



National Strategic Plan, The New Outcomes Model and Lifespan Planning

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National Outcomes Model

Mission: To improve the lives of all affected by autism.

Vision: Individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued.

Three Keys to Achieving Mission

The vision identifies three keys to improving the lives of those affected by autism:

1. Maximize Quality of Life
2. Treated With Dignity
3. Talents Are Valued

Strategic Plan

Strategic Planning Process:

- “How do we know when we have successfully helped an individual living with autism?”
- Goal: To define how best to assure opportunity and measurable outcome success in quality of life throughout an individual’s life
- Comprehensive, highly inclusive and transparent
 - Engaged over 200 key stakeholders including family members, professionals, Affiliate leaders, and individuals with an autism diagnosis
- Examined how best to assure that each person with an autism diagnosis would be able to maximize his or her quality of life each and every day

National Outcomes Model

- All efforts by the Autism Society focus on these three keys improving lives across the lifespan.
- Through our strategic planning efforts, the Autism Society identified 15 outcomes that best indicate improvement to the lives of those affected by autism.
- Each of the 15 outcomes supports one of the three keys: maximizing quality of life, being treated with dignity, and having talents valued.

Maximize Quality Of Life	Treated With Dignity	Talents Are Valued
Independent Living	Communication	Financial Stability
Health and Well-Being	Inclusion	Academic Success
Social Connections	Respect and Dignity	Pursuit of Dreams
Recreation and Leisure	Safety	Subjective Well-Being
Autonomy and Self-Sufficiency	Self-Identity and Acceptance	Meaningful Employment with Fair Wages

National Outcomes Model

Benefits of the National Outcomes Model:

- Consistent outcomes nationwide
- Maintains autonomy among the Affiliates to serve their local communities through local programs
- Clear language on what we do and why it matters

Core Services

- **Advocacy**
 - National, State, Local
- **Education**
 - Educating individuals with autism, their loved ones, professionals from multiple disciplines, and the public at large
- **Information & Referral**
 - Empowering those affected by autism through a one-on-one connection
- **Support**
 - Helping understand available services
 - Helping navigate often complex and confusing service systems
 - Training to local and statewide organizations on being autism friendly
- **Community**
 - Building autism friendly, inclusive communities where individuals with autism can live, work, play, socialize, learn and worship in the setting and manner of their own choosing

Core Services and Outcomes

Applying the Outcomes Model to our five Core Services:

- The strength of the Autism Society lies in the local knowledge and presence of our network of Affiliates.
- Programs and services are tailored to best serve the local communities
- All Autism Society activity across the country:
 - Provides one of our five Core Services
 - Advances at least one of the Quality of Life Outcomes

Lifespan Planning

About Lifespan Planning:

- Ongoing cradle to grave process where an individual's needs are anticipated and proactively planned for.
- Vital element in impacting positive outcomes for families and individuals living with autism.
- Includes assistance, guidance and programs which evolve over a person's lifetime, to improve their own quality of life in a manner that is meaningful to both the individuals and their families.

Lifespan Planning

Life Stages

- Like everyone else, people with autism move through significant life changes.
- Quality of life depends not only on the foundation provided in childhood, but also on ongoing supports that are specific to their educational, medical, social, recreational, family and employment needs.
- The Autism Society supports people with autism and their families through five critical stages of life:
 - Birth to 5
 - School Age
 - Transition to Adulthood
 - Adulthood
 - Older Adult

Lifespan Planning

Life Stages

- Birth to 5
 - Early identification of an ASD is crucial, as it means early intervention services can begin, making a huge impact on a child's behavior, functioning and future well-being.
 - Preparation for starting school.
- School Age
 - The school years bring innumerable challenges for a child with autism, but they also hold incredible opportunity for growth.
 - For parents, the challenge is to discover and leverage resources to maximize the child's avenues of academic learning, social experience and physical fitness.
 - Having a team of professionals is essential throughout this long life stage – getting help from those who know the system can reduce stress on the family and improve outcomes for the child with autism.

Lifespan Planning

Life Stages

- Transition to Adulthood
 - The transition from federally mandated services provided through the school system to adult services can be a challenge.
 - The first step in transition planning is to take a look at the individual's interests, abilities and needs.
- Adulthood
 - The Autism Society works to ensure that every adult with autism has access to services and supports that maximize independence and secure the highest quality of life.

Lifespan Planning

Life Stages

- Older Adult
 - Transition into older adulthood brings unique challenges in healthcare, housing, social supports, and financial management.
 - Autism research and support services have historically focused largely on children, but as more adults with an autism diagnosis transition into this life stage, communities are beginning to look more closely at how to best provide ongoing support for older adults on the spectrum.

Lifespan Planning

The Autism Society's Lifespan Planning Initiative:

- The Autism Society is the organization that is best positioned to provide assistance, guidance, advice, and direction to stakeholders across their lifespan.
- We are currently working to build a lifespan planning model that is sustainable, accessible and scalable, and that leverages community partnerships, so all individuals and families living with autism are able to maximize their quality of life, are treated with the highest level of dignity, and live in a society in which their talents and skills are appreciated and valued

Lifespan Planning

How you can help:

- Partnerships on milestones and program development
- Funding



QUESTIONS

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