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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

[Greetings HRSA Autism CARES Grantees!](#)

Through this issue of Developments, we highlight a MCHB-supported program with important connections to Autism CARES grantees - the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA) program. Before we do, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous work that Autism CARES grantees are doing in extraordinary and challenging times. You swiftly transformed coursework, clinical care and research opportunities to virtual mechanisms, you are testing new and innovative ways to conduct your work, and importantly you are striving to assure the health and well-being of the children and youth and their families that you serve. We are grateful for all of your efforts. [Read more...](#)

CARES Network Announcements

[Seeking Volunteers / Nominations for a New Autism CARES Planning Committee](#)

To follow up on the successful 2019 in-person Autism CARES grantee meeting, AUCD (in partnership with HRSA-MCHB and AMCHP) will be establishing a planning committee for one or more virtual activities to take place in 2020. [Read more...](#)

Research Roundup

[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 Staying Strong](#)

Every year, the Autism Intervention Research Network on Behavioral Health (AIR-B Network; PI: Connie Kasari) partners get together for their annual leadership meeting and on the following day, they host a free autism conference for families. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically changed plans for the five universities of the network - UCLA, UC Davis, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rochester, and Drexel University. UCLA, this year's hosting site, decided with their local community partners to indefinitely postpone the conference, which usually attracts over 200 people. And for the first time, the leadership meeting was held entirely virtually. [Read more...](#)

[Evaluating the Role of the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule in ASD Diagnoses by Developmental-Behavioral Pediatricianst](#)

The DBPNet ADOS study has successfully enrolled nearly 350 subjects across 7 DBPNet sites in the US. In addition, colleagues in Linz, Austria have independently collected data on nearly 40 additional subjects, employing the same approach as the US sites. [Read more...](#)

[Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Award to RFK Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center](#)

The RFK Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation Center received an award from Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to provide a set of evidence-based interventions for preschool and school aged children in the Bronx with Autism.

[Read more...](#)

[Effect of Standardized Patients on Pediatric Clinical Confidence in Audiology Students](#)

The United States is facing a shortage of trained pediatric audiologists. Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs and doctor of audiology programs are striving to provide evidence-based training for pediatric audiology students through use of trained standardized patients. The purpose of the current project was to measure the effect of standardized patients on audiology students' clinical confidence when delivering difficult news in a pediatric setting. [Read more...](#)

[College Scholarships for Students with Autism](#)

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is accepting applications for the 2020 OAR Scholarship Program through Monday, May 4, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Applicants can apply to either the Schwallie Family Scholarship or the Lisa Higgins Hussman Scholarship. Each offers \$3,000 scholarships to students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (DSM-IV or DSM-5 criteria) pursuing full-time, post-secondary, undergraduate education in the United States. [Read more.](#)

Training Topics

[Indiana LEND offers online reflective practice opportunities for state's Part C providers amid Coronavirus outbreak](#)

The Riley Child Development Center's LEND is partnering with Indiana's Part C program, First Steps, and infant mental health association, Infancy Onward, to offer free online reflective practice opportunities beginning this week. The groups are facilitated by RCDC-LEND faculty and regional partners who are infant mental health specialists. [Read More...](#)

[**MNLEND Teams Launch Projects**](#)

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is hosting three free webinar events in the coming months on the topics of crisis safety planning, self-determination, and travel training. The first, Seminar in Crisis Safety Planning for the ASD Population, will be presented by Scott Fowler on Thursday, April 9 at 11a.m. ET. Fowler will discuss wandering and elopement, working with first responders, seclusions and restraints, and bullying in the school environment. Both professionals and parents will come away with best-practice tools to support children and teens with ASD. Register for Seminar in Crisis Safety Planning for the ASD Population here. [Read More...](#)

[**OAR Offers Autism Webinars on Safety, Self-Determination, and Transportation**](#)

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is hosting three free webinar events in the coming months on the topics of crisis safety planning, self-determination, and travel training. The first, Seminar in Crisis Safety Planning for the ASD Population, will be presented by Scott Fowler on Thursday, April 9 at 11a.m. ET. [Read more...](#)

State Stories

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

SPHARC, in partnership with HRSA, is continuing to support the newly awarded Autism Community of Learners 2019-2022 state grantee cohort. Grantees include: Iowa; North Carolina; Tennessee; Virginia and Wisconsin. [Read more...](#)

[**Vanderbilt Kennedy Center \(TN IDDRC, UCEDD, LEND\) produces new webinar trainings amid COVID-19 pandemic**](#)

