**Autism Summit Leadership Committee**

**Notes from November 3, 2015 meeting (first meeting):**

* Report from Anne Marie about Play 'Talk: a support group for families of children with ASD. Monthly meetings facilitated by Judy Morita and Florencia Ardon. November 15th will be at Science Center. Some other months will have speakers. Limited space. RSVP. Flyers were distributed. Email: playntalkithaca@gmail.com
* Celia mentioned a new initiative by sesame street. New character rolled out named Julia who has ASD. Lots of good resources: e-book and videos for siblings and parents. www.autism.sesamestreet.org.
* Discussion: which areas of interests would the Autism Summit Leadership Committee like to focus on? The areas which were of most interest: After School Care and Local Diagnostic Evaluation Center. Also, training for aides, parent support and school wide trainings. We should look at the notes taken from the smaller interest groups that met at the end of the last Summit meeting.

**Format**: Should we continue meeting as larger steering group or should we break into smaller working groups? How do we best oversee the participants from the last summit meeting who signed up to be in focused working group? Final decision is that we will meet next month to fine tune these next steps.

**Focus on working framework of this committee**:

* Someone designated to plan meeting dates and spaces (Anne Marie and Sylvia) though next month has already been planned. December 8th at 3:00 at Racker Center
* Each month designate facilitator and note taker: next month facilitator: Rebecca Baum and Note taker: Celia Clement and Time Keeper Bev Fitzpatrick
* Agenda for next week determined. (see attached)
* Michael will develop a draft survey to get information from people who signed up to be on working committees that will gather information about their interest and level of commitment.

**Communication**: Keep community involved and in the loop:

* Tapping into other list serves: Human Coalition List Serve,
* Using 211 to help us develop resource list and to post the resources that we find

**Beginning thoughts about the two areas of focus:**

 **Diagnostic center**

* Compile a list of all the evaluation centers in the greater upstate NY area
* Find out what types of insurance pay for the evaluations
* Find out waiting list time
* There are two local practitioners: one accepting insurance and one private pay. Sylvia can find out who they are.
* What are the barriers for families to getting evaluations?
* Racker Center had a psychologist who provided the assessments locally. She provided a great service to local families. Why was she not replaced?
* What are the barriers to having a satellite program in Ithaca?
* What can schools provide as far as evaluations? ADOS assessment? What schools do this and who is qualified?

 **After School Programs and programs for school holidays**:

* What after school programs in the greater Ithaca area provide openings for children with ASD?
* Poll families: What do they want? What experiences have they had? What supports are needed?
* How can we have aides provided to help when children need more support? How can this be funded? Can OPWDD provide this?
* Look at model of successful family (privately) run after school program such as KidsCount at Northeast.
* How to provide inclusive after school programs?

**Next step:**

Meeting of the Autism Summit Leadership Committee

* Tuesday December 8th at 3:00-4:30 at Racker Center
* Agenda was circulated by Rebecca Baum

Notes submitted by Celia Clement