

**Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
**October 22, 2008**  
**Minutes**

---

**PRESENT:**

Keith Schafer, Department of Mental Health  
D. Kent King, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Gary Harbison, Department of Health and Senior Services  
Robert Stein, Department of Higher Education  
Janet Farmer, MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders  
Donald McCary, Special School District of St. Louis County  
Jeff Smith, Senate Minority Representative  
Sue Schoemehl, House Minority Representative  
John Mantovani, St. John's Mercy Medical Center  
Michele Kilo, Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinic  
Julie Keathley, Parent representative  
Tiffany Daniels, Constituent representative  
Bernard Simons, Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Vicki McCarrell, Unlimited Opportunities, Inc.  
Molly White, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration  
Cynthia Quetsch, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
Sandy Rempe, Department of Public Safety  
Ian McCaslin, Department of Social Services  
Connie Hebert, Southeast Missouri State University  
Scott T. Rupp, Senate Majority Representative  
Anne Roux, Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment  
Paula Baker, Ozark Center  
David Crowe, Parent representative, Tailor Institute  
Chris Norton, Constituent representative  
Sarah Feldmiller, ABC and D Autism Center

**STAFF:**

Julia Kaufmann, Office of Autism Services  
Kit Glover, Office of Autism Services  
Katherine Pigg, Office of Autism Services  
Dana Opie, Office of Autism Services  
Monica Hoy, Office of the Director

**GUESTS:**

Honorable Matt Blunt, Governor, State of Missouri  
Judith Miles, M.D., Ph.D., MU Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders

**Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
**October 22, 2008**  
**Minutes**

<b>Topic or Issue</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
Call to Order	Keith Schafer, Director of the Department of Mental Health, opened the meeting at 10:00 am with a welcome and introduction of the Governor of the State of Missouri, Honorable Matt Blunt.
Governor Matt Blunt	Governor Blunt spoke about the need for the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, the recent increases in funding for autism, and the change in the Division's name from the "Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities" to "Division of Developmental Disabilities."
Logistics and Chairperson	<p>Monica Hoy reviewed logistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission members need to be prepared at short notice to attend their confirmation on a Wednesday morning in January.</li> <li>• State agency staff are not required to fill out a Missouri Ethics Report for the commission.</li> <li>• Kalei Shaw or Debra Walker may contact commission members to develop news releases.</li> <li>• The commission needs to appoint a chairperson; those interested in serving or nominating should submit names to Monica Hoy.</li> </ul>
Introductions and Charge of the Commission	Bernie Simons requested that commissioners introduce themselves and then reviewed the charge of the commission as stated in Senate Bill 768: "The commission shall advise and make recommendations to the governor, general assembly, and relevant state agencies regarding matters concerning all state levels of autism spectrum disorder services, including healthcare, education, and other adult and adolescent services....The commission shall make recommendations for developing a comprehensive statewide plan for an integrated system of training, treatment, and services for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum disorder. By July 20, 2009, the commission shall issue preliminary findings and recommendations to the general assembly."
Defining Autism	Judith Miles, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Missouri Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, presented <i>What's New In Autism, Lessons from the Past</i> . Dr. Miles' presentation reviewed autism population characteristics, diagnoses based on behavioral phenotypes, autism prevalence statistics, methods of study, and methods of treatment.

**Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
**October 22, 2008**  
**Minutes**

<p>Review of orientation materials</p>	<p>Julia Kaufmann familiarized commission members with the orientation manuals and Temple Grandin's book, <i>Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism</i>. Next she reviewed the history of initiatives in Missouri such as Missouri's Autism Research and Response Agenda, the Missouri Autism Projects as outlined in regulation, and new appropriations resulting in additional autism-specific programs in Missouri.</p>
<p>Missouri Standards Project</p>	<p>Bernard Simons initiated discussion on developing standards for screening, diagnosis, and assessment of autism in Missouri. A public-private partnership has formed between the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Thompson Foundation to sponsor the development of a document to inform and improve the quality of autism screening, diagnosis and assessment. Early and accurate diagnosis of children ensures access to interventions to improve the quality of life for people who have autism.</p> <p>Janet Farmer gave a synopsis of the proposed standards development process for Missouri. The State of California has published guidelines entitled: "Autistic Spectrum Disorders: Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis and Assessment." The web-site for these guidelines is <a href="http://www.dds.ca.gov/Autism/Home.cfm">www.dds.ca.gov/Autism/Home.cfm</a>. Representative Schoemehl requested a hard copy of the guidelines. Copies of the California publication will be requested and mailed to the commissioners. The work to develop Missouri's guidelines will be based on input from a group of family members and health and education professionals who work with people who have autism. This group will be referred to as the "Missouri Standards Project Development Team." The Project Development Team will include people recommended by the Commission on Autism.</p> <p>Commission members who want to nominate people for the Missouri Standards Project Development Team should send information to Monica Hoy.</p>
<p>Work Plan Committee</p>	<p>The commission was presented with a document "Autism Commission Workplan," which listed the specific tasks outlined in Senate Bill 768. A committee will be formed to further refine the framework that will guide discussion on the comprehensive state plan. Anne Roux volunteered to lead this committee with volunteers Vicki McCarrell, Janet Farmer, and Donald McCary.</p>
<p>State Agency Reports</p>	<p>Senator Scott Rupp asked that state agencies provide an update based on Blue Ribbon Recommendation number 2: "The Blue Ribbon panel recommends that all relevant state agencies deliver a report to the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders that describes the manner in which funds are allocated among various governmental agencies for services used by individuals with ASD. Based on that review, the relevant state agencies should include recommendations for the report for changes in the delivery of such services and recommendations for possible efficiencies that could be achieved through such changes. The report should also address gaps in funding sources that may prohibit families and</p>

**Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
October 22, 2008  
Minutes**

	<p>individuals with ASD from having access to evidence-based practices.”</p> <p>This request will be added to the next meeting agenda.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>The next meeting will be December 12, 2008, Conference Rooms A and B, Department of Mental Health, 1706 East Elm Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.</p> <p>Tentative meeting dates for 2009 are February 18, 2009; May 20, 2009; August 19, 2009; and November 18, 2009.</p>
Adjourn	<p>The meeting adjourned shortly after 2:00 pm.</p>