



Texas Summary



Act Early Region 6 Summit

March 13-14, 2008

Albuquerque, New Mexico

[Overview]

- All Texas participants were asked to provide their:
 - Top three opportunities in supporting families who have members with autism;
 - Top three challenges in supporting families who have members with autism; and
 - Initiatives of their organization

[Overview]

- Prompts were not any more specific so that organizations could respond
 - With their unique perspective; and
 - With no pressure to conform to responses to others.

Respondents

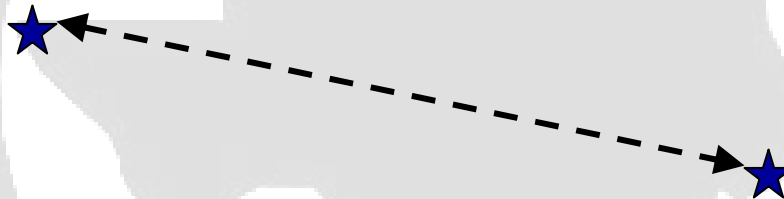
- 8 from State of Texas Organizations
 - Texas Council for Autism, Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
 - Children's Policy Council, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
 - Texas Health and Human Services Commission
 - Texas Department of Family and Protective Svcs
 - Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
 - Texas Department of Aging and Disability Svcs
 - Region 13 Education Service Center
 - Texas Education Agency

[Respondents]

- 3 from Parent Organizations
 - Autism Society of America San Antonio Chapter
 - Autism Society of America Northwest Houston
 - Any Baby Can
- 3 from University Settings
 - Texas Center for Disability Studies
 - University of North Texas
 - University of Texas Health Science Center
- 1 Legislative Representative

When looking at responses, remember...

- The distance between Beaumont (east Texas) and El Paso (west Texas) is greater than the distance between New York and Chicago.



- We have 254 counties: Harris County has 3.8 million people and Loving County has 60 people
- We have four major cities
- We border Mexico

Observations

OPPORTUNITIES

- Services
- Technical Assistance
- Collaboration
- Research
- Policy

CHALLENGES

- Services
- Funding
- Collaboration
- Technical Assistance
- Information Dissemination
- Foster Families

Observations

Opportunities

1. Services-early
2. Services-early
3. Services-early
4. Services-early
5. Services-early
6. Services-early
7. Services-early
8. Services
9. Services
10. Services
11. Services
12. Services
13. Services
14. Services -Med
15. Services -Med
16. Services -Adult

Challenges

1. Services-early
2. Services-early
3. Services-early
4. Services-early
5. Services-early
6. Services-early
7. Services-early
8. Services
9. Services
10. Services
11. Services
12. Services
13. Services /Funding
14. Services /Funding
15. Services -Adult
16. Services -Respite
17. Services -TA
18. Services -Culturally diverse

[Initiatives]

- Services
- Technical Assistance
- Information Dissemination
- Policy Collaboration
- Research

Autism Supplement


- The supplement is a guideline for consideration when making decisions on providing services. The considerations are unique to students with autism. But when the considerations are looked at, any decisions made using those considerations will be made by the student's ARD Committee. The supplement is provided for ARD committees to use with autistic students.
- -- **DeEtta Culbertson, spokeswoman, Texas Education Agency**

http://blogs.chron.com/schoolzone/2008/01/cheat_sheet_autism_school_supp.html

[Autism Supplement -Summary]

- (1) extended educational programming (including extended day and extended school year services that consider behavior, communication, academics, social skills and self-help skills) ;
- (2) daily schedules that reflect minimal unstructured time and active engagement in learning activities
- (3) in-home and community-based training or viable alternatives that assist the student with acquisition of social/behavioral skills

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- (4) positive behavior support strategies based on relevant information
 - (5) future planning for integrated living, work, community, and educational environments that considers skills necessary to function in current and post-secondary environments;


