University of Houston – Clear Lake 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
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