



AUTISM WORKGROUP

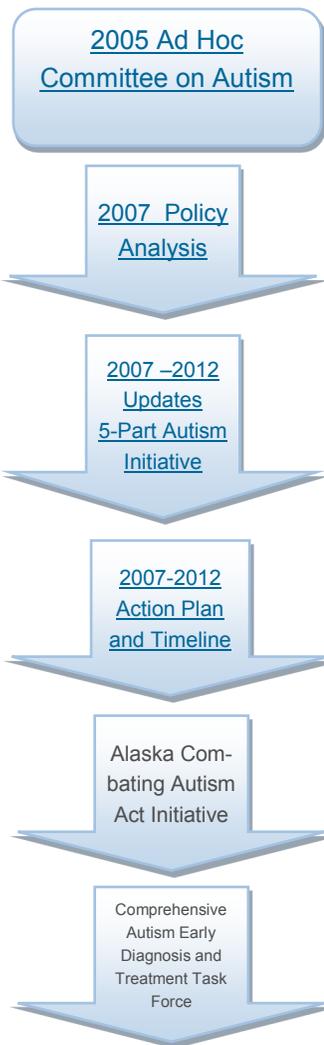
Stakeholder’s Meeting—2/27/2015 9am-12p Alaska Mental Health Trust Bldg.

In this email:

- Key accomplishments of Autism Stakeholder groups in AK
- Summaries and links to AK Autism reports (*click links below to access full text where available*)
- Future steps for AK Autism stakeholders

Getting Ready

The purpose of this email is to give you, the Stakeholders for Autism initiatives in Alaska, a historical perspective of where the state has come thus far and where we’re going. We hope this information will help to ensure the development of a service delivery system that *further* meets the needs of individuals and family members of those experiencing autism.



A service needs assessment was conducted to determine what was needed in Alaska to serve children experiencing autism and their families. The needs spanned medical services, educational services, home and community-based services, parent training, and service provider development. This committee then prioritized the needs into five recommendations focusing efforts on expansion of autism resources and referral services, use of a universal screening for autism, increased capacity for comprehensive, timely assessments and diagnosis, workforce development capacity building, and Medicaid changes that ensure time-

This policy analysis sets out to describe the four ways Alaskans typically access support services for family members experiencing Autism. They include early intervention/infant learning programs, school district special education programs, Senior and Disability Services for home and community based Medicaid waiver or grant funded services, and through private therapists and/or paraprofessionals. The report then describes possible means of expanding access to autism treatments through Medicaid; specifically, Deficit Reduction Act (DRA), adoption of new Medicaid waivers (e.g., 1915c or 1115a), Medicaid and Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment, and finally autism private insurance mandates.

The Governor’s Council published this brief document to describe each broad category in the Five-Part Autism Initiative and the progress that was underway (at the time the report was released). Status was reported for (1)universal screening for autism (2) expanded diagnostic capacity (3) enhanced resources, referral, and training (4) workforce training (5) time-limited intensive early intervention. The document also describes the work of partners across the state in implementing various aspects of the plan.

This one page list and timeline (beginning at the inception of the plan in 2007 through 2012) defines each of the action steps taken to successfully implement the Five-Part Autism Initiative under the Governor’s Council Ad-Hoc Committee on Autism.

The CAAI, a federal grant managed by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, successfully responded to problems presented by the lack of a cohesive system of care in Alaska. In rural Alaska, the goal of CAAI was to improve and coordinate the system of early identification, developmental screenings and diagnosis of children suspected with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders. A second goal addressed the need for children aged 0-3 to be connected with early intervention services and a medical home. Finally, work was done to align with goals established by Autism Ad Hoc Committee and ECCS plan to assure continuity and work collaboration as a long-term sustainable plan.

