

**UW LEND Trainee – Leadership Project Proposal
2022-2023**

Program: Seattle Children’s Autism Center

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Project Title: Collaborative Autism Project in Schools (CAPS)

Describe the Need:

CAPS aims to increase needed access to Autism diagnostic evaluations for diverse and underserved families within their local communities and schools. CAPS builds on the existing team model utilized at Seattle Children’s in partnership with 5 local school districts. CAPS aims to (1) increase access to care given burgeoning waitlists for evaluation, (2) improve equitable access to care, and (3) demonstrate the impact and cost effectiveness of cross systems collaborative ASD team models.

Brief Description of Proposed Project:

CAPS is a new initiative focused on increasing access to diagnostic assessment, evidence-based care and Autism awareness in collaboration with diverse school districts across Washington state. CAPS teams are formed together with school district psychologists, speech pathologists and special educators to reach underserved children and their families within their local communities. The LEND trainee will gain experience in evaluating needs in diverse communities to shape implementation of CAPS in South King county. This proposed project aims to evaluate the support needs of the Vietnamese, Somali or Spanish speaking community (in that order) in South King County, particularly Federal Way School District as CAPS is implemented. Depending on trainee interest, a secondary goal is to demonstrate the benefit and cost effectiveness of the Bellevue School District CAPS.

Project Goal and/or Desired Outcome:

Completion of 1-2 focus groups in Federal Way to evaluate needs of a targeted community (Vietnamese, Somali or Spanish speaking). Secondary goal to evaluate Bellevue CAPS program implementation including time to assessment from referral, time from assessment to school programming/IEP, time from assessment to community-based services, use of interpreters and gaps in care.

Proposed Roles/Responsibilities of the UW LEND Trainee(s): *Include number of trainees desired*

The LEND trainee may evaluate and summarize implementation of Bellevue CAPS data and will complete 1-2 focus groups in Federal Way. The LEND trainee will also participate in 2 CAPS assessments to better understand the evaluation process.

List Any Desired Trainee Prior Experiences or Skills:

The LEND trainee should be well versed in evaluation of Autism and have a strong interest in community collaboration aimed at diverse communities. Fluency in the language of the targeted focus group community is a priority.