



CACLD

Connecticut Association
For Children And Adults
With Learning Disabilities

Offering answers, direction, information and support

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE

Fall 2009

**A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND
COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCY PROFESSIONALS SEEKING TO
DEVELOP OR IMPROVE THEIR ADVOCACY SKILLS**

25 Van Zant Street, Suite 15-5, East Norwalk, CT 06855-1719
(203) 838-5010 • Fax (203) 866-6108
Web Site: www.CACLD.org • E-mail: CACLD@optonline.net

*Please Post or Circulate to Interested
Parents, Friends and Colleagues*

Have you ever asked yourself.....

What does a good evaluation consist of?

What questions do I need to ask? How do you measure progress?

What is the law and how does it apply to my child's problems?

Then this program is for you!

- *Become an informed consumer*
- *Gain an understanding of the process*
- *Build your confidence as an advocate*
- *Learn how to advocate more effectively to obtain appropriate services for your child*
- *Become a knowledgeable member of the team*

This program is made possible through the generosity of The Perrin Family Foundation, The Finn Family Foundation and The Leonard Baer Memorial Fund. We are grateful to these families for their sensitivity to the needs of families of children who are challenged by learning difficulties and the generosity with which they have supported our programs.

KNOW YOUR CHILD KNOW THE PROCESS KNOW THE LAW

Special Education is a process. Effective advocacy skills are an important tool for the parent of a child with learning or behavior problems and for professionals in community-based agencies working with families.

Presenters for the 10 sessions are from the State Department of Education(SDE), CT. Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC), CACLD, and professionals in private practice. Professional staff and facilitators bring years of experience, knowledge and skills from the field into each session offered.

These sessions will offer an educational opportunity, rather than a support group experience. Participants have benefitted from the information presented and appreciated the opportunity to network with other parents

TOPICS

- **Tuesday, October 6**

- Introduction, Orientation, SPED**

- Nancy Prescott, CPAC*

- Where are you in the process of addressing your child's needs?
 - What does it mean to be a good advocate?
 - History of SPED/IDEA/NCLB/504
 - FAPE: Free Appropriate Public Education
 - Acronyms and terms

- **Tuesday, October 13**

- Know the Process: Referral - From Concern to Program**

- Kathy Slade, CPAC*

- What do you do if you are concerned about your child's learning?
 - When and how should a referral be made?
 - The role of RTI
 - Time lines and sequence of procedures
 - How to write requests for action

- **Tuesday, October 20**

Know Your Child: Assessment I: Theories of Testing/Cognitive Measures/Comprehensive Evaluations

Michael Alfano, Ph.D., Director, Teacher Certification Program, UCONN

- What is a Comprehensive Evaluation? Do you need one?
- Overview of reasons for testing
- Meaning of statistical terms, names of tests and what they measure
- Hands on review of the WISC-IV and other “Cognitive” measures

- **Tuesday, October 27**

Know Your Child: Assessment II: Achievement/Eligibility/Relationship to IEP

Michael Alfano, Ph.D., Director, Teacher Certification Program, UCONN

- An overview of the Woodcock-Johnson and other achievement tests
- How can information from a Comprehensive Evaluation be used to make a differential diagnosis, identify “comorbid” influences, and determine eligibility?
- What is the relationship between test results and the IEP?
- Review of sample evaluation reports

- **Tuesday, November 3**

Know your Child: Assessment III: Reading, Writing and Math

Susan Santora, Director Learning House

- Essential components of reading, writing and math assessments for purposes of identification, instructional planning, and progress monitoring
- Meaning of SRBI (Scientific Research Based Instruction), EBI (Evidence Based Instruction), and RTI (Response to Intervention)
- Differences between remediating reading skills and supporting curriculum based reading instruction
- Interpreting assessment tools- how does one know if adequate progress is being made?

- **Tuesday, November 10**

Know Your Child: Assessment IV: Speech/Language

Meryl Aronin, Speech/Language Clinician

- When is a Speech and Language assessment appropriate?
- What are the essential components of a speech and language assessment?
- Definition of a Speech and Language Impairment under IDEA
- How should a Speech/ Language assessment be used in developing an IEP?

- **Tuesday, November 17**

Know the Process: Eligibility Determination,

Patricia Anderson, State Department of Education

- 504 versus IDEA
- Requirements of eligibility for each classification under IDEA
- How are services under IDEA similar and/or different from services in regular education (RTI, EIP etc)
- What is the process for exiting a student from special education services ?

- **Tuesday, November 24**

Know the Process: Developing a legally correct and educationally useful IEP

Kathleen Casparino, M.Ed., Advocate

- Review of the IEP document
- Creating appropriate goals and objectives
- Who will record and analyze the data?
- How is pre and post baseline data used?
- How can parents know if the school is really doing what it says?

