Parent Training Series Proposal 2023-24

Vermont Family Network and Sample School District

Dr. Jacqueline Kelleher and her Vermont Family Network staff will present a series of interactive workshops with parents and caregivers (and staff as appropriate) on site in District at a location determined by the District Special Education Director. Childcare and pizza will be arranged by the district. Sessions will be held the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7:00 pm. Dr. Kelleher will stay after the workshop to respond to individual participant questions. Participants will leave with educational materials and access to resources on each topic.

Vermont Family Network Fee for Service: Presenters will be on site and also prepared to conduct the event virtually should there be a weather or unplanned event which prevents access to facilities. Each workshop includes a session evaluation with results shared with the contracting district. Each session is $300 plus a $100 travel/materials fee for a total package of $2,250 for the 2022-23 school year.

*September*

**Special Education and the Law**

This workshop emphasizes laws pertaining to students with disabilities. Laws covered in a parent-friendly way are IDEA 2004, Vermont Rules, Assistive Technology Act, ADA, Section 504, & ESSA. The presenter will educate on their similarities and differences. Excerpts from disability rights history will frame the development of these protections. Endrew F. is also covered.

*October*

**Basic Rights Under the IDEA**

This workshop goes into depth concerning what is referred to the basic rights of the IDEA: FAPE, LRE, Parent/Student Rights, Child Find (include initial eval), IEP, and Manifestation Determination. The presenter will make direct connections to the procedural safeguards as each requirement is explained using a parent-friendly approach,

*November*

**Anatomy of the IEP**

This workshop focuses on providing participants with the knowledge and skills to understand Individual Education Programs with appropriate instructional accommodations. Participants will walk through the IEP in detail utilizing elements of the Educational Benefit approach.

*January*

**Effective Communication and Collaboration**

Participants in this course will learn the concepts and practices of collaboration, consultation, interpersonal communication skills, teamwork, and problem solving. They will discover how students with disabilities are impacted by interpersonal and communications gaps and issues between and among team members.

*February*

**Students with Disabilities: Anxiety and Depression**

This workshop addresses characteristics of students with disabilities classified under IDEA with emotional disturbance with a focus on anxiety and depression. The impact on students’ learning, social, and familial environment is explored. The workshop is designed to assist IEP members, which includes parents, in facilitating conversations about learning, utilizing accommodations, instructional practices and home-school support practices with students who experience anxiety and depression. This workshop is also helpful for parents of children classified under other IDEA categories who also present with symptoms of anxiety and depression.

OR

**Supporting Your Child with Anxiety and Depression**

This workshop looks at anxiety and depression in children across the U.S. along with some patterns and trends from Vermont. In this workshop, families will discuss:

* How common anxiety/depression is in children and teens
* How to identify an anxious child or child with depressive symptoms
* How anxiety/depression is often misunderstood
* How anxiety/depression interferes with developmental growth
* How to treat and reduce anxiety and depression
* Successful outcomes for anxiety and depression issues

*March*

**Families and Youth Conversations About Bullying/Cyberbullying**

Youth and Bullying/Cyberbullying is a workshop which increases understanding of the language, skills, information, and challenges associated with bullying and cyberbullying, providing tools for family members to help their children/teens respond in appropriate ways to incidents of bullying and cyberbullying. Scenarios will be examined. Audience will participate in a facilitated dialogue throughout the workshop. Presenters will also educate on Vermont policies and procedures concerning hazing, harassment, and bullying also known as HHB.