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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

[Update from the Division of MCH Workforce Development](#)

As we near the end of 2018, we want to thank our Autism CARES programs for all that you do to improve the care and outcomes for children, adolescents and young adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities (DDs). Our collective efforts are increasing access to early and appropriate developmental screening, diagnostic, and intervention services, improving the effectiveness of support services available to youth making the transition to adulthood and enhancing care coordination and service delivery for children and adolescents with ASD and other DDs. [Read more...](#)

CARES Network Announcements

[Now Archived: Autism in the Context of Ableism: Culture, Identity, and Quality of Life](#)

Through a series of three virtual activities entitled, "Autism in the Context of Ableism: Culture, Identity, and Quality of Life," the network of MCHB-funded Autism CARES grantees explored the topic of ableism in September and October of 2018. Each of the interactive webinars in the series was recorded and is now available (including supporting documents) to grantees for asynchronous viewing on the ITAC website. [Read more...](#)

[Mark Your Calendars: 2019 Autism CARES Grantee Meeting](#)

The 2019 Autism CARES Meeting will be held in-person on July 18-19* at the historic Mayflower Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. This meeting, will be an opportunity for MCHB-funded CARES legislation grantees (representing research, training, and state demonstration stakeholders) to share information about activities within their respective networks, discuss emerging trends, and facilitate meaningful collaboration. [Read more...](#)

[Call for Nominations: Seeking Nominations for the 2019 Autism CARES Planning Committee](#)

In preparation for the 2019 Autism CARES Meeting, AUCD is looking for planning committee members who can represent the voices of the training, research, and state systems grantees. [Read more...](#)

Training Topics

[VT LEND provides distance accessibility program to Self-Advocate trainees and others](#)



Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (VT LEND) is a distance accessible program meaning all participants, regardless of where they live, are able to participate in all program components. (<http://www.med.uvm.edu/vtlend/home>) This effort began with our need to train individuals living in rural parts of Vermont who could not participate when we required in person presence. In 2016 when our collaboration with the US Virgin Islands (USVI) began to provide LEND training to individuals there, we solidified our commitment to having a distance accessible program. [Read More...](#)

[LEND Fellows Past and Present Lead Multicultural Autism Action Network](#)

Maren Christenson Hofer joined the MNLEND Fellowship cohort this 2018-2019 year. As the parent of an autistic child, she is keenly aware of challenges faced by families trying to navigate educational, medical, therapeutic, and other support and service systems to ensure that their autistic children's needs are met. Maren currently serves as a leader in the Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN), a non-profit organization built on the idea that navigating autism support and service systems can be incredibly complex for families, and even more overwhelming when differences in culture, language, and power dynamics are at play. Two additional MNLEND Fellow-Alumni are engaged in supporting MAAN's work: Mariam Egal (Minnesota Dept. of Health Coordinator) and Fatima Molas (respiratory therapist; parent-advocate). Another MAAN member, Dr. Delia Samuel, has served as guest faculty for MNLEND. [Read More...](#)

[The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities \(LASARD\) Project supports school districts across the state by providing training and coaching in evidence-based practices for students with ASD](#)

The Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disabilities (LASARD) Project has been a partnership between the LSUHSC Human Development Center and the Louisiana Department of Education since 2006. The overall purpose of LASARD is to improve outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related disabilities by developing a pool of highly effective educators across the state. [Read More...](#)

[The Parent Autism Support Service \(PASS\) at the University of WA LEND: A unique model of care coordination for families of children diagnosed with autism](#)

The Parent Autism Support Service (PASS) at the University of Washington Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (UW LEND) is a program to support parents in the early months after a diagnosis of autism. The PASS Program is run by the Family Leadership Discipline of the UW LEND program. This program serves children seen in the Child Development Clinic at the University of Washington Center on Human Development and

Disability. [Read More...](#)

DBPNet Activities

The Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics Research Network (DBPNet) is a partnership between 14 of the country's leading DB pediatrics clinical, training, and research programs and the only national professional society devoted exclusively to developmental-behavioral pediatrics, the interdisciplinary Society for Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP). [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. Family leaders serve on the AIR-P advisory group and local advisory groups, they review grants and manuscripts, and participate in all projects. [Read More...](#)

Loss of Two Colleagues, Friends, Role Models

The Autism Intervention Research Network for Behavioral Health (AIR-B) is celebrating the lives of two extraordinary individuals, Dr. Tristram Smith, Ph.D., and Dr. Loretta Jones, M.A., Th.D. Both individuals made substantial contributions to building meaningful partnerships in their communities, as well as communities across the country. [Read more...](#)

The 2nd Healthy Weight Research Network Symposium: Promoting Healthy Weight in Children & Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Current Research and Future Directions

This free symposium will provide a forum for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, people with disabilities, family members, and other interested individuals to learn about current research in the field related to promoting healthy weight for children intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through knowledge translation and dissemination this interdisciplinary symposium provides an opportunity to shine a light on the need for evidence-based health promotion programs, practices, and policies on behalf of this population. [Read more...](#)

