

## Work Plan Updates January – June 2009

*Under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the state Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA) developed a Work Plan in October 2008. The Work Plan was built upon the focused effort behind the recommendations of the 2005 Ohio Autism Task Force. It contained six guiding priorities, and a set of short term deliverables with target dates for completion. The Plan reflected 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.*

*In trying economic times this Work Plan offers the state attainable activities that can achieve positive results in the short term with little financial expense through building more coordinated state and local partnerships and capitalizing on already existing services and supports statewide. The IWGA Work Plan is a launching point ... action to keep momentum and focus on critical issues affecting many Ohioans on the spectrum and their families.*

Priority 1:  Develop a statewide system of early identification of autism and other developmental disabilities	Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
	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)	OCHIP and ODH have established links between the entities involved and they have developed a standard of practice for early childhood developmental screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Developmental Screening with a standardized tool - - Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) or Parents Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) at 9, 18, and 24/30 months of age</li> <li>• Autism Screening with the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) at 18 and 24 months of age</li> <li>• Next step will be use of a standardized tool for social/emotional screening such as ASQ-Social/Emotional</li> </ul>

**Priority 1:  
(continued)**

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

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
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	The ADEPP Process is developing Community Based Diagnostic Teams in the 5 Pilot Counties. These Diagnostic Teams will be using a standardized process for diagnosis of autism and will be working closely with their Regional Autism Specialty Referral Centers. There has been regional training using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale (ADOS) and other tools for the team members.
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	This activity is slated to begin in the fall of 2009 and is on target with the development of a website at <a href="http://www.concernedaboutdevelopment.org">www.concernedaboutdevelopment.org</a> .

**Priority 2:**

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

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
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	Representative from the Interagency Work Group on Autism met with the leadership of the Ohio State Psychology Board to assist with developing a full understanding of the interconnectedness of the various uses of behavior management and modification techniques as interventions used with Ohioans diagnosed with ASD. The Psychology Board has started to examine their potential role in a regulatory capacity relative to these interventions.
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.	Thus far, 1600 people have participated in trainings about the Positive Culture Initiative including three Developmental Centers, representatives from the Ohio Dept. of Education, five County Boards and numerous provider agencies. This number also includes sessions with Dr. John McGee, which incorporated concepts of a Positive Culture with the philosophy of Gentle Teaching. ODMRDD is currently preparing an executive order for the Governor to sign banning prone restraint in eight state departments.

**Priority 2:  
(continued)**

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

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – 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	Research is taking place at this time
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	Research is taking place at this time
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	The template has been developed and online formatting is underway. Completion is anticipated by the end of June 2009.
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	Updates are in progress with anticipated completion by end of summer 2009
7. Build support for the concept of a flexible intensive support waiver	A waiver concept paper will be available for stakeholder review and feedback	In August 2008, and January 2009, waiver overviews were disseminated to solicit stakeholder feedback statewide. The feedback obtained assisted in the development of a preliminary concept paper that was submitted to ODJFS for review. In March 09, the concept paper was sent to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and conversations with CMS were initiated April 09 in preparation to submit the formal waiver application Fall 2009.

**Priority 2:  
(continued)**

**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>Updates – June 09</b>
<p>8. Update the regulations governing the Autism Scholarship Program (ASP) to reflect the current language of the Ohio Revised Code</p>	<p>Proposed changes to the regulations will be complete</p>	<p>The full State Board of Education approved a Resolution of Intent to rescind the current ASP rules and to adopt the proposed new ASP rules. Next steps are below (this schedule is subject to change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 2009: Proposed rules are filed with Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR), Legislative Service Commission (LSC) and Secretary of State.</li> <li>• February 9, 2009: State Board holds a Chapter 119 public hearing.</li> <li>• March 9, 2009: JCARR holds a public hearing.</li> <li>• March 9-10, 2009: State Board approves a Resolution to adopt the rules.</li> <li>• March 12, 2009 or after: Final rules are filed with JCARR, LSC and Secretary of State.</li> <li>• July 1, 2009: Rules are effective.</li> </ul>

**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>Updates – June 09</b>
<p>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</p>	<p>Autism training opportunities will be incorporated into already existing mechanisms for continuing education and professional development for state agencies and their local counterparts</p>	<p>A schemata has been developed and is being reviewed internally within OCALI at this time.</p>

