

Educational Support & Staff Development Reinvent Themselves to Deliver Better Service

United we stand! Recently, Educational Support & Staff Development announced their redesigned organizational structure to better align resources and provide services to DDS and private provider staff. Educational Support & Staff Development personnel recently participated in a team building and planning meeting as they began work under the new state-wide structure (see group photo below).

Director of Staff Development John Tierney will lead all functional areas of training and curriculum development across the state. The unit will focus on improving the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of DDS Educational Support & Staff Development programs. We will maintain and even expand our regional presence to provide better services to staff. The Educational Support & Staff Development team has identified five functional areas of focus: Project Management & Program Liaison, led by Bill Ale; Clinical Services Education, led by Val Vujs; Learning Management Systems, led by Molli Hennessey; Curriculum Development, led by Lidia Gomes; and Training & Resource Development, led by Patrice Peterson. In order to systematically streamline processes, the unit will introduce a new process and form for requesting training and educational support services.

Additionally, the Educational Support & Staff Development team will be actively recruiting subject matter experts (SMEs) who are interested in providing training in their areas of expertise. These SMEs would attend a Train the Trainer (T3) program to learn facilitation techniques and adult learning concepts. SMEs will be added to the pool of adjunct instructors who facilitate training on various topics. This is a win-win for the unit and department. Training requires a specific skill set and we hope to develop the department's internal capital and maximize the resources we have within DDS. This promotes morale and adds depth to our commitment to learning. We learn when we teach others!



ESSD staff members (left to right) *back row*: Cathy Faulkner, Fran Mastro, Leslie Tung, Val Vujs, Marty Zito, John Tierney, Ellen Solecki, Maureen Evelyn *middle row*: Chris O'Neill, Marty Donovan, Sue Krupenevich-Rafala, Molli Hennessey, Bill Ale, Pat Redmond, Jackie Jacenko, Susan Aronne, Gerry Daley *front row*: Patrice Peterson, Jessica Kelsey, Maureen Peruccio, Lidia Gomes, Kimberly Smith, Nancy Kogut *not pictured*: Heather Hoynes, Carmen DeLeon.

For more Educational Support & Staff Development news, please see our page on Inside DDS!