

Working Outside “The Cube” in the Treatment of Students with Asperger Disorder

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Agenda

- The evolutionary role of counseling centers
- Asperger Disorder
 - History
 - Diagnosis
 - Prevalence
- Treatment in a university counseling center
 - Traditional Treatment Approach
 - Alternative Treatment Approach
 - Treatment Issues
- Q & A

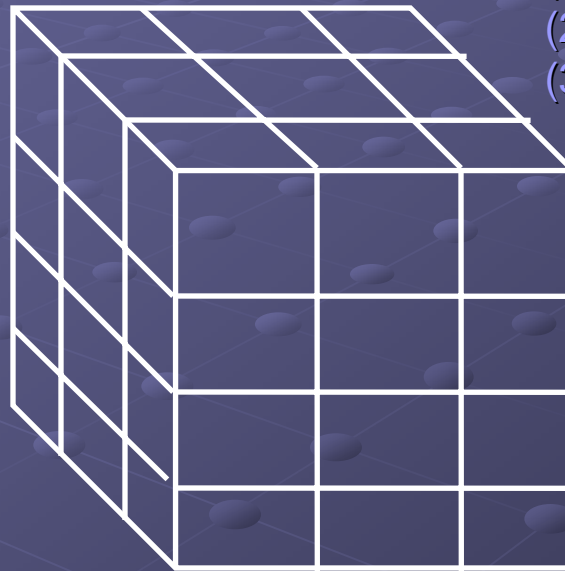
Learning Objectives

- Diagnostic criteria of Asperger Disorder
- Develop an interdisciplinary approach in treatment
- Build a collaborative community
- Learn alternative treatment approaches that are less traditional

Evolution of the Counseling Centers

A. Target of Intervention

- (1) Individual
- (2) Primary Group
- (3) Associational Group
- (4) Institution or Community



B. Purpose of Intervention

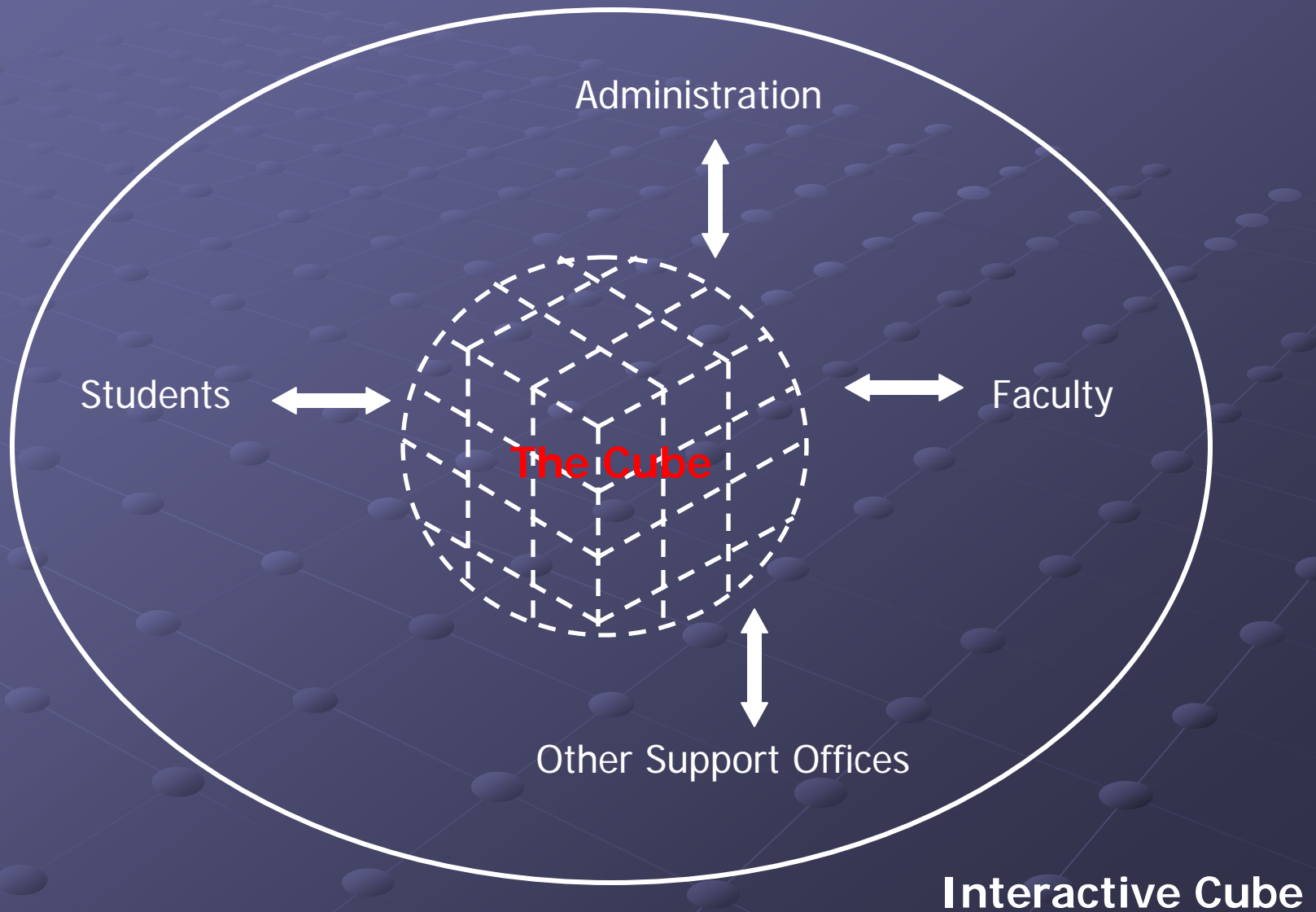
- (1) Remediation
- (2) Prevention
- (3) Development

The Cube Model

C. Method of Intervention

- (1) Direct Service
- (2) Consultation and Training
- (3) Media

Evolution of Counseling Centers



History of Asperger Disorder

- Hans Asperger, a Viennese physician, in 1944.
- Wing published a paper in 1981 about 35 individuals between the ages of 5-35.
- 1994, APA added it to the DSM – IV as a pervasive developmental disorder
- The past couple of years there has been a phenomenal increase in recognition and awareness.

Diagnostic Criteria for Asperger Disorder

- A. Qualitative impairment in social interaction**
- B. Restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests, and activities**
- C. The disturbance causes clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning**
- D. There is no clinically significant general delay in language**
- E. There is no clinically significant delay in cognitive development or in the development of age-appropriate self-help skills, adaptive behavior (other than social interaction), and curiosity about the environment in childhood**
- F. Criteria are not met for another specific Pervasive Developmental Disorder, or Schizophrenia.**

Prevalence

- The DSM - IV TR lacks a prevalence estimate
- More common in males
- As many as 48 per 10,000 children (Kadesjo, Gillsberg, & Nagberg, 1999)
- Autism debate

Treatment in a University Counseling Center

- How can the student be successful?
- Traditional Treatment
 - Adjustment/Acceptance
 - Behavior modification
 - Social Interaction
 - Decrease in emotional outbursts
 - Skill development
 - Medication intervention

Treatment in a University Counseling Center

● Alternative Treatment Approach

- Accommodation
- Education
 - Individual
 - Departmental
- Exploration
 - Interest, Skills, and Career Counseling

● Treatment Issues

- Session limits
- Group vs. Individual
- Resistance to collaborate

Thank you.
Please complete an
evaluation for this
presentation.

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