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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](#)

As we near the end of 2017, we can reflect on and be proud of the many accomplishments across all of our Autism CARES programs! Together, we are improving the care and outcomes for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities (DDs) through training, advancing best practices, and service. We are advancing innovative approaches to reach underserved populations that increase access to comprehensive coordinated care. [Read more...](#)

CARES Network Announcements

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

In preparation for the 2018 Autism CARES Network virtual activities, AUCD is looking for planning committee members who can represent the voices of the training, research, and state systems change grantees. This year as we expand the planning committee to represent the diverse perspectives within the CARES network, we are seeking nominations from grantees; self-nominations are welcome. While we continue to value the wisdom and expertise of established network leaders, we are also hoping to leverage new ideas from emerging leaders involved with implementing the goals of the grantee network. If you are interested in participating in the planning committee or would like to nominate someone from your program, project or coalition, please email Sarah DeMaio at sdemaio@aucd.org. [Read more...](#)

Training Topics

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

In preparation for the 2018 Autism CARES Network virtual activities, AUCD is looking for planning committee members who can represent the voices of the training, research, and state systems change grantees. This year as we expand the planning committee to represent the diverse perspectives within the CARES network, we are seeking nominations from grantees; self-nominations are welcome. While we continue to value the wisdom and expertise of established network leaders, we are also hoping to leverage new ideas from emerging leaders involved with implementing the goals of the grantee network. If you are interested in participating in the planning committee or would like to nominate someone from your program, project or coalition, please email Sarah DeMaio at sdemaio@aucd.org. [Read more...](#)

[Including Family Voices to Improve Service Delivery to Multilingual & Underserved Young Children with ASD](#)

The ASD Family Voices Project is an initiative of Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) that focuses to improve service delivery to multilingual and underserved young children (3-5 years) with ASD and their families. In the 2016-2017 school year, MPS and MNLEND launched a collaborative partnership to create an evaluation project to analyze the effectiveness of MPS services and processes for multilingual children and families who receive services in the Early Education, Special Education and Multilingual Departments. The project design included a literature review, an analysis of MPS student data, development and implementation of a family survey, analysis of survey results and recommendations for an ASD Family Voices Project 2.0. [Read More...](#)

[North Carolina Shares Reflections on the Contributions of Self-Advocates in LEND Training](#)

To advance equity and to enhance leadership skills, self-advocates with intellectual/developmental disabilities are now part of the cohort of trainees in the University of North Carolina LEND, which means that they fully participate in the Interdisciplinary Leadership Development Program, a collaboration among programs in public health, social work, and LEND, which meets monthly. To evaluate the impact of this new participation by self-advocates, the program has conducted a study analyzing the reflections of graduate students on the contributions of self-advocates to their leadership training. At the conclusion of the program each year, graduate students respond to a questionnaire about how self-advocates influenced the content and interactions/discussions of the monthly workshops and are asked to provide specific examples to explain their perceptions. The 12 MCH leadership competencies were used to guide the coding of the comments for this qualitative, directed content analysis. The results of this study demonstrate that the inclusion of self-advocates throughout an interdisciplinary leadership development program for graduate students in health affairs can strengthen MCH leadership competencies for all participants as they enter an increasingly interdisciplinary workforce. [Read More...](#)

[RI LEND/DBP Connections](#)

The Division of DBP at Brown/Hasbro Children's Hospital has graduated 19 DBP fellows since 2003 when they were one of the first programs to receive ACGME accreditation. Ten of their graduates, as well as 6 current fellows and 3 additional faculty members attended the 2017 SDBP Annual Meeting in Cleveland OH. In addition, 15 RI LEND trainees observed a press release from the Rhode Island congressional delegation at an inclusive school, child care and early intervention center, Meeting Street. [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 underserved communities. Two key goals of the AIR-P network are 1) to conduct multi-site research on evidence-based interventions that improve physical health of children and adolescents with ASD and developmental disorders, especially underserved populations and 2) to transform AIR-P into a multi-site Learning Network (LN) which will provide a collaborative laboratory for

developing and testing evidence-based interventions and accelerating the adoption of effective interventions and system management approaches into practice. [Read More...](#)

