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## **Intro**

*Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES legislation grantees, published by AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC) in partnership with AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC). Its purpose is to share news, activities, events, research, and accomplishments across grantee areas - research, training, and state implementation*

## **MCHB Minute**

### [MCHB Update DMCHWD](#)

Autism Awareness Month is a perfect time to acknowledge the many ways in which the Autism CARES grantees make a difference in the lives of children with ASD and other developmental disabilities (DD), and their families. This quarter's MCHB Minute is about our gratitude for all that you do! [Read more...](#)

## **CARES Network Announcements**

### [SAVE THE DATE! Upcoming SPHARC/ITAC Coffee Talk- Meaningful Inclusion of People on the Autism Spectrum](#)

AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center, in partnership with the Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center, is proud to host a virtual coffee talk on a hot topic related to Autism in honor of Autism Awareness Month. This coffee talk is focused on the AASET project and will feature Dr. Stephen Shore, the project co-lead. Tune in for an overview of AASET and key strategies for meaningful inclusion of people on the Autism Spectrum in multiple settings, as well as an open discussion among all attendees around this topic of interest. [Read more...](#)

## **Training Topics**

### [NJLEND Presents Twice Born: Stories from the Special Delivery Unit](#)

New Jersey's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program (NJLEND) at Rutgers University, hosted Twice Born: Stories from the Special Delivery Unit, a continuing education event highlighting the principles of family-centered care. The session shed light on one family's experience with fetal surgery, the intricacies of navigating the healthcare system, and the complex relationships between healthcare professionals and parents as shown in the Emmy Award-winning PBS series. [Read More...](#)

### [Minnesota LTSAE, MNLEND & MN Latino Childcare Providers Collaboration](#)

MNLEND Fellow, Alice Kraiza, housed in the ICI at the University of Minnesota, is collaborating with leaders of the Latino Childcare Providers Network (La Red), a Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) provider group based out of Richfield and Bloomington, Minnesota. La Red/The Network's Director, Ruth Evangelista, and Alice are developing a new training program on early developmental milestones and signs of Autism using "Learn the

signs. Act Early." materials and resources for the wider Latinx FFN network. Per Evangelista, "I believe this training is a good for la Red. [Read More...](#)

### [Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders: How the Nisonger LEND Program at The Ohio State University Provides Training in Technology Supports](#)

MNLEND Fellow, Alice Kraiza, housed in the ICI at the University of Minnesota, is collaborating with leaders of the Latino Childcare Providers Network (La Red), a Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) provider group based out of Richfield and Bloomington, Minnesota. La Red/The Network's Director, Ruth Evangelista, and Alice are developing a new training program on early developmental milestones and signs of Autism using "Learn the signs. Act Early." materials and resources for the wider Latinx FFN network. Per Evangelista, "I believe this training is a good for la Red. [Read More...](#)

## **Research Roundup**

### [Transitions Over the Life Course for Individuals with Autism](#)

Early identification of and intervention for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have traditionally garnered a significant portion of public attention and spending. However, with an estimated 60,000 youth on the autism spectrum turning 18 years old in 2016\*, understanding the factors associated with risk and resilience in adulthood is of significant public health importance. Notably, both research and anecdotal accounts indicate that adults with autism tend to suffer from poor life course outcomes, including but not limited to unemployment, underemployment, and social disengagement. [Read More...](#)

### [AIR-P Network Activities](#)

The Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health (AIR-P), led by Karen Kuhlthau, PhD, conducts research on evidence-based interventions to improve the physical health and well-being of children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities, with an emphasis on reaching underserved communities. [Read More...](#)

### [AIR-B Network Activities](#)

The Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health (AIR-B) provides a free annual community conference to increase awareness of autism services, current research, and evidence-based interventions in the local regions of each of its network partners: University of Pennsylvania, UC Davis MIND Institute, University of Rochester, and University of California, Los Angeles. Experts in the network share their expertise and invite other prominent autism advocates to discuss topics ranging from non-clinical based autism interventions, to parent advocacy, to school-based transition supports for students with autism. [Read more...](#)

### [Better Together: Developmental Screening and Monitoring Best Identify Children who Need Early Intervention](#)

Children at risk of developmental disabilities or delays who receive both monitoring and screening are more likely to receive the early interventions they need than their peers who receive either monitoring or screening, according to a study led by Dr. Brian Barger—a researcher at the Georgia State University and Policy Fellow with the "Learn the Signs. Act Early." team at NCBDD. [Read more...](#)

