4 | 167 | 161 |
| 5-15 | 2596 | 2343 |
| 16-21 | 1172 | 992 |
| 22+ | 1121 | 931 |
| **Annual New Referrals/Intakes** | **656** | **742** |
| **Annual Registry Losses** | **62** | **23** |
|  |  |  |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Annual web hits** | CARD: 1,630,532  Learning Curve: 368,711 | CARD: 1,509,177  Learning Curve: 443,196 | | 3,190,549 | 3,071,253 |

***a*** *Registry Total includes 4398 constituents with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and 47 with Related Disabilities (RDs). ASDs include Autistic Disorder, Asperger Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorders – Not Otherwise Specified, Rett Disorder, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder while RDs include dual sensory impairments or sensory impairments with other disabling conditions.*

*bIncludes 740 new ASD referrals and 2 new RD referrals for 2013-2014.*

*In accordance with Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes, and Rule 6A-7.0335, Florida Administrative Code, the University of South Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD-USF) provided non-residential resource and training services for persons of all ages and levels of intellectual functioning with a documented diagnosis of autism, a pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified, an autistic-like disability, a dual sensory impairment, or a sensory impairment with other disabling conditions. Services were coordinated with local and state agencies and school districts in an effort to not duplicate services. CARD-USF worked closely with its partner agencies across the State of Florida to ensure high quality and equitable local, regional and statewide service provision in accordance with Florida Rule 6A-7.0335 and consistent with the longstanding mission and values of the Florida Centers for Autism and Related Disabilities, a Florida Department of Education program since 1993. CARD-USF primarily provided services within its 14-county catchment area, but also collaborated with other CARD Centers and state agencies/projects on regional (e.g., regional trainings, PEPSA Program) and statewide initiatives (e.g., Annual CARD Conference, development of online training content, support of SPP Indicators, support for the reading initiative ). Service delivery was consistent with the other 6 statewide CARD Centers and was coordinated in the collective development of our projects’ annual service plans and via phone conferences with CARD directors and CARD’s DOE liaison.*

Outlined in this report is a summary of activities engaged in by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida during the period of July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. An abbreviated quantitative summary of Center constituent registry and service activities is also presented which reflect our activities across all relevant variables specified in our Grant Award Agreement with the Florida Department of Education. Detailed programmatic activity and constituent contact data can be found in the Project Tracking System (PTS) Database.

In accordance with Rule 6A-7.0335, Florida Administrative Code, CARD-USF implemented a plan that included the following:

1. **A staffing plan with, at minimum, individuals with expertise in autism or autistic-like behaviors and individuals with expertise in sensory impairments.**
   * *CARD-USF prides itself on having a highly qualified multi-disciplinary staff with impressive longevity in terms of years of service to the project. Our project staff members are professionals with expertise in the following discipline areas: psychology, behavior analysis, special education, social work, public health, and music therapy. Our Executive Director has been with the project since 2003, and our Assistant Director has been with the project since 2004. This continuity of leadership has contributed a high level of expertise and administrative stability to our project which has certainly served to enhance our project performance and outcomes. Our project leader also participates in service grant writing, fundraising, publications and presentations, and is recognized locally and nationally an expert in the field.*
2. **A direct service plan that must address individual and family assistance in the home, community, and school. The project shall not supplant responsibilities of other state and local agencies.**
   * *CARD-USF provided individual and direct family assistance (IDFA) across contexts (home, school, and community) in FY 14-15. IDFA is defined by the CARD Centers as any contact with any individual and/or family in reference to a specific CARD constituent. Families are advised of the range of services provided by CARD-USF and how to access those services when needed. Detailed information on how to access CARD-USF services is also available on our website ( <http://www.card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu> ). All new families who require services complete an intake with a CARD consultant where the constituent and family needs are assessed and a service plan developed. The CARD consultant with whom the family meets is assigned to the family for ongoing individual and direct family assistance and all related future clinical contacts. IDFA contact data are collected regularly, entered into CARD’s Filemaker reporting database, summarized quarterly, and entered into the Project Tracking System for quarterly and annual reporting.*

**Summary of Annual Individual & Direct Family Assistance Data:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total individual and direct family assistance contacts delivered annually | 8493 |
| Total number of individuals served annually | 17,881 |

