Educator Support/Professional Development Group

Present: Glenis Benson, Dan Bier, Mary Cimbalnik, Susan Donohoe, Ellen Franzone, Bill Helm, Nate Helm-Quest, Brian Johnson, Dennis Joyce, Barbara Kilp, Erin Miller, Elizabeth Oftedahl, Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, Lynn Stansberry-Brusnahan, Mary Stone, Mary Kate Sullivan, Jennifer Townsend, Linda Tuchman, Annette Valeo, Kelly Wegner, Gerogia Yanicke

After comparing work-to-date from the Urban Autism Summit Action Group and CoP on ASD and other Developmental Disabilities, the discussion quickly focused on the need for better prepared special education teachers and coaches.

There was a consensus that all Wisconsin teacher training institutions should be at the table with DPI to discuss what is really needed in the area of autism and what DPI could require as part of certification. Currently, everyone is working in isolation and any “Autism 101” development may be duplicative.

The combined group decided to focus on:

- Opportunities for more advanced training statewide
- Pilots / Models for coaches (both external and peer)
  - What are we learning?
  - How is it working?
  - How to embed research.
- DPI / Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) partnerships to promote support for:
  - IHE (with CEC standards for autism and other developmental disorders)
  - CESA and other autism consultants
  - Listserv to access for problem-solving, sharing
- Exchange of results and supports across programs
- Focus on Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) as means to (+) support for all children including those with ASD