**Priority 3:  
(continued)**

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

<b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>Updates – June 09</b>
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	<p>OCALI has joined a consortium addressing highly qualified special education teachers across the state. Members of this group are participating on the steering committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual University Summit on ASD to be hosted by OCALI at the OCALI Conference, November 2009.</p> <p>OCALI has established sample syllabi, which are under review for sharing through the ASDU.org website developed by OCALI.</p> <p>Collaborative efforts have begun to address a vision for certification programs in ASD. Work is beginning with Bowling Green State University and the University of Cincinnati.</p>

**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>Updates – June 09</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	Home page design and landing pages for each IWG member agency have been completed. Website content is being built. ODMRDD is working with OCALI to assist with technology and ongoing support of site. Anticipated summer launch.
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	IWG members have been oriented to provider directory. Steps underway to get multi-system participation to expand the pool of providers.
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	Each IWG member created a comprehensive list of the leaders, service providers, associations, and advocacy groups they most frequently communicate with. These lists have been compiled to serve as a communication chain to be used for cross system dissemination of training and informational materials out to the field. A notice highlighting Ohio's Parent Guide was disseminated through this chain in April 2009 for Autism Awareness month.

**Priority 4:  
(continued)**

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

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
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	Linkage has been made with the Autism Coalition for information dissemination out to its members. This link also provides a mechanism for quick feedback from Coalition members. The IWG Coordinator attends regular Coalition meetings to provide updates.

**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**

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
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	<p>OCALI hired 8 regional coaches to assist regions in building their capacity in the areas of ASD, low-incidence disabilities, and assistive technology. Coaches will collaborate with regional education entities for communication and dissemination of information among educators and professionals</p> <p>Asset mapping in all 16 State Support Team regions has been completed by OCALI. An online survey specific to professional development, technical assistance, and assistive technology has also been completed to determine regional needs. This information will guide planning.</p>
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	The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center at OSU completed an analysis of the regional reach of Ohio Children's Hospitals and emergence of Pediatric Rehabilitation Centers across the state. The analysis identifies the population of Medicaid eligible children with severe behavioral health conditions served (including children with autism) and the delivery system that exists to provide services for them. The report, when finalized, will inform further activity related to regionalization.

**Priority 5:  
(continued)**

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

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 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	Research is underway


**Priority 6:**

Promote successful models for transitioning throughout the lifespan

Interagency Strategy	Short-term deliverables	Updates – June 09
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.	A transition pilot project, through a partnership with ODE, OCALI and ODMRDD has been established to assist school districts to utilize a customized employment approach, developing or enhancing local Transition Councils and teaming with County Boards of MRDD, the Rehabilitation Services Commission, State Support Teams and others. The goal of the project is to promote employment for youth with developmental disabilities and complex needs, including individuals on the autism spectrum, who might otherwise be unemployed or transition to sheltered environments after high school.

**Priority 6:  
(continued)**

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 <b>Interagency Strategy</b>	<b>Short-term deliverables</b>	<b>Updates – June 09</b>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>ODMRDD, in collaboration with the Ohio State University Nisonger Center, and in cooperation with Ohio’s Developmental Disabilities Network, submitted a grant proposal to the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. The proposed project would expand the Aspirations Program, currently existing at Nisonger Center, and develop a family support model to empower adolescents and young adults with autism spectrum disorders and their families, resulting in positive individualized outcomes, and promoting success at home and in the community.</p>
<p>2. Build capacity for employment opportunities through regionally based employer driven business leadership networks</p>	<p>A statewide survey of employment needs of individuals with autism and other disabilities will be completed</p>	<p>The Governor’s initiative on Disability Employment Process Improvement, through a partnership of state and local agencies, has completed a statewide survey of employment needs, barriers, and satisfaction. Data is currently being compiled and analyzed.</p> <p>Data on employment satisfaction and status is also currently being collected in Ohio through the National Core Indicators effort through ODMRDD. National Core Indicators will help the ODMRDD measure system performance and make improvements.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Work on a statewide housing plan with the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, through the Technical Assistance Collaboration, will be initiated.</p>	<p>Through the efforts of the Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing and funding through Money Follows the Person, The Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc. (TAC) started work in Ohio. The work centers on reviewing the current state of Housing policy and funding, and a review of current Medicaid Waivers and the State Plan, in order to make recommendation for a statewide Housing plan in 2009. The beginning stages of interviewing and information gathering was completed in 2008.</p>