

Missouri's Response to Autism Spectrum Disorders

“Learn the Signs, Act Early”

Regional Summit

Kansas City, Missouri

February 28 and 29, 2008

Missouri's Response to Autism

- Increasing awareness and unity
- Missouri Autism Coalition and Voices for Autism
- Missouri's Blue Ribbon Panel announced April 2007
- Our mission is to define steps necessary to implement best practices in treatment, training, research and family supports

“Show-Me” Partners’ Timeline

- 1991- 1993 Missouri Autism projects
- 1995 MRDD funds University of Missouri Autism Clinic
- 2002 Senate sub-committee symposium on autism
- 2003 Missouri’s Autism Research and Response Agenda
- 2004 Missouri Autism Project Registry foundational paper
- 2005 MU Thompson Center endowed
- 2006 Missouri’s Rapid Response to Autism Initiative
- 2006 Missouri Autism Coalition and Voices for Autism
- 2007 Blue Ribbon Panel and Report
- 2008 Missouri Autism Centers of Excellence are funded
- 2008 Missouri joins IANExchange group, “State Collaborations”
- 2008 * Missouri Commission on Autism and Office of Autism Services



Missouri at a Glance

- The Division of Mental Retardation, Developmental Disabilities is responsible for ensuring prevention, evaluation, and habilitation services for people with developmental disabilities. Autism is specifically named in eligibility statutes and regulations.
- Other key access points include Elementary and Secondary Education (First Steps, Parents as Teachers, Head Start) , Health and Senior Services (Special Health Care Needs), local county boards created by Senate Bill 40, Missouri Autism Projects, and the Missouri Autism Centers of Excellence.

“Mind the Gap,” i.e. the transition

- Transition from birth to 3 services
- Transition from early childhood
- Transition from high school to meaningful employment or meaningful day
- Transition to adult services, including residential services

Coordination between home, school, programs and treatment

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Ongoing Challenges

- Continuing collaboration at the individual, local and state level
- Balancing diagnostic, assessment and evaluative services with direct services offered in the home, school or community
- Developing standards and services that are responsive, cost-effective, evidence-based and non-duplicative
- Continuing the present momentum with sufficient human and financial capital

