

THE HELP GROUP - UCLA SEMEL INSTITUTE ON ASPERGER'S DISORDER TRAINS EDUCATORS, CLINICIANS AND PARENTS

The Help Group in collaboration with the Semel Institute on Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA offered the first ever four-day intensive professional training workshop on effective educational intervention for children with Asperger's Disorder. Dozens of educators and parents from across the country and abroad attended the workshop on Thursday, July 20th through Sunday, July 23rd at The Help Group's Sherman Oaks Campus & the Semel Institute at UCLA to hear experts present the latest information on the best practices in educating children and adolescents with Asperger's Disorder. The program was co-chaired by Dr. Barbara Firestone, President and CEO, The Help Group, and Dr. David Feinberg, Medical Director, Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA/Semel Institute, Professor of Psychiatry & Biobehavioral Science, School of Medicine at UCLA. The Program Chair was Dr. Laurie Stephens, Director, The Help Group Autism Spectrum Disorders Program.

The workshop highlighted a comprehensive overview of current best practices in education for Asperger's Disorder; interactive sessions focusing on social skills training and behavior modification in the classroom; and the latest research findings and the implications for educational practices.

Attendees had an opportunity to tour The Help Group's Village Glen School which was established 10 years ago to serve students with

Asperger's Disorder and high-functioning autism. Village Glen school was established when Asperger's Disorder was considered a new diagnostic category and little information was available about how to treat these children. Today, Village Glen is the largest and most comprehensive school of its kind in the United States, serving more than 400 students on a daily basis.

Leaders in the field of Asperger's Disorder presented the latest educational practices during the workshop. From The Help Group institute faculty included, Mary Bauman, Ph.D., Clinical Coordinator, Village Glen School, Pamela Clark, M.A., Director, Village Glen, Bridgeport & Sunrise Schools, Limor Dankner, M.Ed., The Pace Program of Village Glen School, Denise Kwan, Director, Occupational Therapy Services, Village Glen School, Phillip Levin, Ph.D., Program Director, The Help Group/UCLA Neuropsychology Program, and Sarae Shenkin, M.A., Curriculum Coordinator.

Leading experts from the Semel Institute at UCLA comprised of Susan Brookheimer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Connie Kasari, Ph.D., Professor of Psychological Studies in Education, UCLA Graduate School of Education & Information Sciences and Bhavik Shah, M.D., Medical Director, ABC Child Partial Program, Resenick Neuropsychiatric Hospital at UCLA.

Special guest presenters included Emily Iland, B.A., Co-author, *Autism Spectrum Disorders from A to Z* and her son, Tom Iland, Village Glen graduate and current college student.



1. David Feinberg M.D., MBA 2. Barbara Firestone, Ph.D. 3. Laurie Stephens, Ph.D. 4. Connie Kasari, Ph.D. 5. Susan Bookheimer, Ph.D.
6. Pamela Clark, M.A. 7. Rhonda Berlin 8. Emily Iland, B.A. 9. Fred Frankel, Ph.D. 10. Limor Dankner, M.Ed. 11. Sarae Shenkin, M.A.
12. Philip Levin, Ph.D. 13. Bhavik Shah, M.D. 14. Ruth Kang 15. Tom Iland 16. Samantha Sawyer 17. Mary Bauman, Ph.D.