



## **Statutory Responsibilities of the IACC under the Combating Autism Act and Combating Autism Reauthorization Act**

- The IACC was established to coordinate all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services concerning autism spectrum disorder and is required to:
- Develop and annually update a strategic plan for ASD research, and submit the strategic plan and annual updates to Congress.
- Develop and annually update a summary of advances in ASD research.
- Monitor federal activities with respect to ASD.
- Make recommendations to the HHS Secretary regarding research or public participation in decisions related to ASD.
- Meet at least twice a year (full committee) and conduct meetings in public with time for public participation (public comment).
- The committee may establish subcommittees and convene workshop and conferences.

## **How has the IACC executed these responsibilities?**

- The IACC serves as a forum for coordination, communication and collaboration between Federal agencies, private organizations and community stakeholders.
- The IACC developed its first strategic plan in 2009 and updated it in 2010 and 2011 with the goal of focusing and accelerating research. The plan was developed with public input and a focus on community needs.
- The IACC has issued an annual Summary of Advances in ASD Research document each year – 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- The IACC issues a Portfolio Analysis Report to analyze Federal and private funding for research and how funding aligns with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan.
- The IACC/OARC are launching a public database to provide information on federal and private funded research projects.

- IACC members and guest speakers provide research and services program updates at each meeting of the IACC.
- The IACC/OARC issues special reports on ASD activities such as the IACC/OARC ASD Research Publications Analysis.
- The IACC has made recommendations to the HHS Secretary in the Strategic Plan and through advisory letters.
- The IACC gathers public input and information on emerging issues in the autism community through written and oral public comments at meetings of the full IACC, town hall meetings, workshops and formal requests for public comment; all meetings, including phone meetings, are open to the public by phone, webcast and/or webinar.
- The IACC provides information to the public through its activities (all open to the public), public website, news updates, listserv and Twitter announcements.

### **What is the committee not required or authorized to do?**

- To fund research – the IACC does not have or control a research budget.
- To implement research or services programs – programs can only be implemented by government agencies and private organizations.
- To set government policies – the IACC is an advisory body that can raise awareness and make recommendations for development or adoption of policies, but only government agencies and private organizations can set policies.
- To force government agencies to fund specific research projects or set particular policies.