

ASRC Advocacy Training Series

2005–2006

The CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center, Inc. is preparing to begin its fifth annual Advocacy Training Series. If you are interested in the training, we are hoping that you can join us.

Families are their child's best advocates, but they need to be prepared to act on behalf of their child in a truly productive way. This means they must understand the nature of their child's disability, school district policies and procedures, basic principles of IDEA law, and what is considered to be best practice for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). It is also important to develop good communication and negotiation skills in order to present your ideas successfully and participate as a valuable member of your child's IEP team.

In our Advocacy Training Series, parents will learn about:

- Appropriate components of an educational program for kids with ASD
- Good evaluation procedures and how to read evaluation reports
- Assertiveness
- Communication, negotiation, and partnership skills
- Availability of educational resources and supports
- Appropriate classroom support and teaching techniques
- Transition planning specific to autism spectrum disorders
- The IEP form
- Federal special education law (IDEA) and CT state regulations
- School district and State Dept. of Education hierarchy, protocol, and procedures
- Due process, mediation, and complaint procedures and realities

These make up the focus of our training series, along with opportunities to brainstorm techniques and options, interpret records, problem solve, and discuss and share experiences.

If you are interested in becoming a professional advocate or work with families in other capacities (support group, social work, etc.), we encourage you to take this series, and additional workshops may become available to you as interest demands. If your intent is to become an advocate, please know that there are certain natural personality traits and inherent abilities that are desirable due to the nature of the mission of advocacy. Not everyone who attends the series will

become a skillful advocate. Our hope is to identify those participants who have an interest in making a commitment to assist families and who have the inherent abilities, in order to develop, over time, a corps of trained advocates willing to assist families throughout the state.

We welcome anyone interested in learning these skills to attend the Advocacy Training Series. We know that everyone comes with a variety of goals in mind. Individuals can and do commit to this series for a variety of reasons, both personal and professional, and we will try to accommodate the goals of each individual.

The tentative schedule of workshops is attached (we reserve the right to make changes if necessary). We ask that you make the commitment to attend the entire series. Pieces of information are just that – pieces. This information is intended to be learned as a whole. For those who cannot make such a commitment at this time, we do plan to run the Advocacy Training Series at least once a year. *(The Center also periodically runs single-session workshops on advocacy for those who are seeking more general information for their own personal circumstances. You may call the Center to find out when the next single-session will be scheduled.)*

To participate

The training sessions will be held on Monday mornings from 9:30-12:30 at ACES in Hamden (directions are enclosed) beginning September 19, 2005, and running through March 20, 2006. If you would like to attend the series, please fill out the form below and return it to us by August 10, 2005. ***There is a limit of 20 participants, so please return your form ASAP.*** The fees are:

\$150 for ASRC members

\$200 for non-members (becoming a member will save you money)

This fee covers the expenses for all twenty sessions of the Series, and provides you with written materials and continental breakfast. If this fee would be a financial hardship, please contact Stacy Hultgren at ASRC.

If you are not able to participate at this time, we will keep your name on file and notify you of the next series when it is scheduled for next year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stacy Hultgren at ASRC, (203) 248-5222.

I would like to register for the ASRC Advocacy Training Series. Enclosed is my check for

_____ **\$150 – I am a member**

_____ \$200 – I am a non-member

_____ \$170 – I wish to become a member (\$150 for the series, \$20 for a membership)

_____ I may be interested in becoming a professional advocate

Name:

Address:

Phone day: _____

Phone night : _____

Email: _____

Checks should be made out to ASRC and returned by August 10 to:

ASRC
1978 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

ASRC
Advocacy Training Series Schedule
2005–2006

- Sept 19 - Orientation, overview of IDEA**
Stacy Hultgren
- Sept 26 - In-depth IDEA and '04 changes**
Stacy Hultgren
- Oct 3 - PPT Protocol**
Stacy Hultgren
- Oct 17 - IEP forms and goals**
Stacy Hultgren
- Oct 24 - Components of appropriate programs (state of CT Guidelines)**
Roger Frant, PhD, Bureau of Special Ed.
Consultant
- Oct 31 - Behavior – behavioral, environmental, and other informal assessments**
Stacy Hultgren
- Nov 7 - How to read evaluation reports – what they mean**
Karyn Bailey, MSW, Yale Child Study Center
- Nov 14 - Classroom modifications and inclusion**
Lynne Guillmette, Behavioral Development and Educational Services

- Nov 21 - Person-centered planning (MAAPS)**
Linda Grimm, Benhaven Learning Network

- Nov 28 - Language and social skills**
Wendy Marans, speech/language therapist

- Dec 12 - Sensory and OT issues**
Kristen Powers, Center for Child Development

- Jan 9 - Communication/problem solving**
Stacy Hultgren

- Jan 23 - Assertiveness, role play**
Stacy Hultgren

- Jan 30 - Transition to life after high school**
(to be scheduled)

- Feb 6 - IEP review and goal writing**
Stacy Hultgren

- Feb 13 - Role play**
Stacy Hultgren

- Feb 27 - Mediation/complaints**
(to be scheduled)

- Mar 6 - Due process**
(to be scheduled)

- Mar 13 - Role play, questions, review**
Stacy Hultgren

Mar 20 - SNOW DATE

Advocacy

PRESENTER:
Stacy Hultgren

TOPIC:
Advocacy Training for Families - Three Workshops

Ms. Hultgren is the Co-Director of The Connecticut Autism Spectrum Resource Center, Editor of the ASRC PDD Newsletter, and one of the most outstanding educational advocates in Connecticut. Ms. Hultgren has offered education in Advocacy for families for many years, and 4 years ago started teaching an ASRC 22-week training course (around Autism Spectrum Disorders) for those interested in becoming educational advocates in Connecticut

If you are not sure of how to negotiate services for your child, or if you're not sure what your ASD child is entitled to, this would be an excellent series for you to take. The 3 workshops will cover: Components of Educational Programs, Communication and Negotiation Strategies, and lastly, IDEA Law and the IEP Form.

REVISED DATES:
January 7, 2006
January 21, 2006
February 4, 2006

Snow Dates: February 18, 2006
February 25, 2006
March 25, 2006

TIME:
9 am to 1 pm

PLACE:
ACES Staff Development/
Administration Building
205 Skiff Street, Hamden, CT.

FEE: \$60 Members
\$90 Non-members

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO ASRC, 1978 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT 06517

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Enclosed is a check for \$60 (members-for all three) \$90 (non-members for all three) made out to CT ASRC

I am a (check more than one if necessary): _____ Parent/family member _____ Educator

_____ Community professional (physician, social worker, etc.) _____ Adult with ASD

_____ Service provider (work for a State agency or provider service)

Full Refund 30 Days Prior to Event

Stacy Hultgren

The CT Autism Spectrum Resource Center conducts an annual ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES

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- Transition planning for autism spectrum disorders
- The IEP form
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I am interested in receiving information about the next Advocacy Training Series

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Send to: ASRC, 1978 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT 06517
Call (203) 248-5222 with questions