Following legislative action in 2012 mandating private companies offer health insurance in the state to cover services and treatment for Alaskans with ASD, the Comprehensive Autism Early Diagnosis and Treatment Task Force set out to provide further information about legislative action that may be required to address state needs. Goals and recommendations were made for state provision of services, however few (if any) of the needs identified would specifically require legislative action to amend state statutes related to the state’s system of ASD screening and early identification, diagnosis, treatment, and access/funding.

Next Steps: *Multi-disciplinary assessments and expansion of diagnostic capabilities, Access to educational and behavioral services, Psychopharmacology and Specialized Intensive Treatment Units, Capacity-building for primary care physicians and medical homes.*



Creating change that improves the lives of Alaskans with disabilities

Governor's Council on Disabilities, Autism Work Group Strategic Planning Work Session

Friday, February 27th (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

Facilitated by Heidi Wailand, Managing Associate, Agnew::Beck Consulting

LOCATION

- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

OBJECTIVES

- Kick off the strategic planning process for a new five-year plan for Autism
- Review and agree on workgroup purpose and process for producing and infrastructure for supporting implementation of the plan
- Establish a shared vision for Alaska's Autism service delivery system
- Identify priority areas and discuss preliminary strategies (as time allows)

AGENDA

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| 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Get settled, say hi, grab coffee, make some notes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond to brief survey regarding priority areas |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. | Meeting goals and process overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review meeting goals• Review proposed process for producing and infrastructure for supporting the implementation of the five-year plan |
| 9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Setting the Stage: Where have we been? Where are we now? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief overview of Autism-related accomplishments and reports (one page overview)• Review purpose, core values, and promise |
| 9:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. | Visioning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is our long-term vision for an Autism system that supports individuals with Autism and their families? |
| 9:50 p.m. – 10:35 p.m. | Taking Stock |
| 10:35p.m. – 10:45 p.m. | Break |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:45a.m. | Strategic Direction: Targets and Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the measurable change we would like to see over the next year, over the next five years?• Priority Areas – Establish criteria and rank priority areas |
| 11:45 a.m. – 12 p.m. | Recap and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review session outcomes and discuss next steps |

Proposed Process and Infrastructure

Strategic Plan Development

1. Convene entire workgroup to kick off strategic planning effort [February 2015]
2. Develop a draft framework for the new five year plan [March 2015]
3. Convene entire workgroup to complete strategic planning effort [April 2015]
4. Evaluate and celebrate successes; document lessons learned; and update strategic plan and action plans [Annually]

Action Plan Development

5. Request designation of an ad hoc committee to allow for creation of workgroups [Spring 2015]
6. Identify number and focus of workgroups [April 2015]
7. Recruit additional participants to join workgroups as appropriate [Ongoing]
8. Convene workgroups to develop recommended action plans [May/June 2015]

Implementation

9. Convene entire ad hoc committee on a quarterly basis for the life of the plan [2015-2020]
10. Leverage workgroups to guide, implement and monitor implementation efforts [2015-2020]

Taking Stock

What do we have in place?	What is missing?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening and diagnosis in rural and urban Alaska • Workforce development of MS level BCBA's (LEND) • Private insurance coverage required • Parent navigator program • Access to evidence-based treatment in schools for K-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce development of bachelor's and tech level professionals • No designated State position focused on Autism; need a permanent place at the table • We have no adult education or meaningful activities including employment. • Insurance and Medicaid coverage • Doctors who can effectively communicate with non-verbal adults and have knowledge of Autism • Access to evidence-based treatments, particularly as one gets older
What challenges exist?	What opportunities exist?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to quality medical care (high utilization of the ED by adults with Autism) • Poor high school graduation rates • Lack of housing options • Lack of meaningful employment • Lack of police, public safety awareness • BCBA's being actively recruited out of state • Establishing a qualified workforce in rural Alaska • Establishing structures and mechanisms that support appropriate compensation • Support for families caring for individuals with an ASD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health is looking at PCMH for kids with special needs • Family-driven needs assessment (by Women's, Children's and Family Health) • Litigation in progress to require expanded insurance coverage