THE HELP GROUP SUMMIT 2012

Building Bridges to Vocational Success & Semi-Independent Living For Young People with Moderate to Severe Autism

Panel of Presenters

Lou Vismara, MD — Moderator
Parent and Staff, Senator Darrell Steinberg

Janis White, PhD
Chief Operating Officer, Regional Center of Orange County

Pamela Clark, MA
Director of Autism Schools, The Help Group

Jason Bolton, PsyD
Chief Psychologist, The Help Group
Building Bridges to Vocational Success & Semi-Independent Living

Topics and Subjects for Discussion

Overview of the “Autism Tsunami”

The Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders

Statewide Employment Action Plan

Successful Training/Employment Programs

Successful Transition from Schools to Employment

Transition Challenges/Opportunities for Individuals with Moderate-Severe ASD

Residential Opportunities & Successful Community Integration
National Statistics on ASD

- ASD now affects 1 in 88 children
- There are over 24,000 new cases diagnosed annually
- ASD is more prevalent than juvenile diabetes, childhood cancer & pediatric AIDS combined.
- ASD is fastest growing serious developmental disability
- The economic impact of autism is over $137 billion annually

California Statistics on ASD

Regional Centers
- Caseload increased 634% from 1987 to 2002
- There are almost 57,000 consumers with ASD
- ASD now represents two-thirds of all new cases
- Regional Centers probably serve only about 20% of ASD
- 84% are under the age of 22 years

School Districts
- >60,000 students with ASD in special education
- Districts ~ doubled ASD students in past 4 yrs
- ASD in special education has increased >400% in past 9 years
- There has been >1000% increase in ASD students K-12 during past 12 years
To provide a legislative forum to promote policies and legislation to better assist individuals with ASD and their families

To advance the work of the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism

To deal with the fiscal challenges that confront the State

Senate Autism Committee Web Site:

http://autism.senate.ca.gov/
Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders

Issues & Areas Addressed

- Early ID & Rx.
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Training & Employment
- Housing

Task Forces & Working Groups:

- network of advocates
- Exchange information
- Promote community outreach
- Provide recommendations

Autism Regional Task Forces

- Sacramento (Steinberg)
- Marin/SF (Leno)
- East Bay/Oakland (DeSaulnier)
- Peninsula/Santa Clara (Alquist)
- North Bay (Wolk)
- North Coast (Evans)
- Central Valley:
  - Fresno (Rubio)
  - Bakersfield (Fuller)
- Los Angeles:
  - North LA (Liu, Padilla, Pavley)
  - South LA (Price)
- Orange County (Correa)
- San Diego (Vargas)
Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders

Legislation Enacted into Law

SB 1175 – Expansion of Housing for ASD (Sen. Steinberg)

SB 1531 – Police Officer Training on ASD (Sen. Correa)

AB 2302 – Expanding Credentials to Educate Students with ASD (Asm. Bass)

AB 131 – Teacher Credentialing for Preschool Age Children with ASD (Asm. Beall)

SB 812 – Housing Element Information on Individuals with Disabilities (Sen. Asburn)

SB 946 – Autism Insurance Mandate for Behavioral Health Treatment (Sen. Steinberg)
The Tsunami of Young Adults with Autism

Currently 6,000 adults with ASD are Regional Center (RC) consumers.

This number will almost double in the next 5 years.

By 2018, there will be more than 19,000 adults with ASD in the RC system.

Most Regional Centers will see more than a 300% increase in the numbers of adults with ASD during the next decade.

Purchase of Services: Costs related to age & diagnosis:
- children without ASD.....$3,447
- children with ASD.....$6,993
- adults without ASD.....$15,935
- adults with ASD.....$36,704
Transitional Challenges Facing Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

- 67% families no knowledge of transition programs
- 78% no knowledge of job development agencies or professionals
- 74% wanted to work but were unemployed
- Of those employed, 74% worked < 20 hours per week
- 85% lived with parents or family members
Employment Challenges Facing Individuals with Autism in California

California ranks 34th in disability employment

Regional Center (RC) consumers ~ unemployment of 84.2%
  Unemployment among individuals with Autism > 90%

Only 9,297 participants in supported employment programs

Only 17,623 RC consumers have an earned income
  Annual average: $4,824
Unlocking the Secrets to Finding & Keeping a Job

- Seamless transition with supports in place for work
- Interagency collaboration: More bang for the buck!
- Lifelong learning: (continuing education, postsecondary institutions)
- Satisfying social life
- Independent/supported living options
- Parental & familial supports
- Jobs & employment opportunities
  - Choice and self-direction
  - Flexible, individualized services & supports
  - Appropriate benefits
  - Innovation
  - Workforce education & training
Mark W. Vismara: A Personal Perspective on Building Bridges to Independence & Vocational Success

UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute