



AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Improving the Lives of all Affected by Autism.

Research and Services: Impacting Individuals Today

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Services Roadmap

- Population Dramatically Increasing
- Complex Disorder: Multifaceted and Multi-Agency Approach Needed
- Service Delivery System Challenging to Negotiate
- Lifespan Concerns
- Economic and Social Crisis
- Many evidence-based methods only available to those with funding or access to university centers.



Services Roadmap

- Family and Professional Partnerships;
- Early and Continuous Developmental and Medical Screenings;
- Availability of all Needed Health, Education, and Social Services;
- Organization of Community-Based Services for Easy Use;
- Effective Youth Transition to Adult Services, Work, and Independence; and
- Access to Adequate Public/Private Insurance or Other Financing Mechanisms.



Current Research Challenges

- Research to Practice
- Broad Impact: Proven Practices Available to All



Recommendations: Research Can Address Services

- Studies can be based on meeting performance and other criteria, and not on a traditional single subject research design.
- We know evidence-based practices to implement, but what are the systemic, cost and other issues that promote/restrict their implementation.
- Professionals will typically use tools already in their repertoire and/or those that are simplest to implement. How do we balance level of fidelity with feasibility for implementation?



Recommendations: Research Can Address Policy

- Research can and should drive policy decisions surrounding insurance, employment, Medicaid Waivers, etc.
- What are the needs of families and individuals, including the silent majority?
- What are models of service delivery that have been effective and what outcomes have they achieved?
- What are the contexts and practices and policies that create systems that can accommodate and support individuals?



Research should lead to real change in the quality of life of families and individuals on the autism spectrum.



Generalization