

Bridging the Gap

The newsletter of

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments

December • 2005

VIEW from the BRIDGE

— Diana Roberts

'Tis the holiday season, and once again RSOI is in full "conference mode". As we go to press, RSOI is preparing to celebrate the tenth year of the statewide Seminar for Feeding Teams, December 5 & 6, at the Holiday Inn, in Wilsonville. We'll celebrate another anniversary in April with the 20th annual TIES Conference, at the Valley River Inn, in Eugene, April 24 & 25. TIES Presenter Proposal forms are included in this newsletter. RSOI's guiding mission is to build local capacity in every corner of the state through training and technical assistance. Continued strong attendance at these events is evidence that they are important to meeting this goal. RSOI provides training and technical assistance in a variety of other ways as well. Through this newsletter, the statewide lending library, responses to requests by telephone and email, document publication and provision of local and regional workshops on a variety of issues in educational practice, we work to increase your ability to provide high quality services to children with orthopedic impairments. This year's workshop topics include student-centered planning using the SETT Framework, use of the Oregon Regional Eligibility Screening Tool (OREST), Section 504, Evidence-based Practice, and Documenting Related Services on the IEP/IFSP. These and other training topics are available by request and may be customized for your needs. To request a training or meeting for your staff, please contact Diana Roberts at 541-957-5713.

New Rules and Resources for Wheelchair Athletics

The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) published new guidelines in February for participation of wheelchair athletes in school sporting events. The position statement may be viewed at <http://www.osaa.org/track/wheelchair.pdf>.

World Wheelchair Sports (WWS), a nonprofit athletic organization in Eugene, has established a state equipment bank of racing and field event wheelchairs for students participating on school teams. WWS also has handbooks and videos to help coaches integrate students who use wheelchairs into existing programs. Call Kevin Hansen, (541)521-2876, or email wwscoach@efn.org for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *TIES Conference - Application to Present*
- *Implementing AT Programs-Web Class*

Regional and Statewide Services for Students with Orthopedic Impairments • RSOI

1871 NE Stephens • Roseburg, OR 97470 • 541-440-4791 • Fax: 541-957-4808 • www.rsoi.org

Gayl Bowser • Coordinator • gayl.bowser@douglasesd.k12.or.us • Diana Roberts • Consulting Teacher • diana.roberts@douglasesd.k12.or.us

“OT Practice” Article on Maintaining Ethics in the Workplace

Given the business-driven focus in the health care industry, practitioners are likely to encounter ethical and legal dilemmas in their workplace, writes Deborah Yarett Slater, MS, OT/L, FAOTA in the October 17, 2005 issue of *OT Practice*. Concerns about client safety, productivity, personal liability and licensure, and potential Medicare fraud are the issues Slater addresses in “Ethics in Practice: Whose Responsibility?”.

New Resources

- Carol Andersen, at Willamette ESD, recommends using a product called **Homasote Fiberboard** as a substitute for Triwall. 440 Homasote is lightweight, easy to cut with a matte knife or saw, has no splinters, and makes an excellent tackable surface. It’s waterproof and can be used both indoors and out. Homasote is available at many locations throughout Oregon. To find a vendor near you, see the website at <http://www.homasote.com/home.html>.

- **Tabletop Magnetic Pocket Chart**, from Learning Resources is an 8 x 10-inch magnetic easel for table-top instruction. The board is magnetic on both sides and has pockets to store magnets. Use the board for teaching sequencing, spelling, patterning and grouping, sentence building, etc. Find it at www.learningresources.com. Word magnets may be purchased from Beacon Ridge, at www.beacon-ridge.com. The magnets are color-coded to help students discriminate between parts of speech.

Physical Therapy Rules Updates

In the September issue of “Bridging the Gap”, we published information about a new PT regulation requiring charting on the date of service (Oregon Administrative Rule 848-040-0110(3)). Sherri Paru, from the Physical Therapy Licensing Board adds the following:

When an evaluation is done, what needs to be in the chart on the day of service, is at least the objective data taken and whatever information that was gathered. It is not acceptable to just write “evaluation performed”. If the evaluation is going to be either dictated or typed, the information that was gathered on the first day of the evaluation needs to be available in the chart for the next treating therapist. (OAR 848-040-0110 (7)). Daily documentation does need to be done on the date of service, with no exceptions.

Updates to the qualifications for Practice Without Referral:

On July 22, 2005 Governor Kulongoski signed Enrolled House Bill 3260 which updates the current PT Practice Act. The new Statute takes affect on January 1, 2006. Effective this January, all PTs will be able to practice without referral by virtue of their PT practice license. There will no longer be a need to obtain a special certification, or meet the qualifications for practice without referral as currently written into rule. Also, all therapists will be required to maintain mandatory continuing education requirements as established by the PT Licensing Board.

When in doubt about interpretation of the PT Rules, contact the Oregon Physical Therapy Licensing Board at 971-673-0200. The current PT Rules may be viewed on the Licensing Board website, at <http://www.oregon.gov/PTBrd/index.shtml>.

PT Licensing Board Invitation

Sherri Paru and Jim Heider invite Oregon physical therapists who work in the schools to participate on a focus group to address the issue of timing of reassessments and progress notes. If interested in participating, email Sherri at Sherri.Paru@state.or.us.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: The therapists in our district would like to clarify an issue about Related Services on the IEP. Is it okay for OT or PT to be listed as provider of service on the IEP without having specific OT or PT goals or objectives? (As an example, "Occupational Therapy, 1x/month" listed under Related Services.) Also, if OT or PT is listed under Supports for School Personnel only are we still able to work with the student directly? My understanding is that we cannot bill Medicaid if we are listed under Supports for School Personnel only.