- **Tuesday, December 1**

Know the Law

Howard Klebanoff, Special Education Attorney

- Complexities of the law: Federal vs. State mandates
- How to access the law and statutes
- Due Process hearings: how and when to initiate
- Bullying; Manifestation Determination; Suspension Procedures
- The law as it applies to charter, magnet, technical, private and parochial school placements.
- Independent evaluations

- **Tuesday, December 8**

Four Competencies to Become an Effective Advocate

- Q and A
- Certificates of Attendance

Program Coordinators:

Kathleen Casparino, M.Ed., Rena Schine, Ph.D.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

CACLD's 39th Annual State Conference
Saturday, October 31st, 2009, Stamford Marriott

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Rick Lavoie

Author of *"It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success"* and *"The Motivation Breakthrough - 6 Secrets to Turning On the Tuned-Out Child"* Rick is also the creator of the award winning DVD ***"How Difficult Can This Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop"***

GENERAL INFORMATION

Session Dates:

*Tuesdays from
October 6, 2009 - December 8, 2009*

Session Time:

10:15 AM - 1:00 PM

Place:

*Conference Room 8C, First Floor,
25 Van Zant St., E. Norwalk*

**PLEASE NOTE: THESE SESSIONS DO NOT CERTIFY OR
ENDORSE INDIVIDUALS AS PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATES**

Directions to CACLD

From New York/Stamford: I-95 to Exit 16. Go right off exit onto East Avenue

From Hartford/New Haven/Bridgeport: I-95 to Exit 16. Go left onto East Avenue.

Continue on East Avenue through four (4) traffic lights. (You will pass Rite Aid and Penny's Diner). Turn right on Van Zant Street (Rte 136). Go through a blinker light and a traffic light. 25 Van Zant is the brown office building on the right.

Visitor Parking is across the Street. Enter main lobby and follow the signs. If lot is full, go past the building to the corner. Go right around the block to the parking lot in the back of the building. Enter Rear Lobby. Follow signs.

URGENT!

CACLD

Is Turning Green!

CACLD is updating all email addresses with the plan of sending many of our notices, and updates via email.

Please send us your current email address. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!** Help us use less energy and resources getting information to you. Send us your email address, even if you think we already have it!

Becoming An Effective Advocate

Pre-registration required. Register early to insure your place.
Please make a copy of this form for each person attending.

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY REGISTRATION DUE BY SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

CACLD Scholarship Program

Full and partial scholarships are available
for those who otherwise could not
attend. Ask us!

Name: _____ Phone (H): _____

Street: _____ (W): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ *Please let me know about others coming
from my area so that we can carpool.*

REGISTRATION FEES Fees include 10 classes, refreshments, parking, and materials

- CACLD Members \$200 Non-Members \$275 (includes a 1 year membership in CACLD)
 Single Session • \$30 per session/Members \$40 per session/Non-Members

CALL CACLD OFFICE 838-5010 TO PRE-REGISTER FOR A SINGLE SESSION

Payment Method: Check payable to CACLD MasterCard Visa Exp. Date _____

Card# _____ Signature _____

Mail completed form and check to: CACLD, 25 Van Zant Street, Suite 15-5, East Norwalk, CT 06855

Fax completed form and credit card information to: 203-866-6108

NOT A CACLD MEMBER? SEE NEXT PAGE

Membership Form

CACLD

The Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

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Founded in 1963. CACLD is a non-profit organization dedicated to children and adults with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders.

- Send me more information on: LD ADD/ADHD Children Adults
- \$40. Family Member \$75. School, Agency, Organization \$1000. Life Member
- \$40. LD/ADD/ADHD Adult Member \$100. Sustaining Member
- \$50. Professional Member \$200. Sponsoring Member _____ Additional Contribution

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Street: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of birth, sex, and name of LD/ADD/ADHD individual(s) _____

Corporate Employer: _____

Do you work with children adolescents adults? Where? _____

PAYMENT METHOD: Check/Money order payable to CACLD Master Card VISA Exp. Date _____

Card # _____ Signature _____

CACLD is a non-profit, public service organization, tax exempt under § 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

Peter Maloney, President

Beryl Kaufman, Executive Director

THIS IS A NEW MEMBERSHIP _____

THIS IS A RENEWAL _____

DATE _____

PLEASE CHECK AS MANY AS ARE APPLICABLE

Parent of LD Child LD Adult

Parent of AD(H/D) Child AD(H/D) Adult

Professional (please specify) _____

**Here's how to help
CACLD through the
United Way
Donor Choice Program**

1. Ask your employer for the Donor Choice Form.
2. Indicate that you want to direct your gift to a specific agency:

CACLD

25 Van Zant Street

East Norwalk, CT 06855-1719

3. Return the completed Donor Choice Form with your company pledge card per your company's instructions.
4. Feel good about helping.

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**BECOMING AN
EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE**



A series of 10 workshops for parents and professionals
seeking to develop or improve their advocacy skills.

October 6 - December 8