[DBPNet Finds More Prescription of Psychotropic Medication for Young Children with ASD and Medicaid Compared to Private Insurance](#)

The Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet) is a 14 site Network whose mission is "to conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary research in developmental and behavioral pediatrics that advances clinical practice, supports research training, and optimizes the health and functional status of children with developmental and behavioral concerns and disorders, including children with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities". [Read more...](#)

[New R41 Funded to Expand Pathways to Early Screening and Intervention for Underserved Toddlers with ASD](#)

The UW READi Lab received a 3-year HRSA award in September 2017 for a grant entitled, "Expanding Pathways to Early Screening and Intervention for Underserved Toddlers with ASD." The purpose of the PATHWAYS project is to reduce health care disparities and improve early access to ASD-specialized services for low-income English- and Spanish-speaking families. We are partnering with health care, early intervention, and early learning agencies/programs. In the first phase, we are conducting focus groups with community providers and families to understand the barriers and facilitators to communicating about ASD concerns. Based on the information obtained, we will design shared decision-making materials for use in the second phase of the grant. [Read more...](#)

State Stories

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

AMCHP's State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC) has released several new resources and technical assistance opportunities designed to aid and assist Autism and other Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD) grantees. [Read more...](#)

[Introducing the Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy Family Navigation Online Training Module](#)

The purpose of the module is to provide resources, and support family navigators to allow Washington Autism Alliance and Advocacy to be a known resource for medically underserved families with children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or a developmental disability (DD). It was created as a way to facilitate where and how families can find immediate answers to questions they may have. Health systems in the state of Washington are difficult to navigate by families who may be overwhelmed. Our hope is that through this readily accessible online format, both families and professionals can access essential information that we have collected over many years of research and advocacy. [Read more...](#)

[Expanding Statewide Developmental Screening and Monitoring through Deputy Ambassador Network](#)

Our AMCHP State Systems grant has identified "L TSAE Deputy Ambassadors" from across the state to assist the State Ambassadors in disseminating information about L TSAE in order to support the use of these resources as a component of Child Find and parent supported developmental monitoring. During our first two years of this grant, we have recruited thirty "Deputy Ambassadors" canvassing the entire state of California. We have worked with the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN), which is an existing statewide network of trainers from our education system, developmental disabilities (Part C) system and family resource centers. [Read more...](#)

Collaborators' Corner

[CDC's Milestone Tracker App Now Available!](#)

CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program is pleased to announce the release of the Milestone Tracker app for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). This new app helps parents, early care and education providers, and healthcare providers track developmental milestones in young children. The app's many features include interactive milestone checklists for ages 2 months through 5 years, photos and videos to help parents recognize milestones, and tips and activities for supporting early development. Parents can use the app to easily share developmental progress with their child's healthcare provider and others and receive appointment and developmental screening reminders.

To download the app, visit the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#) and search "CDC's Milestone Tracker." Visit www.cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker to learn more about the app and print a free promotional flyer or poster.

[Would you like to be a CDC "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Ambassador? The RFA is Available Now!](#)

AUCD, the CDC, and HRSA are excited to announce the RFA for a new 2018-2019 cohort for the Act Early Ambassadors: State and Territorial Liaisons to CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Program. Please see the Act Early Ambassador Program overview below, and follow the link below to view and download the request for applications. The request for applications is also attached to this email. [Read more...](#)

[Updated Educator's Guide Available from OAR](#)

The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) prides itself in the evidence-based information resources it shares with self-advocates, their parents, educators, and paraprofessionals. Among these materials are the eight "Life Journey Through Autism" guidebooks that OAR has published since 2003. The ninth and newest guide in that set is "[Life Journey Through Autism: An Educator's Guide to ASD \(Level 1 Supports\)](#)," a revision and update of the "[Educator's Guide to Asperger Syndrome](#)." [Read more...](#)