A: There are really two parts to your question. Under IDEA, Related Service Providers do not need to have their "own" goals. IDEA states that the purpose of related services is to ensure that the student can benefit from specially designed instruction and receive FAPE (a free appropriate public education). However, it is important that the services of the therapist clearly relate to the student's special education program in some way. In some cases you will see services on the cover sheet listed as something like "OT for writing" or "PT for mobility". In other cases, the therapist may sometimes write a short paragraph about the services to be provided and include it as an attachment to the IEP or in the IEP meeting minutes. OT or PT might also appear in the Present Level of Performance statement to clarify the role the Related Service Provider will take.

There is no rule that I am aware of that would preclude you from working directly with a student if your services are listed under Supports for Personnel. I would assume that your services might also be listed in some other place on the IEP, but if this is not the case, you would still need to spend time with the child in order to make sure that your support to staff is effective and appropriate.

RSOI cannot address Medicaid billing requirements for documentation as that would be a question for Linda Williams at OMAP. One thing we can say is that IEP services should never be determined based on what Medicaid will pay for. The IEP should be developed based on the student's educational needs. Once the plan is developed, the medically qualified service providers can review the OMAP rules to determine what is reimbursable under the School Based Health Services program.

A technical assistance document entitled, "Documenting Services on the IEP: A Guide for Related Service Providers" was published by our office in 2003. We will be taking another look at this document after the new regulations for IDEA 2004 are issued. You can download the full text of the 2003 guide from the RSOI website at www.rsoi.org.

Thanks to guest columnist, Gayl Bowser for this FAQ response.

Evidence-Based Practice Tips: Facilitating Social Interactions

One goal that is often cited for placing students with severe disabilities in general education classes is the opportunity found there for social interactions with typical peers. These placements often involve the assignment of a paraprofessional to assist the student to access classroom activities. Sometimes, however, the presence of the adult may have the unintentional effect of blocking the desired peer interactions. Many paraprofessionals receive no training in how to facilitate peer interactions. In a recent study, researchers found that training could be effective in increasing paraprofessional facilitation of social interactions between students with severe disabilities and their peers. Rates of student interaction increased dramatically with paraprofessional training and were maintained for the course of the study. (See Julie Causton-Theoharis and Kimber Malmgren, "Increasing Peer Interactions for Students with Severe Disabilities Via Paraprofessional Training," *Exceptional Children*, Summer 2005)

Coming Events

Winter & Spring, 2006

SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH DESIGN: AN INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATIONALLY BASED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Hilyard Community Center, 2580 Hilyard Street, Eugene, OR. Presenter is Sandra Rogers, Assistant Professor, Pacific University School of Occupational Therapy. Contact Sue Quillan, Eugene District 4j, at 541-687-3339 or at quillan@4j.lane.edu.

"SECTION 504 VS. THE IDEA IN OREGON,"

February 3, 2006 • *A one day course in Portland, OR.* Sponsored by Lorman Education Services in Wisconsin (Course ID # is 363655). Contact at: (715) 833-3953, www.lorman.com, or email at customerservice@lorman.com.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIALISTS RIDE THE YELLOW SCHOOL BUS TOUR.

WITH MAYER JOHNSON AND DYNAVOX SYSTEMS • February 6 & 7, 2006 • *Holiday Inn Select, Wilsonville, OR.* For more information go the website at www.yellowschoolbustour.com or contact Terry Christenson at 541-440-4791.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN OVERWEIGHT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS.

LIVE VIDEOCONFERENCE March 9 & 10, 2006 • *Shriners Hospital for Children, Portland, OR.* For more information go the website at <http://www.utmem.edu/bcdd/training/community/cshcn.htm> or contact Jacque DeVore at 503-221-3718.

AFTER THE ASSESSMENT: IMPLEMENTING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

WEB-BASED CLASS THROUGH PSU • April 2-June 9, 2006 • Instructor is Gayl Bowser. Please see class registration enclosed with this newsletter or visit www.otap-oregon.org.

CEC (COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN) 2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPO

• April 5-8, 2006 • *Salt Lake City, Utah.* For more information, visit their website at www.cec.sped.org/.

ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION IN SPANISH-ENGLISH SPEAKING PEDIATRIC POPULATIONS

• April 7-8, 2006 • *Portland Embassy Suites, Portland, OR.* Presenters include: Brian A. Goldstein, Elizabeth Pena, Kathi Hoffer, Christina Gildersleeve-Neuman, and Frank Bender. Sponsored by the CDRC Speech and Audiology Department at OHSU. Registration and program information can be found at www.ohsu.edu/cdrc.

20TH ANNUAL TIES CONFERENCE

"EDUCATIONAL OT AND PT ON A SHOESTRING", MARTI SMITH, OTR/L •

April 24 & 25, 2006 • *Valley River Inn, Eugene.* Information available in the February newsletter or at our website www.rsoi.org.

20th Annual TIES Conference

Monday & Tuesday • April 24 & 25, 2006

Valley River Inn • Eugene, OR



KEYNOTE SESSION

EDUCATIONAL PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET

Marti Smith, OTR/L

Creative Therapies, Inc., Austin, Texas