## State Stories

### [Updates from the State Public Health Autism Resource Center](#)

As mentioned in the previous Developments issue, SPHARC, in partnership with HRSA, is continuing to support the new Autism Community of Learners state grantee cohort as they continue work in Year 2 of the grant cycle. [Read more...](#)

## Collaborators' Corner

### [Autism Town Hall: Partnering with Primary Care Pediatricians, Meaningful Inclusion, and Gender Differences](#)

The "Autism Town Hall" event, hosted by SPHARC and ITAC, was held at the 2018 AMCHP Annual Conference in Arlington, VA. It provided a platform for current and former Autism CARES grantees, as well as those working at the state systems level and other community members, to dialogue with national partner organizations and each other about priorities and ideas for how to make progress toward a coordinated, comprehensive system of services for autistic individuals. The event was an opportunity to hear from groups working on ASD/DD issues and discuss ways to promote alignment with existing efforts. [Read more...](#)

### [Largest Group of Act Early Ambassadors in History Complete Annual Training at NCBDDD/CDC](#)

Twelve newly selected Act Early Ambassadors joined forces with a veteran cohort of forty-three Act Early Ambassadors representing 50 states and 4 territories on the campus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the Annual Act Early Ambassador Training on March 14 & 15, 2018 hosted by the Learn the Signs. Act Early. Team at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD)/CDC along with project partners from the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP). [Read more...](#)

### [IACC Summary of Advances in Autism Spectrum Disorder Research 2017](#)

The 2017 Summary of Advances provides short, plain language summaries of the top 20 research articles selected by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC). The studies selected for 2017 have provided new insight into potential biomarkers to predict risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), developmental trajectories of children with ASD, and the impact of the various prenatal exposures on ASD risk. The advances also include studies that investigated treatments and interventions for both ASD and co-occurring conditions, the impact of policy changes on ASD health care spending, patterns of injury mortality, and prevalence differences across demographic groups. [Read more...](#)

## **ITAC Items**

### [April 2018: Autism Awareness & Acceptance](#)

Autism Acceptance: AUCD envisions a future in which all people - including those living with autism and related developmental disabilities - are fully included, participating members of their communities. Autism Awareness: We advocate for equitable access to supports and services that lead to self-determination, independence, productivity, and a healthy and satisfying quality of life. [Read more...](#)

### [AUCD Emerging Leaders Map](#)

The AUCD Emerging Leaders Map highlights diverse trainees and early career leaders across AUCD's network. Each person was selected for inclusion on the map based on their contributions to the network, how they have demonstrated leadership, and their values and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and respect for others. [Read More...](#)

## **Meetings**

### [2018 LEND Directors Meeting](#)

June 7-8, 2018, Bethesda, MD

This is the first of two meetings (the other held in coordination with the AUCD Conference) for LEND Directors in 2018. It will be a valuable opportunity for LEND Directors to network, learn from one another, and engage in collaborative work on topics of mutual interest. The meeting is hosted by AUCD's Interdisciplinary Technical Assistance Center on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ITAC), with funding support from MCHB.

### [AUCD Conference 2018](#)

November 11-16, 2018 , Washington, DC

Have you launched a new program or published new research? Are you working on a collaboration or creative idea that others in the field should know about? We invite you to share your knowledge with colleagues from across the country at the AUCD2018 Conference!

## **Recent Activities**

### [Webinars](#)

Tuesday, April 24, 2018  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

[Screening and Linkage to Services for Autism \(SaLSA\): Study of Patient Navigation for Low Income Families](#)

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

[Promoting a Partnership Between Interpreter Services and Providers Conducting Interdisciplinary Developmental Assessments](#)

**To receive information on AUCD's 2018 Autism Webinar schedule, join the [AUCD Autism Special Interest Group](#).**

## **About**

Developments is a newsletter for Autism CARES programs funded under MCHB. The content of this newsletter has been generated by program staff and trainees, and does not necessarily reflect the views and policies of HRSA-MCHB. No official support or endorsement by HRSA-MCHB is intended or should be inferred. This publication is funded in part by cooperative agreement #UA5MC11068.