Sage 100 ERP | Customer Success

Wisconsin Early Autism Project: Improving Children's Lives

Autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, affecting one child in 500. The only proven treatment to date is a form of in-home behavioral therapy developed by O. Ivar Lovaas, Ph.D., of UCLA. His techniques are used by the Wisconsin Early Autism Project (WEAP), a private organization that receives state funding for preschool-aged children with an IQ over 35.

WEAP sends specially trained therapists into the homes of autistic children for 35 to 40 hours of intensive instruction every week. The results are impressive. Almost half of WEAP's students move into the "average" range for social and adaptive skills and show IQ increases of about 45 points after just one year of treatment. Many of its children improve enough to be mainstreamed into regular schools and lead normal lives.

Information Disconnect

Working with autistic children is often exhausting. To avoid burnout, WEAP rotates its therapists, so each person spends limited hours each week with an individual child. Many of its therapists work only part-time. Tracking staff hours to prepare accurate paychecks can be a tricky task. WEAP took over a DOS version of Sage 100 ERP* from its CPA firm in 1995, when it grew large enough to handle accounting processes in-house. Migrating to the Windows® version was a logical next step in recent years.

Alongside Sage 100 ERP, WEAP maintained a custom SQL database. Created by Network Technology Solutions, LLC, the database stores client information including addresses, hours of therapy received, names of parents, and lists of therapists assigned to the team. WEAP also used The Medical Manager, an off-the-shelf physician practice management system that addresses the financial, administrative, clinical, and practice management needs of healthcare providers.

None of its three information systems were integrated. Data had to be entered to a state form for billing, then to a Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet for payroll balancing, and finally to the payroll system. The process was error-prone and time-consuming.

*Sage 100 Premium ERP was named Sage ERP MAS 200 SQL when Wisconsin Early Autism Project initially implemented this solution. The product names have been updated in this case study to reflect current naming.

Customer
Wisconsin Early Autism Project

Industry
Healthcare

Location
Wisconsin

Number of Locations
Six

Number of Employees
800

System
Sage 100 Premium ERP
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- Business Alerts
- Sage Fixed Assets
- General Ledger
- Payroll
- Visual Integrator

Challenge
Integrate three separate information systems and automate business processes through one dependable platform.

Solution
Sage 100 Premium ERP financial and Payroll modules.

Results
Solid, dependable platform; automated business processes and improved efficiency; streamlined integration and dataflow between information systems.

Making the Connection

Upgrading to the Sage 100 Premium ERP version afforded a perfect answer. It provided the link needed for electronic communications between the in-house developed database and the Sage 100 ERP payroll system.

"Payroll is our biggest function," explains Michael Benesh, director of administration. "Unfortunately, most of our payroll-related processes cannot be streamlined yet because they involve official documents or time sheets that parents must sign off on. So it's essential that we automate anything we can. Having Sage 100 ERP integrate with our SQL Server® database is a big step in the right direction."

Converting its legacy Sage 100 ERP system to the SQL version proved to be easier than anticipated. "It hasn't required much of a change from a user's perspective," comments Michelle Krueger, senior accountant. "I've worked on many different software products before. I find Sage 100 ERP to be very user friendly and easy for staff members to learn. We've had to do very little troubleshooting."

Benesh and Krueger say they look forward to exploring SAP® Crystal Reports for Sage 100 ERP soon. "Although we generate a tremendous volume of data, we really function a lot like a small clinic," Benesh comments. "But we're growing quickly. We foresee advanced reporting functions becoming more important in the future."

Most of all, Benesh appreciates the stability offered by Sage 100 ERP. "It provides a remarkably solid platform," he says. "Problems are few and far between. We've become pampered, knowing we can depend on Sage 100 ERP to stay up and running—no matter what."

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> Michael Benesh
> Director of Administration
> Wisconsin Early Autism Project

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Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. At Sage, we live and breathe business every day. We are passionate about helping our customers achieve their ambitions. Our range of business software and services is continually evolving as we innovate to answer our customers' needs. Our solutions support accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services, and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 12,300 people and supports more than 6 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the website at www.SageNorthAmerica.com or call 866-996-7243. Follow Sage North America on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/SageNorthAmerica and Twitter at: http://twitter.com/#!/sagenamerica.

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