

# Ohio's Interagency Work Group on Autism

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## Work Plan

*Under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the state Interagency Work Group (IWG) on Autism was convened in January 2008 with an over-riding purpose to identify opportunities to coordinate state agency efforts that support individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. The group's Work Plan builds upon the focused effort behind the recommendations of the 2003 Ohio Autism Task Force, and is organized around six guiding priorities and a set of short term deliverables with target dates for completion. State agency leads have been identified to facilitate the work, which will accomplish results through active partnership with state agency partners, and the families, advocates, and providers who care for Ohioans with autism.*

*The Plan reflects the collective input of the state Work Group membership which includes representatives from the Governor's Office, the Office of Budget and Management, the Executive Medicaid Management Administration, Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, and the Ohio Departments of: Mental Health, Education, Job and Family Services, Health, and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.*

**Priority 1:**

**Develop a statewide system of early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities**



Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	IWG Leads	Completion Timeline
1. Coordinate multiple state agency efforts to develop a standard of practice for early developmental screening	Communication links are established between current state screening activities: Autism Diagnosis Education Pilot Project (ADEPP), National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), Ohio Child Health Improvement Partnership (OCHIP), and Help Me Grow (HMG)	ODH	Oct. 08
2. Establish a statewide standard of practice for clinical diagnosis of autism	An evaluation report outlining the project findings of the ADEPP project and recommendations for replication will be completed	ODH	Jan. 09
3. Coordinate public awareness activities to address the value of early identification	Opportunities to link public awareness activities generated through ADEPP, NASHP, OCHIP and HMG will be identified	ODH	Sept. 09

**Priority 2:**

**Support evidence based, high quality, cost-effective models for intervention services for children with autism and other developmental disabilities**



<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>IWG Leads</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
1. Heighten the standards of quality and accountability for providers of behavior intervention services through a work team convened by the State Board of Psychology	A set of recommendations to determine any necessary revision of regulations related to training and credentialing requirements for professionals providing intensive behavior intervention services will be written and implemented	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Mar. 09
2. Promote a “positive intervention culture” statewide, with a commitment to using non-violent approaches to supporting individuals with significant behavior challenges	Training resources in support of positive behavior interventions and non-violent approaches will be provided statewide.	<b>ODMRDD</b>	June 09
3. Establish guidelines as a standard for social skills training, beginning at the stage of early intervention	Upon examination of models recognized nationally for social skills training, the feasibility for developing guidelines applicable to Ohio's service delivery structure will be determined	<b>OCALI</b>	Sept. 09
4. Catalog evidence-based treatment/ intervention models to make available to families (including identification of core elements common to effective intervention programs)	Through national review, a report outlining intervention strategies that are substantiated by research and recognized as evidence based practices will be completed	<b>OCALI</b>	Dec. 09
5. Pilot test a standardized online planning template to unify and improve the quality of individualized program plans across disciplines and systems	A template for a comprehensive program planning process with emphasis on assessment, intervention design, and systematic implementation will be created	<b>OCALI</b>	Mar. 09
6. Update and disseminate Ohio's Service Guidelines for Individuals with Autism	Key revisions needed to update Ohio's current Services Guidelines document will be identified	<b>OCALI</b>	May 09
7. Build support for the concept of a flexible intensive support waiver	A waiver concept paper will be available for stakeholder review and feedback	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Dec. 08
8. Update the regulations governing the Autism Scholarship Program to reflect the current language of the Ohio Revised Code	Proposed changes to the regulations will be complete	<b>ODE</b>	Jan. 09

**Priority 3:**  
**Build the number of qualified professionals serving individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities**



<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>IWG Leads</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
1. Create an in-service training methodology to deliver varying levels of information about autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities to a wide variety of disciplines and audiences for general information, continuing education, and professional development	Autism training opportunities will be incorporated into already existing mechanisms for continuing education and professional development for state agencies and their local counterparts	<b>OCALI</b>	June 09
2. Outline steps for coordinated communication among Ohio colleges and universities to promote expansion of available undergraduate and graduate coursework relevant to ASD and other developmental disabilities	Baseline information about the quality and availability of existing autism coursework for teachers will be determined	<b>OCALI</b>	June 09

**Priority 4:**  
**Increase support for caregivers and service providers through information exchange about autism spectrum disorders and the service delivery system**



<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>IWG Leads</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
1. Launch an interactive website to highlight Ohio's autism initiatives, including web links to all IWG member agencies	A home page and landing pages for each IWG member agency will be created	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Dec. 08
2. Coordinate efforts to work with OCALI in building a comprehensive online provider directory to identify local services and supports, representing multiple service systems	Resources within IWG member agencies (and their local counterparts) will be identified and appropriate links established to OCALI's provider directory	<b>ODMRDD</b>	April 09
3. Increase dissemination of Ohio's Parent Guide to Autism Spectrum Disorders across IWG member agencies and local counterparts	A process of systematic dissemination of Ohio's Parent Guide through IWG member agencies will be established	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Dec. 08
4. Develop a systematic process for ongoing, and reciprocal communication with Ohio's Autism Coalition, comprised of key advocates statewide	In conjunction with the Autism Coalition, mechanisms and a regular schedule for information sharing will be established	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Nov. 08

**Priority 5:**

**Promote the development of “regional hubs” that are affiliated with the university and medical community and serve as the foundation of effective service and support delivery for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities**



<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>IWG Leads</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
1. Identify existing and effective local agency partnerships specific to autism services and supports across the state	A status report on the membership and activities of the Regional Autism Advisory Councils statewide will be completed	<b>OCALI</b>	Feb. 09
2. Identify opportunities to build linkages between existing state agency regional efforts	A summary of existing regional service delivery models across IWG member agencies will be compiled	<b>ODMRDD</b>	May 09
3. Explore the potential of building a “regional hub” concept grounded with the expertise of entities including OCALI, children’s hospitals, universities, and service and advocacy networks.	Regional partners to support a statewide collaborative model of assessment, service brokerage and delivery, and transition planning will be established	<b>ODMRDD</b>	July 09

**Priority 6:**

**Promote successful models for transitioning throughout the lifespan**



<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>IWG Leads</b>	<b>Completion Timeline</b>
1. Develop effective training and resources for young adults with ASD or other disabilities that are transitioning from school to work, or to higher education, and independent living	A regional model to support young adults to successfully transition from school to work will be developed, piloted, and deployed. The State Work Group on Secondary Transition will provide input and guidance on the development of training and resources.	<b>ODE</b>	Oct. 09
2. Build capacity for employment opportunities through regionally based employer driven business leadership networks	A statewide survey of employment needs of individuals with autism and other disabilities will be completed	<b>RSC</b>	June 09
3. Review Ohio’s current and future housing options to identify needed improvements to ensure the health and safety of individuals choosing to live in the community	Work on a statewide housing plan with the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, through the Technical Assistance Collaboration, will be initiated.	<b>ODMRDD</b>	Feb. 09