["Friends Give Meaning to Life:" Reframing Friendship for Individuals with Autism that Type to Communicate](#)

The *Review of Disability Studies* has published a range of research & multimedia reviews

focused on autism including "['Friends Give Meaning to Life: Reframing Friendship for Individuals with Autism that Type to Communicate.'](#)" Taken from a series of recorded conversations over the course of a year, this project describes the development, maintenance, and complications related to our experiences with friendship, including: reframing of friendships, respect for communication, facilitator roles and support, interdependence and reciprocity, and permanency in relationships. The two able-bodied authors and two authors with autism use a disability studies framework to understand their experiences of friendship. To learn more about being published or viewing past publications featuring autism, visit <http://rdsjournal.org>. [Read more..](#)

ITAC Items

[Five Programs that Increase Diversity, Improve Program Evaluation or Leverage Technology to Provide Statewide Technical Assistance and Training Awarded Supplementary Project Funds Through AUCD](#)

In July of 2017, AUCD indicated an ability to provide supplementary funding and targeted assistance to programs working to address these identified areas of need in ways that could be replicated by other programs or could benefit the broader network. After careful review of a diverse pool of program proposals, five programs were selected to receive up to \$8,000 in supplemental funding. [Read more...](#)

[Training Focused Summary of Federal Transition Report](#)

In August of 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the 2017 Report to Congress: Young Adults and Transitioning Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, which found that there is a critical need for research and better coordinated services targeted to youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who are transitioning to adulthood. ITAC staff developed a brief summary of the HHS report that pulled out items relevant to the LEND and DBP training programs. This document offers a number of direct links to datasets, analyses, and other source material used in the full report that may be relevant to programs seeking additional information on transition activities across the federal government. [Read More...](#)

Meetings

[AMCHP 2018](#)

February 10-13, 2018

Arlington, VA

The schedule of workshops and skills-building sessions for the 2018 AMCHP Annual

Conference has been posted online! See the topics you'll get to explore and the experts you'll learn from when you join 800 leaders, practitioners, and advocates in Arlington, Va., Feb. 10-13. Register by Jan. 5 to receive an early bird discount.

[Making Lifelong Connections - MCH Training: Taking the Next Steop](#)

April 11-13, 2017

Tampa, FL

Current and former trainees from MCHB-funded programs are invited to participate in a unique opportunity to enhance leadership skills, meet other current and former MCHB trainees, gain presentation experience, learn from peers, and develop skills in defining and reaching career goals.

[2018 National Self Advocacy Conference](#)

June 7-9, 2018

Birmingham, AL

The self-advocates on the conference committee chose the artwork picturing Lady Justice to represent the theme of the 2018 National Self Advocacy Conference: "Let's Make It Happen! Disability Rights are Civil Rights." The logo and theme emphasizes that People with Disabilities want to pursue freedom just like everyone else. It is a right that belongs to all Americans with a disability. The National Self-Advocacy Conference has always been a great place for people to learn, grow and advocate with their peers and allies who truly support civil rights..

[AUCD Leadership Academy](#)

June 24-29, 2017

Atlanta, GA

The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) in partnership with the Center for Leadership in Disability at Georgia State University (GSU) is pleased to announce the AUCD LEADERSHIP ACADEMY. The AUCD Leadership Academy is a week-long program designed to enhance the skills of current and emerging leaders from the disability network to build coalitions to improve systems of supports and services. Application deadline will be March 2, 2018.

Recent Activities

[Archived Webinars](#)

November 15, 2017

[Intersections Between Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health and Autism: Identification and Intervention](#)

November 14, 2017

[Customized Employment - Opening Doors for People on the Autism Spectrum](#)

October 24, 2017

[Social Communication Interventions for Preverbal and Minimally Verbal Children with ASD](#)

October 18, 2017

[Mental Health Diagnosis in IDD: Bio-psycho-social Approach](#)

June 28, 2017

[Managing the Anxious Behaviors of Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

May 18, 2017

[Pathways to Employment for Transition Aged Youth and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

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.