

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

F. PHILIP HANDY, *Chairman*

T. WILLARD FAIR, *Vice Chairman*

Members

LINDA J. EADS, Ed.D.

CHARLES PATRICK GARCÍA

JULIA L. JOHNSON

WILLIAM L. PROCTOR, Ph.D.

LINDA K. TAYLOR

JOHN L. WINN
Commissioner of Education



October 8, 2004

MEMORANDUM #04-61

TO: Exceptional Student Education Administrators
FDLRS Associate Center Managers
District Autism Contact Persons

FROM: Bambi J. Lockman

SUBJECT: 12th Annual Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)
Conference, January 14-16, 2005, Orlando, Florida

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) is aware of the need for quality staff development opportunities for school personnel who work with individuals with autism. To help fill this need, the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS) has partnered with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) to implement a variety of staff development activities. We are pleased to provide you with information about two special DOE activities that will precede the 12th Annual CARD Conference in Orlando, Florida.

BEESS, through a project with CARD, is sponsoring a Pre-conference Day for Educators on Friday, January 14, 2005. This day is specifically designed to provide educators with information about innovative and effective classroom practices. Dr. Mary Beth Doyle, Associate Professor of Special Education at St. Michael's College, will be the keynote speaker for this event. We encourage you to send as many teachers as possible to this important staff development opportunity. While there is no fee for the pre-conference day, participants must complete and submit the registration form for the CARD/DOE Pre-conference Day for Educators, which may be accessed by calling (888) 558-1908 or on-line at http://www.ucf-card.org/news/CARD_Conference_2005.pdf.

You can make your hotel reservations directly with the Florida Mall Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809 or call (800) 588-4656. To receive the conference rate of \$121.00 per room, identify yourself as a CARD conference participant.

BAMBI J. LOCKMAN
Chief

Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

Memo #04-61
October 8, 2004
Page Two

In addition, BEESS staff will be hosting a meeting for district autism contact persons that will also be held on January 14, 2005. This meeting will provide district staff with an opportunity to receive information about statewide issues related to serving students with autism as well as provide participants with an opportunity to discuss issues specific to their district. A draft agenda for this meeting is attached. District autism contact persons are asked to complete the attached response form and fax it to (850) 245-0955 no later than **January 7, 2005**. Participants attending this meeting must also complete and submit the registration form for the CARD/DOE Pre-conference Day for Educators, available on-line at www.ucf-card.org/news/CARD_Conference_2005.pdf.

Accommodations for participants who have special needs will be made available upon request. To ensure appropriate accommodations during the conference, please indicate special requests on the registration form at least **one week** before the meeting.

We would like to encourage those people who are attending either of these events to consider attending the CARD conference as well. If you would like more information about the conference, please contact Ms. Judee Samuels-Podvin, Community Relations Director, University of Central Florida, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UCF-CARD), at (407) 737-2566, x19. Conference brochures, including the registration form, are available on-line at www.ucf-card.org/news/CARD_Conference_2005.pdf. If you have questions about either of the DOE events, please contact Ms. Sheryl Brainard, Program Specialist, at (850) 245-0478 or by electronic mail at sheryl.brainard@fldoe.org.

MP/sbr

Attachments

cc: Donna Casella, dcasella@fmhi.usf.edu