New Director, New Directions

In 2016, Dr. Lesley Cottrell joined the WVU CED as Director. A developmental psychologist and professor of Pediatrics at WVU, Lesley has always been engaged in the field of children’s health, child and family outcomes, and her research focuses on maximizing children’s developmental and psychosocial well-being. She is dedicated to her role at the WVU CED and is excited to work with the staff and its partners across the state. Together, the WVU CED is expanding its reach throughout WV and the Appalachian region with partners from more than 25 academic units throughout the state and across West Virginia University. Dr. Cottrell joined the WVU CED family as Director. As a developmental psychologist and professor of Pediatrics at WVU, Lesley has always been engaged in the field of children’s health, child and family outcomes, and her research focuses on maximizing children’s developmental and psychosocial well-being. She is dedicated to her role at the WVU CED and is excited to work with the staff and its partners across the state. Together, the WVU CED is expanding its reach throughout WV and the Appalachian region with partners from more than 25 academic units throughout the state and across West Virginia University.

The WVU CED welcomes all individuals and organizations that have an interest, expertise, and/or provide services to individuals with disabilities and their families to join the WVU CED as an Affiliate Member. We believe strongly in the power of collaborations that can be achieved through active and engaged partnerships. To become an Affiliate or to learn more, visit www.wvueli.org.

Planning for the Future

The WVU CED is preparing for its next five-year competitive renewal by conducting strategic planning sessions with partners from around the state. Together with partners, the WVU CED will identify priority areas and activities to help guide the organization’s future direction.

Specialized Family Care

In 2015, WVU CED was awarded a grant from the federal Administration for Community Living to develop a Diversity & Disability Fellowship program in October 2015. The purpose of the fellowship is to increase knowledge of disability services and supports and increase the diversity of leadership and staff across the disability field. Two graduate students from Appalachian State University and one student from West Virginia University were selected to receive the Diversity & Disability Fellowship. The WVU CED was awarded the UCEDD National Training Initiative Supplemental Grant by the Administration for Community Living to develop a Diversity & Disability Fellowship program in October 2015. The purpose of the fellowship is to increase knowledge of disability services and supports and increase the diversity of leadership and staff across the disability field. Two graduate students from Appalachian State University and one student from West Virginia University were selected to receive the Diversity & Disability Fellowship.

Significant Program Expansion

Positive Behavior Support

The Positive Behavior Support (PBS) project was funded to expand services by providing ongoing training and technical assistance to professionals working in six pilot counties for the new Children’s Wraparound Program sponsored by the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities. The Wraparound program is an alternative to more restrictive housing environments, group homes, and other settings that may lack a family structure. Historically, the CED shared the statewide program with two other service providers, but has now been operating for over a year as the single agency responsible for the program. The program is an alternative to more restrictive housing environments, group homes, and other settings that may lack a family structure. Historically, the CED shared the statewide program with two other service providers, but has now been operating for over a year as the single agency responsible for the program.

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