1. **A technical assistance and consultation services plan for providing specific intervention and assistance, utilizing all available community resources, to clients of the project, the clients’ family, school districts, and other service agencies and individuals as appropriate.**

* *CARD-USF provided technical assistance (TA) services throughout our community in FY 14-15. TA is defined by the CARD Centers as assistance requested by an agency or program that is not related to a specific CARD constituent. Agencies requesting such services are directed to a*

*Technical Assistance Request Form on our website*

[*http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/services/request/technical-request.html*](http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/services/request/technical-request.html) *. Once a completed form is received by our central office, a CARD consultant with expertise relevant to the technical assistance request is assigned to contact the agency, assess need, and determine a plan of action. TA contact data are collected regularly, entered into CARD’s Filemaker reporting database, summarized quarterly, and entered into the Project Tracking System for quarterly and annual reporting.*

**Summary of Annual Technical Assistance Data:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total technical assistance contacts delivered annually | 4779 |
| Total number of individuals served annually | 8389 |

1. **A professional training program plan that includes developing, providing, and evaluating pre-service and in-service training in state-of-the-art practices for personnel who work with the populations served by the project and their families.**
   * *CARD-USF provided extensive local and regional trainings for professionals in FY 14-15 in an attempt to ensure that all professionals working with CARD constituents are trained in state-of-the-art “best practices” and are highly qualified. All CARD-USF trainings are open to all interested parties in the community, including family members, at no charge. Agencies requesting training are directed to a Training Request Form on our website*

*( <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/services/request/training-request.html> ) Once a completed form is received by our central office, a CARD consultant with expertise relevant to the training request is assigned to contact the agency, assess need, and determine a plan of action. We continue to expand the array of online training content each year. Training data, including participant demographic information, and participant evaluations are collected regularly and entered directly into the Project Tracking System for quarterly and annual reporting.*

**Summary of Annual Training Data:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total number of onsite local trainings/workshops | 156 |
| Total number of participants | 4062 |
| Total number of online trainings viewed | 44 |
| Total number of visitors for online training page | 1550 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total number of annual regional trainings/workshops and/or summer institutes | 4 |
| Total number of participants | 941 |

1. **A public education plan to increase awareness of the public about autism, autistic—like disabilities of communication and behavior, pervasive developmental disorders, dual sensory impairments, and sensory impairments with other disabling conditions.**

* *CARD hosted or participated in numerous public education and awareness events throughout our catchment area in FY 14-15, including regional community resource and health fairs, autism awareness events with professional sporting franchises (e.g., Tampa Bay BUCS); and many others. Specific events and related data can be founded in the Project Tracking System.*

**Summary of Annual Public Education/Awareness Data:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total number of annual general public education presentations | 76 |
| Total number of participants | 16,762 |

1. **Description of how the project will interface with the medical community to ensure the appropriate use of medical consultation in the provision of services.**

* *CARD-USF maintained collaborations with the local medical community, specifically disseminating our medical flip books to physician’s offices and during health related events in 14 counties; consulted with hospitals on using best practices for children diagnosed with autism; disseminated an emergency information packet called Medipal for families to use on a child’s seatbelt or backpack with medical information in an emergency; continued a pilot project with interdisciplinary providers in Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties to create a virtual consultation room process to provide client consultation and resource connection. We will pilot this process in 2015-2016 with rural school districts who are in need to assistance but lack resources; expanded the medical provider information in the CARD filemaker database. A resource and referral database of medical providers by discipline has also been maintained. CARD-USF initiated and is part of a university wide network of educators, researchers and service providers, referred to collectively as ASDnet.*

*( <http://asdnet.fmhi.usf.edu/> ).*

1. **Description of its working relationship with and support of the constituency board, as defined in Section 1004.55, Florida Statutes.**

* *CARD-USF continued its close collaborative relationship with its Constituency Board. The Board has increased its membership to 15 people who represent several CARD-USF counties. The Constituency Board reviewed annual program budget and goals, and hosted quarterly meetings with CARD staff to review programmatic and budgetary priorities. The Constituency Board operated in accordance with approved By-Laws, and proposed Constituency Board members’ names were submitted to the Presidents of the University of South Florida and Autism Society of Florida, as specified in statute. Constituency Board members participate actively in fundraising events to help support CARD-USF operations. Finally, Board members participate in relevant trainings related to their own and their family’s needs and interests throughout the year, including the annual CARD conference.*

