

The third Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health (AIR-B) grant, known as AIR-B3, focuses on families with children with autism living in under-resourced communities. The first year of this five-year grant has started with an annual conference, **Autism: More than a Spectrum Supporting Children and Families**. It provided an introduction of this new project to about 250 participants, consisting of parents, service providers, and self-advocates. We were able to ask a few questions during the breakout sessions that gave us information needed for early access to care and school transitions. Mind the Gap, one of the two interventions of this grant focuses on helping under-resourced families get earlier access to care. The other intervention, Building Better Bridges, will help children with ASD from under-resourced families transition more successfully throughout their schooling. The breakout sessions have been transcribed by members of our lab and will be discussed and analyzed along with the focus groups transcriptions.

We will be conducting focus groups in early February of this year. Since September 2015, we have been having weekly calls with our partners in the University of Rochester, UPENN, and UC Davis to develop the focus groups. We have agreed on guidelines, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and information needed to develop both Mind the Gap and Building Better Bridges interventions. We have obtained IRB approvals and are near finalizing scripts, consents, flyers, and agreement on how we will analyze the data.

An important achievement of this first year of the grant is the expansion of our community partnerships. We started with Healthy African American Families, Westside Regional Center, Harbor Regional Center, Vista del Mar Child & Family Services, and First 5 LA as our partners. We recently have expanded our partnerships to Fiesta Educativa, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, and the Children's Collective. We will be working with these partners to help find the participants needed for our projects.

We have also been working on the second project for the first year of Building Better Bridges. We will be conducting the Social Dynamics of Intervention (SoDI), an Autism Transition Network. Dr. Elizabeth McGhee Hassrick from Drexel University, our AIR-B partner and one of the creators of this intervention, has been helping us organize this project. To better understand transition experiences, we will follow 2 families in their transition from preschool to elementary and 2 families in their transition from elementary to secondary school. The ASD Team Transition Network will include families and the support staff identified by the families. Teachers, service providers, paraprofessionals, other school personnel, and administrators who work with the families will be interviewed to determine best practices and challenges that students with ASD encounter when transitioning to a new school site. This project along with the focus groups will give us a better understanding on what we need to include for the Building Better Bridges intervention. We have the material ready and we will start looking at recruitment in April 2016.