

AUTISM: a Unique Disorder with Unique Needs

Interagency Autism Coordinating
Committee

May 24, 2002

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Why is Autism Unique

- Complex Developmental Disability
- Neurological Disorder
- Knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries
- Impacts social interaction, communication skills and the senses
- Spectrum Disorder
- No known cause or cure
- No known singular effective treatment modality

The Common Threads of Autism

- Generalization
- Communication
- Abilities

What Parents Experience

- When child is diagnosed
- Early intervention
- Secondary school age programs
- Adult services and issues

Economic Impact of Autism

- \$20 Billion annual cost
- \$34 Billion of future costs added per year
- 90% of the costs are in adult services
- Cost for treatment can be reduced by $\frac{2}{3}$ with early diagnosis and intervention
- Population growing at an annual rate of 10 -17%
- In 10 years, annual cost will be \$55 - 300 Billion

The Realities of Autism

- Complex disorder
- Unique research and therapeutic interventions needed
- Multifaceted and multi-agency approach
- Lifespan needs
- Population dramatically increasing
- Economic and Social Crisis

Needs Assessment

- Continue and increasing biomedical related research
- Drastically increasing therapeutic research
- Training of service providers
- Public awareness campaign and early diagnosis
- Implement recommendations of the National Research Council
- Improving adult programs

A Dramatic, Proactive,
Aggressive and
Coordinated Response
from Multiple Federal
Agencies

RESEARCH

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)

Early Diagnosis and Intervention

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA)
- Department of Education (DOE)
- Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (OS)

School Age Programs

- Department of Education (DOE)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Adult Services and Issues

- Department of Education (DOE)
- Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS)
- Social Security Administration (SSA)

Other Important Considerations

- Medical Insurance coverage--Autism is a medical disorder
- Congressional Support
- Public Awareness and Involvement
- Closer working relationship with volunteer organizations

SOLVING THE PUZZLE

Research

Early diagnosis
and intervention

Individuals
with Autism

School age
services

Adult
services