***Summary of Supplemental Activities in Support of Program Objectives:***

*CARD-USF opened a new branch office in Highlands County that will serve Highlands, Desoto and Hardee counties. We have hired a highly qualified staff person to coordinate efforts in that area.*

*CARD-USF executive director has been engaged in working collaboratively with other entities within and outside of USF in supporting the ever-expanding scope of our project and our growing community needs. This past year, CARD-USF executive director completed work with University of Massachusetts on a grant through the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health on studying the impact of service learning as a career development strategy for youth with autism. In addition, CARD-USF executive director continues to collaborate with HIPPY (Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) to apply their evidence based model for school readiness to children diagnosed with autism with positive results thus far. This project is funded through the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County. CARD-USF has begun the development of a visual enhancement to the HIPPY curriculum which will be tested in the 2015-2016 fiscal year with new referrals of three year old children. These projects have allowed us to enhance our program by engaging in important research and related clinical service work. Lastly, we were an invited participant in site visits with the Florida Department of Education to follow up on monitoring and providing technical assistance to school districts that were flagged for seclusion and restraint issues.*

*As required, CARD-USF board and staff have also been quite active on the fundraising front, raising over $63,000 to support our program to offer the community educational opportunities and activities. Included among these efforts are two major events; our annual Fiesta By the Bay fundraising event, and the Rotary Cycling event. The CARD Champion giving society has over 100 members who donated and/or hosted 3rd party events to benefit CARD-USF.  CARD-USF also takes the leadership role with the CARD Autism Champion student organization at USF.*

*CARD-USF continues to strengthen its program through the cultivation of strategic community partnerships. This past year, we continued building on the close relationships with our 14 school districts, continued our collaboration with the medical and diagnostician community through trainings and resource dissemination, and enhanced our community outreach efforts through numerous public awareness efforts, in collaboration with local schools/agencies.*

*We were pleased to plan and host or co-sponsor the following annual, regional or local community-based conferences: CARD Conference (state), PEPSA Summer Institute, the annual health and wellness symposium and two additional PEPSA regional teacher trainings. We continue to update the content on our online training page of the CARD-USF website. The training module on Preventing Seclusion and Restraint for educators continued to be widely disseminated across our state with data tracking by executive directors of each CARD center.*

*Our team continues to offer regularly distributed substantive and informative newsletters. The CARD Connector is a brief monthly newsletter that clinicians from around our communities may contribute to as well as our constituency board chair along with announcements. The CARD Community Connection newsletter is a full edition that comes out two times a year. They are both on our website archives.*

*CARD-USF has successfully completed another year of its “autism friendly business initiative” having worked with over 50 large and small companies in and around the Tampa Bay region. We have been contacted by people across the U.S. wanting to replicate this project. We were showcased on radio for this program. WFLA has contacted us to partner with them and receive media attention for our project all year round. We plan to expand our “autism friendly” business initiative out to our Highlands County region in the new fiscal year. We collaborated with the Florida Aquarium to host the Day of Discovery as well as the Florida Orchestra to offer “Autism Friendly” and sensory friendly experiences for CARD constituents and the general public. Our website showcases this effort and provides families with information on the businesses who have completed our training and created products to help visitors feel welcome.* [*http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/community/business.html*](http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/community/business.html)

**Constituency Board Objectives**

1) Continue to meet on at least a quarterly basis.

2) Submit a final report of annual board activities to USF president, Dr. Judy Genshaft.

3) Review activities and outcomes of specific support efforts undertaken by CARD.

1. Coordinate planning and implementation of annual fundraising events such as Fiesta By the Bay as well as participation in other regional events.
2. Support workgroup activities in the areas of fundraising, community outreach and education.

I have reviewed this document and on behalf of the constituency board of CARD-USF, approve the final report for the year 2014-2015.

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Tiffany Sotelo, Board Chair Date

CARD-USF