The rapidly evolving challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have caused countless disruptions for individuals with disabilities and families across the country. In response, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's (TN IDDRC, UCEDD, LEND) Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders (VKC TRIAD) has developed a variety of resources for individuals with disabilities, families and caregivers, providers, and diagnosticians. [Read more...](#)

[**Vanderbilt Kennedy Center \(TN IDDRC, UCEDD, LEND\) produces new webinar trainings amid COVID-19 pandemic**](#)

Providers and researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center have developed a novel training program to enhance pediatric medical resident training in the area of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. A collaborative team of expert physicians and psychologists (through the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Treatment and Research Institute for Autism Spectrum Disorders [VKC/TRIAD]) designed the program to give residents a clear methodology and decision pathway regarding how and when to use interactive diagnostic tools within practice and how to provide diagnostic feedback to concerned caregivers. [Read more...](#)

Collaborators' Corner

[1Health Adds MN LEND](#)

The MNLEND fellowship program was accepted as a designated 1Health Interprofessional Activity, the University of Minnesota's interprofessional education curriculum initiative that brings together students from a wide range of health-related disciplines. 1Health challenges medical, dental, social work, public health and other students to cultivate skills in teamwork, communication, and collaborative care. [Read more...](#)

[Facing Your Fears in Schools: Managing Anxiety and Emotion Regulation in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

The Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM) has hired Ashwak Hassan (MNLEND Fellow, 2015-16) to help multicultural families affected by autism navigate and access services that lead to better lives and communities. Under a two-year Minnesota Department of Human Services Innovations Grant, Hassan will bring AuSM together with the Somali American Parent Network and the Multicultural Autism Action Network to streamline how families navigate services and increase their participation and meaningful engagement with culturally appropriate supports. [Read more...](#)

[Moving the Needle- A Quality Improvement Initiative to Improve Access for Autism Diagnostic Evaluations](#)

The Waisman Center Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic is an interdisciplinary clinic that provides comprehensive diagnostic evaluations and ongoing medical care for infants, children and adolescents who have or are at risk for autism spectrum disorder or other significant neurodevelopmental disabilities. Our clinic team is composed of developmental behavioral pediatricians, audiologists, psychologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, nurses and nurse practitioners, social workers, and medical assistants. [Read more...](#)

[Autism Resources Available Online](#)

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) produces high-quality informational resources for parents, teachers, self-advocates, and siblings in the autism community. All of our resources can be accessed for free on our website, including a new page of accurate information and helpful suggestions for autism families facing challenges presented by COVID-19. [Read more...](#)

[Father Communication Coaching \(FCC\) Program for Children with ASD](#)

Parent involvement is critical for communication development for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, fathers are often overlooked in communication intervention and research. Fathers have unique communication and interaction styles that can improve communication skills for children with ASD. Through their interdisciplinary project, Father Communication Coaching (FCC). [Read more...](#)

[Supporting Minnesota Jobseekers with Disabilities](#)

Parent involvement is critical for communication development for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, fathers are often overlooked in communication intervention and research. Fathers have unique communication and interaction styles that can improve communication skills for children with ASD. Through their interdisciplinary project, Father Communication Coaching (FCC). [Read more...](#)

[Coping with Coronavirus: Support for the Autism Community](#)

Parent involvement is critical for communication development for young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, fathers are often overlooked in communication intervention and research. Fathers have unique communication and interaction styles that can improve communication skills for children with ASD. Through their interdisciplinary project, Father Communication Coaching (FCC). [Read more...](#)

ITAC Items

[Autism Acceptance Month Webinar Series](#)

AUCD's Autism Special Interest Group (SIG) is sponsoring a series of four webinars for Autism Acceptance Month. Topics will range from parent training to reducing disparities to treating mental health issues in people with ASD. We will also sponsor a special webinar aimed at the engagement of autism stakeholders in research and service initiatives. [Read More..](#)

[AUCD Central Office is Hiring!!](#)

Interested in working for a national disability organization in the Washington, DC area? Passionate about growing diverse and skilled leaders? If you or someone you know can answer "yes" to any or all of these questions, consider working for AUCD! [Read more....](#)

News from HHS

[HHS Coronavirus\(COVID-19\) Updates](#)

Together with our federal partners, HHS is working to strengthen our frontline health care providers, first responders, and local communities and to bring together the top experts and researchers so that we can protect the health and well-being of the American public.

[Read more...](#)

Meetings

[2020 Leadership Academy](#)

June 21-26, 2020 - Atlanta, GA

Upcoming Activities

[Webinars](#)

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.