02/15/12
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University of Houston – Clear Lake Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities

CADD
CENTER FOR AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

http://hsh.uhcl.edu/CADD

The Problem of Autism

- Prevalence: 1 in 110 (Center for Disease Control, 2009)
  - 600% increase in schools over past decade (U.S. Dept of Ed)
  - Estimate of ~62,000 in TX
    - Ranks in bottom quartile for service provision

- 4:1 male to female ratio

- Potential Causes:
  - Biologically-based disorder
    - neurological
    - brain structure
    - genetic component
  - Suspected environmental factors (toxins, viruses, dietary concerns)
    - Currently, no supportive empirical evidence

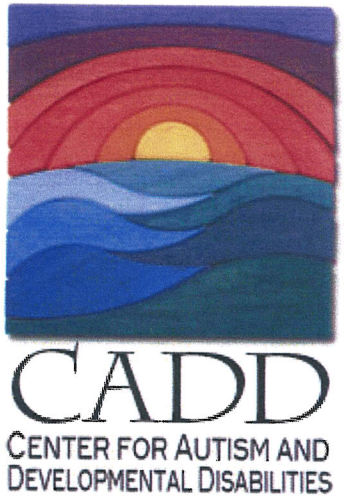
Treatment

- Services in TX are "scattered, fragmented, and often difficult to access." (Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders, 2010, p. 12)

- Behavioral interventions have greatest empirical support

- Intensive intervention (20+hours per week) often needed
  - Cost prohibitive for many ($40,000/yr +)
  - Insurance coverage rare

CADD Fast Facts



- Established March 2008
- Collaboration among faculty and students in the Behavior Analysis, Family Therapy and School Psychology graduate programs
- Goals:
  - To support research on autism and developmental disabilities
  - To train current and future professionals
  - To provide services to children and their families through partnerships with community organizations.
- New 1,350 square foot facility opened last month

Current Research, Training, & Services

- School Consultation
- Autism Early Intervention (ABA-SkIP)
- Severe Behavior Disorders Program
- Verbal Behavior Program
- Autism Assessment Services
- Couples Counseling
- Community Speakers Series
- Lonestar LEND Partner
- New Program: Parent Training for Spanish Speakers

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Outcomes

- Funding to Date: ~$1.4 million in grants and contracts
- Families Served: ~280
- School Districts Served: 4
- Private Schools/Agencies Served: 6
- Research Projects Completed: 28
- Graduate Students Trained: 94
- Undergraduate Students Trained: 31

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