### Autism Support Groups in ND

**Williston Area Autism Support Group:**
- Meeting: Thursday of each month
- Time: 6:00 pm
- Location: SE Human Service Center in Fargo, ND
- Contact: Margaret Lo Murray at 701-885-3257

**Fargo Moorhead Autism Support Group:**
- Meeting: Third Friday of every month
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: Bethel Lutheran Church
- Contact: Jillian at 701-223-1634

**Parishoners for Autism Spectrum Disorders (MAPS):**
- Meeting: Third Monday of each month
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: Grand Forks, ND
- Contact: Warren/Anne Retzlaff at 701-780-4172

### GPIC Diagnostic Clinics

**The Great Plains Interdisciplinary Autism Diagnostic Clinic (GPIC):**
- Meeting: Third Friday of each month
- Time: 7:00 pm
- Location: River of Hope Church
- Free childcare and information

**South Dakota Autism Spectrum Disorders (SAND) News:**
- Meeting: First Friday of each month
- Time: 7:30 pm
- Location: Sanford Health
- Contact: Jolene Orluck at 701-223-1737 ext. 4365 or email jolene.orluck@minotstateu.edu

### Autism in the News

**Support Autism in North Dakota (SAND) News**
- We are excited that the updated Autism Spectrum Disorders Resource Booklet has arrived and is ready to disseminate. The Resource Booklet is available upon request. The digital version is currently on SAND website at http://www.ndsdp.org/projects/sand/ndresources.shtml

**World Health Assembly (WHO) News**
- The World Health Assembly (WHO) adopted a formal resolution making autism a global health priority.
- The resolution was co-sponsored by more than 50 countries and supported by all members, including the U.S. It sets out a clear set of actions to be undertaken by WHO member nations to support individuals, families and communities affected. This means increasing the capacity of health and social care systems to provide services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. It also means improving health surveillance systems to capture data on autism spectrum disorders and ensuring countries are better able to diagnose and treat autism spectrum disorders.
- To read the full articles on World Health Assembly please follow these links:
Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!

Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive! is a coordinated federal effort to encourage healthy child development, universal developmental and behavioral screening for children, and support for the families and providers who care for them. Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive will help families and providers:

Celebrate milestones. Every family looks forward to seeing a child’s first smile, first step, and first words. Regular screenings help raise awareness of a child’s development, making it easier to expect and celebrate developmental milestones.

Promote universal screening. Just like hearing and vision screenings assure that children can hear and see clearly, developmental and behavioral screenings track a child’s developmental milestones. A child’s first smile, first step, and first words. Regular screenings assure that children can hear and see clearly, and developmental and behavioral screenings track a child’s development.

Identify possible delays and concerns early. With regular screenings, families, teachers, and other professionals can assure that young children get the services and supports they need, as early as possible to help them thrive alongside their peers.

Enhance developmental supports. Combining the love and knowledge families have of their children with new tools, guidance, and tips recommended by experts can make the most of the developmental support children receive.

For more information on this federal initiative please visit http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ed/watch-me-thrive

Birth to 5: Watch Me Thrive!

Los Angeles Times

Advocate shows autistic people how to have safe encounters with police

Los ANGELES TIMES by Sandy Banks - sandy.banks@latimes.com

Advocate’s ‘Be Safe’ campaign shows autistic people how to have safe encounters with police. Statistics suggest the autistic they are seven times as likely as others to be involved with law officers.

The Autism Society of Los Angeles, is trying to make sure young people who are independence, don’t wind up as law enforcement officers. The “Be Safe” campaign, which includes a DVD starting young people with autism role-playing police encounters, and a guidebook for parents, teachers and counselors.

To read the entire article please click on the link below: http://www.latimes.com/local/crime/la-me-0701-banks-ops-autism-20140701-column.html

1400 E. Interchange Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota

N.D. Department of Human Services awarded $539,186 in state general fund dollars for a one-year pilot voucher program for children with autism.

Lawmakers appropriated $539,186 in state general fund dollars for a one-year pilot voucher program for children with autism for the 2013-2014 biennium. Covered services and supports are described in Century Code section 50-66-32.1, which can be found online at http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t50c06.pdf?2014071141544.