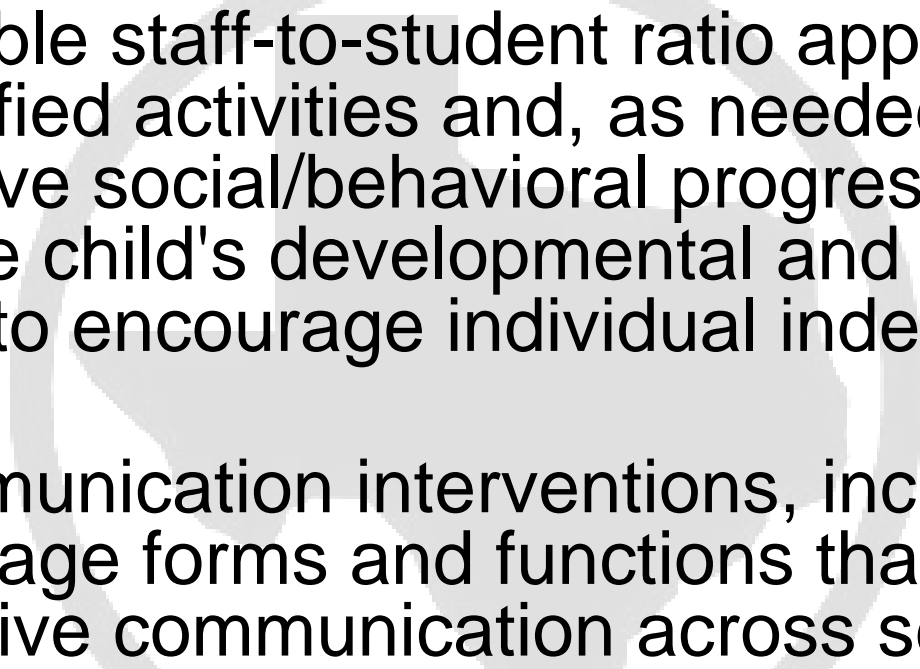



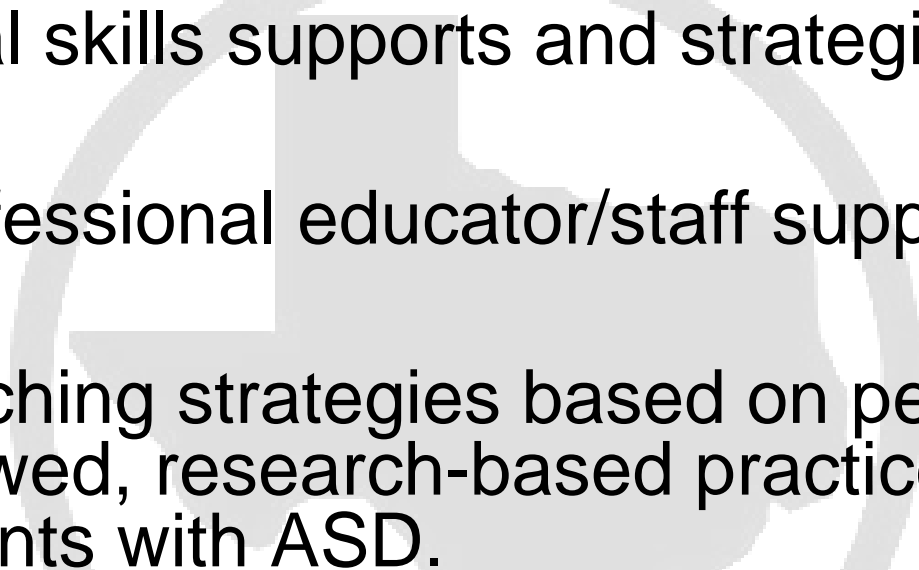
(6) parent/family training and support, provided by qualified personnel with experience in Autism Spectrum Disorders, that:

(A) provides a family with skills necessary for a child to succeed in the home/community setting;

(B) includes information regarding resources, such as videos, conferences and support groups;

(C) facilitates parental carryover of in-home training;

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- (7) suitable staff-to-student ratio appropriate to identified activities and, as needed, to achieve social/behavioral progress based on the child's developmental and learning level to encourage individual independence;
 - (8) communication interventions, including language forms and functions that enhance effective communication across settings;

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- (9) social skills supports and strategies
 - (10) professional educator/staff support; and
 - (11) teaching strategies based on peer reviewed, research-based practices for students with ASD.

**-- Michelle M. Guppy, Northwest Houston Chapter
Autism Society of America**

http://blogs.chron.com/schoolzone/2008/01/cheat_sheet_autism_school_supp.html

[House Bill 1919]

- Coverage must be provided to children between two and six years of age diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- Health insurance plan must provide coverage for services prescribed for autism in the treatment plan by the primary care physician.

Generally recognized services may include:

- evaluation and assessment services;
- applied behavior analysis;
- behavior training and behavior management;
- speech therapy;
- occupational therapy;
- physical therapy; or
- medications or nutritional supplements used to address symptoms of autism spectrum disorder.

[Current Action on HB 1919]

- Texas Department of Insurance has developed a preliminary draft rule for the Autism Spectrum Disorder portion of HB 1919.
- This draft is for early discussion purposes and the Department will still issue an informal draft for public comment at a later date, as well as the required proposed rule before the rule is finally adopted.