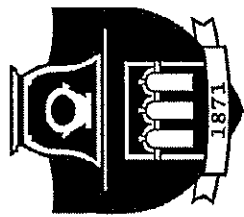


University of Arkansas Fayetteville

Autism Program Development



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS.

- Brought to UA to develop the ASD programs
- History
 - Director of the CASD at UNLV
 - Autism Specialist for Orange County Public Schools in Florida
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Research and publication focus on best practices for teachers
 - Mathematics, Sexuality, and Policy

Peggy J. Schaefer Whitby, Ph.D.¹⁷
BCBA-D

- Autism Graduate Certificate Program
- BCBA Graduate Certificate Program
- ABA Family Service and Research Clinic
- Project Connect
- ASD Symposium

ASD Programs at UA-Fayetteville

- **Strengths**
 - Nationally Recognized Medical Support
 - Pockets of "excellence" within systems
 - Knowledge of evidence based interventions for teaching children with ASD
 - Systems in place to provide services to children with ASD
 - People- we are rich with people who want to do the "right thing" for children with ASD

From My Perspective

• Challenges

- Access to services is limited based upon location
- The capacity of service providers varies greatly across the state
- Service providers tell us they do not know how to implement evidence based autism interventions
- Intensive autism specific interventions must be providing in early intervention to change the trajectory of the disorder.
- Educational support vary greatly dependent upon location
- Spending lots of money on "experts" out of state versus using the "experts" in our own state.
- Systems of support appear to be dependent on people versus systems.

From My Perspective

- Statewide Technical Assistance Centers for Families and Professionals
- Serve people and professionals across the lifespan
- Develop the capacity of the agencies and families so that they can provide quality ASD services
- Ohio, Kentucky, Florida
- Publicly funded each year

Other State Systems

- Develop the infrastructure to provide training and support to families and professionals across the state.
- Develop training and support across the lifespan.
- Develop the capacity of service providers to provide evidence based strategies
- Train trainers across the state

Arkansas Center For Rural Education In Autism and Related Disabilities

- One main center with 4 satellite centers across the state.
- Reduces the likelihood of replication of services
- No conflict of interest as the center is separate from agencies providing services
- The National Standards Project on Evidence Based Interventions for People with ASD guides the technical assistance

Arkansas Center For Rural Education In Autism and Related Disabilities

- Use the telehealth system to deliver training in rural Arkansas
- Reduces the likelihood of replication of services
- Interdisciplinary-teaching support teams to work together to provide interventions
- Research Opportunities and Grant Opportunities once the infrastructure is in place

Arkansas Center For Rural Education In Autism and Related Disabilities

- Families
 - Families register and are assigned an autism specialist
 - Autism Specialist meets with the family and links them to services and support
 - Families can request Autism Specialist to consult to service providers
- Agencies and Professionals
 - Can request agency wide or child specific technical assistance
 - Identification of trainers in agencies who can receive higher levels of training
 - Checks for Procedural Fidelity
- Training
 - Training for families on evidence based practices
 - Training for families and professionals based upon autism issues (potty training, eating, etc.)

Arkansas Center For Rural Education In Autism and Related Disabilities