Categories of covered services and supports include assistive technology equipment, video-generating devices, training and educational materials for parents, sensory development.

By: Dr. Lori Garnes~NDCPD

The N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that families of children ages three through seventeen diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder who meet income requirements can apply, beginning today, for a new voucher program to help cover costs for assistive technology, training, and other approved support services that enhance the quality of life for children with autism disorders. The state is the only one that meets the unique needs of families caring for them.

“The goal is to address gaps in non-therapy related services and to provide more support to families,” said Trisha Page, the department’s Autism Services Coordinator. The number of families benefitting from the new voucher program for children with autism will depend on the unique needs of participating children and their families, Page said.

Lawmakers created the pilot voucher program in 2013 as part of House Bill 1038. It provides vouchers totaling up to $12,500 per year per qualifying child to help eligible families with the cost of supporting a child with autism. Early intervention and therapy services are not covered by the voucher program.

To qualify for voucher services and items, a family’s gross income cannot exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. That is currently $39,580 for a household of three and $47,700 for a household of four. An income chart and information about autism-related services is online at www.nd.gov/hsa/ubs/index.html.

“Nothing you do for children is ever wasted.”

Garrison Keillor, Leaving Home

Sponsored By: Coordinated By:

Families are encouraged to apply

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Promote universal screening. Just like hearing and vision screenings assure that children can hear and see clearly, making it easier to expect and celebrate developmental milestones, universal developmental and behavioral screenings track a child’s progress in areas such as language, social, or motor development.

Identify possible delays and concerns early. With regular screenings, families, teachers, and other professionals can assure that young children get the services and supports they need, as early as possible to help them thrive alongside their peers.

Enhance developmental supports. Combining the love and knowledge families have of their children with data-driven guidance, and tips recommended by experts can make the most of the developmental supports children receive.

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Los Angeles Times

Advocate shows autistic people how to have safe encounters with police

LOS ANGELES TIMES BY SABRY BANKS - sabry.banks@latimes.com

Officer Paul Sandate of the 77th Street Division encourages Edgar Garcia for getting the correct answer in a game about Law enforcement procedures during an exercise for people with autism. The Autism Society of Los Angeles, is trying to make sure young people who are independence, don’t wind up as law enforcement statistics. They are teaching Los Angeles Police Department officers how to recognize and interact with people who have autism spectrum disorders and people with autism what to do if they are stopped by police. The “Be Safe” campaign, which includes a DVD starring young people with autism role-playing police encounters, and a guidebook for parents, teachers and counselors.

To read the entire article please click on the link below: http://www.latimes.com/local/crime/la-me-0701-banks-autism-20140701-column.html

The N.D. Department of Human Services announced today that families of children ages three through seventeen diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder who meet income requirements can apply, beginning today, for a new voucher program to help cover for non-medical services. The North Dakota Department of Human Services coordinated the ASD Task Force and was tasked with implementing the new laws.

In seven years, we have gone from the average person asking, “is this autism?” to today where there is a State Coordinator with a state website, young people with autism role-playing police encounters, and a guidebook for parents, teachers and counselors. It will help families and providers:...
Support Autism in North Dakota (SAND) News

We are excited that the updated Autism Spectrum Disorders Resource Booklet has arrived and is ready to disseminate. The Resource Booklet is available upon request. The digital version is currently on SAND website at: http://www.ndcpd.org/projects/sand/sandresources.shtml.

In August, the SAND team members will head to Baltimore, MD to attend a Peer-to-Peer and summer grantee meeting to discuss policies and activities of other state grantees. Hopefully we will gain valuable information that we can utilize here in North Dakota.

Please contact us if you would like additional information about any of the topics covered in this newsletter.

For more information on trainings we offer through SAND or any other information concerning the SAND program, please contact: Hilary Liccini, Project Director. Phone: 800-233-1737 ext. 3008 or email hilary liccini@minotstateu.edu.

View our websites: www.ndcpd.org/sand www.ndautismconnection.org

Volunteer 2014

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