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Office of Developmental Disabilities to host Communication Partners training series

Norristown, PA (September 24, 2012) – The Montgomery County Office of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting a series of training opportunities for direct care providers to improve the nonverbal communication skills of individuals with developmental disabilities.

The sessions, called Communication Partners, are designed to ensure that direct support professionals receive training to help facilitate communication as a basic human right. The project is supported through a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (www.paddc.org). Trainings will be held on Tuesdays, beginning September 25, at the Human Services Center in Norristown, and will be conducted by Kevin J. Cohen, M.S. CCC-SLP. Cohen is a speech and language pathologist specializing in augmentative communication and assistive technology.

According to the Office of Developmental Disabilities, a quarter of the individuals it serves do not communicate effectively through speech. Of these, a disproportionate number are in a minority group. Therefore, the Communication Partners training sessions will focus on improving the communication skills of individuals in minority groups, although it is open to direct care providers of all individuals with developmental disabilities who cannot communicate effectively.

Direct care staff will be given tools to be more proactive in facilitating effective communication on a daily basis. The trainings will also provide opportunities for sharing the learned skills with other employees, so that these practices can spread among staff at organizations serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Montgomery County.

For more information about the Communication Partners training series, please contact Danielle Duckett at 610-278-1242 or dduckett@montcopa.org.