Autism Longitudinal Data Project * finds that cytokines (leptin, adiponectin) and rapid growth during infancy are associated with ASD risk

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funded Autism Longitudinal Data Project (ALDP) which leverages the Boston Birth Cohort (BBC), led by Dr. Xiaobin Wang. The BBC is a prospective birth cohort study on pre- and peri-natal determinants of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and developmental disabilities. The BBC is predominantly an urban low-income minority birth cohort consisting of over 8,600 mother-infant pairs and is one of the largest U.S. prospective birth cohort studies on ASD and other developmental disabilities. [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...](#)

[Improving Health through Trauma-informed Approaches for Individuals with Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities, their Families and Caregivers](#)

The Annual Meeting of the Washington Autism Advisory Council was held last month at the Tukwila Community Center in Tukwila Washington. The Washington Autism Advisory Council (WAAC) is a statewide partnership of autism organizations, family members, medical providers, educators, and state agencies working together to influence policy and services for individuals with autism and their families. The council meets once a year to share news and updates about autism-specific events, programs, and activities as well as to address current challenges faced in access to services and supports for those impacted by autism. Approximately 65 people attended from a cross-section of Family Support Organizations, University of Washington, the Autistic Adult community, researchers, behavioral specialists, and State Agencies. [Read more...](#)

Collaborators' Corner

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

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) with support from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), announce a funding opportunity for Act Early Ambassadors to work with CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." RFA for CDC's "Learn the Signs. Act Early." 2019-2020 Ambassador Program (.PDF). [Read more...](#)

[Pamela High, MD Receives C Anderson Aldrich Award in Child Development](#)

Pamela C High, MD, Program Director for RI LEND and Brown's Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics training programs has recently been honored with an award in the field of child development. Dr. High is the 2018 recipient of the C. Anderson Aldrich Award in Child Development presented by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for her contributions to the field. [Read more...](#)

[Autism Friendly Initiative at Boston Medical Center](#)

At Boston Medical Center, we recognize that healthcare encounters can be particularly challenging for our patients on the autism spectrum, and therefore launched our Autism Friendly Initiative. Patients with ASD have various sensory and communication needs, which can make the fast-paced and often over-stimulating hospital environment particularly challenging. [Read more...](#)

[Coach to Communicate \(C2C\)](#)

The Coach To Communicate project provides a webinar and face-to-face/online individual parent coaching sessions at no cost for parents, caregivers, teachers, and service providers of children with autism spectrum disorder. Participants will be instructed in how to improve the communication skills of their own children. [Read more...](#)

ITAC Items

[Save the Dates: 2019 Autism SIG Webinars](#)

AUCD Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are made up of individuals within and outside the AUCD network that have common topical interest. SIGs serve as a mechanism for sharing information, engaging in dialogue, and generating new ideas. Because SIGs are driven by the interests of the AUCD membership, new SIGs may emerge while ones that have run their course may disband. Within AUCD's Autism SIG, the listserv (aucd_autism@lists.aucd.org) functions as a great tool for sharing relevant topics, content, activities, and general networking. We welcome you to utilize the listserv in the ways you see fit for the advancement of the collective mission of this SIG!. [Read more...](#)

[What's New in AUCD's Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit](#)

Introducing the redesigned Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit! Following feedback regarding the previous website, AUCD has made modifications that improve user friendliness, accessibility of resources, and general site updates. While the content remains the same, users can now expect a responsive menu to easily navigate through resources based on needs. In addition, the redesigned site places a greater focus on "Case Studies," or success stories shared by programs and organizations on initiatives implemented to enhance diversity, inclusion, and cultural and linguistic competence. [Read More...](#)

Meetings

[EPM-RRTC State of the Science and Annual Disability Statistics Compendium Event](#)

February 12-13, 2018

Washington, DC

Registration is FREE. The EPM-RRTC State of the Science and Annual Disability Statistics Compendium offers both in-person and webcast participation options. Please register if you plan to attend in-person or via webcast. The agenda, presenters, and logon procedures (for web viewers) will be emailed to you as they become available.

[The 2nd Healthy Weight Research Network Symposium: Promoting Healthy Weight in Children & Youth with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

Friday April 5, 2019

Boston, MA

This free symposium will provide a forum for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, people with disabilities, family members, and other interested individuals to learn about current research in the field related to promoting healthy weight for children intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through knowledge translation and dissemination this interdisciplinary symposium provides an opportunity to shine a light on the need for evidence-based health promotion programs, practices, and policies on behalf of this population.

[Mark Your Calendars: 2019 Autism CARES Grantee Meeting](#)

July 18-19, 2019

Washington, DC

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Recent Activities

[Webinars](#)

[National Center on Disability in Public Health Series](#)

Jan.8, 2019 - Feb.12, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Transition in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Wednesday, January 30, 2019 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

Early Identification in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Monday, February 25, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST

Diversity in Autism Spectrum Disorders

Monday, March 18, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ET

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.