Community Diagnostic Assessment Team Training

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Multidisciplinary diagnostic assessment

“... it is recommended that assessments of ASD are multidisciplinary whenever possible, including professionals from psychology, psychiatry, other medical specialties as needed (e.g., pediatrics, neurology) and speech and language.”

Ozonoff, Goodlin-Jones, & Solomon (2005)
Goal of Assessment Team Training

To prepare an interdisciplinary team to provide comprehensive diagnostic assessments in a health care context. Such assessments will:

- Provide a complete and accurate conceptualization of the child’s strengths and challenges with respect to features of autism
- Reflect best-practice team functioning
- Engage parents as active partners in the process
- Serve as the basis for effective intervention
Anticipated Outcomes

- Improved child behavior and functioning
- Increased professional satisfaction with the assessment process
- Increased family satisfaction with the assessment process and the resulting intervention program
Guiding Principles

- Transdisciplinary team functioning
- Evidence-based assessment tools and procedure
- Family-centered practice
Team Functioning

- Team composition
- Transdisciplinary practice
  - Engaging related service providers
  - Facilitating effective team deliberation
- Integration into the intervention process
  - Integrating assessment data / report writing
  - Using assessment results in the IEP
Assessment Instruments

- Preliminary assessment data
- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule – 2 (ADOS-2)
- Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised (ADI-R)
Training Components

- ADOS-2 Clinical Training: Administration and Coding
- ADI-R Clinical Training: Administration and Coding
- Additional modules:
  - Team functioning
  - Role of Related Service Providers
  - Family Centered Practice
  - Report Writing
  - From Assessment to IEP
  - Evidence-based Intervention Practices
- ADOS-2 follow-up
  - Supporting reliable ADOS-2 administration and coding
Training Outcomes and Challenges

- Assessment teams trained in three sites
  - 8-12 individuals at each site participated in the training (28 total)

- Challenges
  - Supporting the team model: Billing
  - Need for ongoing support in the use of the instruments