MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

Improving lives THROUGH supports and services THAT FOSTER self-determination.

Exploring the Division of Developmental Disabilities Autism Services & Resources

Presented by:

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Thursday September 15, 2022

Webinar Agenda

- Overview of the Office of Autism
- Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Missouri Autism Centers
- Autism Services
- MO ECHO Autism Communities
- Missouri Commission on ASD

Office of Autism Services

- Established in 2008
- Purpose: To develop public policy and programs on behalf of Missourians with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- We are committed to supporting the independence and self-sufficiency of individuals with autism by leading collaborative efforts to improve system supports for individuals with autism and their families.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- Autism is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain
- Common Characteristics Associated with ASD
  - Communication, social interaction, behaviors
- Diagnosing ASD requires Screening and Evaluation
  - Behavior and development
  - Tiered approach
  - Regular/specific screenings

Missouri Autism Centers

- DMH contracts with six autism centers to provide diagnosis, treatment, and training.
  - Serve as experts in the state
- Centers include:
  - Children's Mercy Autism Clinic (Kansas City)
  - Thompson Center (Columbia, MO)
  - Knights of Columbus Development Center (St. Louis)
  - Washington University Autism Center (St. Louis)
  - Mercy Kid's Autism Center (St. Louis)
  - Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center (Cape Girardeau)

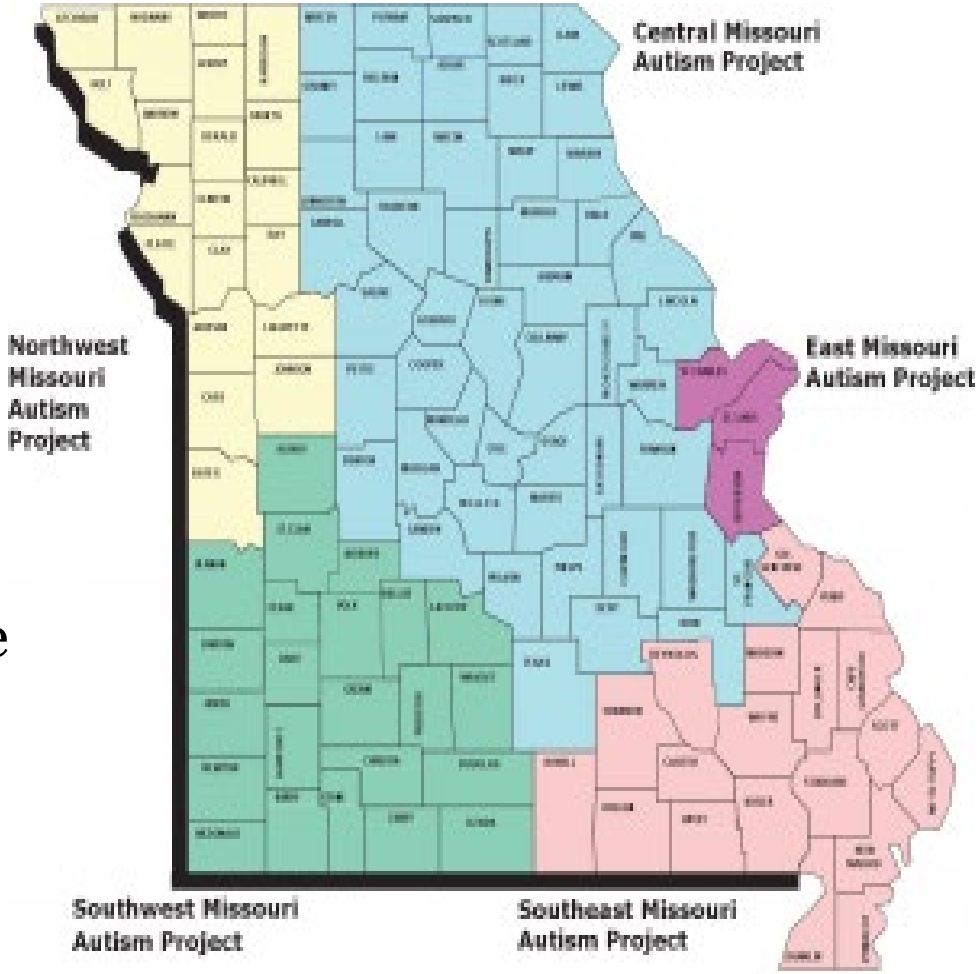
Autism Services

- Services are provided through Medicaid or Autism Projects
  - Medicaid services include State Plan Services and Waiver Services
    - State Plan: Children under age 19 can receive autism services through State Plan
      - Includes ABA, speech, occupational, physical therapy
    - DD Waiver: Adults (and children) meeting eligibility requirements can receive autism services through Medicaid waivers including the Comprehensive Waiver, Community Support Waiver, Lopez Waiver, and Partnership for Hope Waiver

Autism Services

Autism Projects

- Began as a pilot project in 1991; established in regulation in 1995 and statute in 2009
- Designed to be family driven and meet the needs of families
- Projects provide services to families and individuals to improve the capacity to care for loved ones in the community
- Five Project Areas with $9 million in funding



Autism Projects - Advisory Councils

- Regional Parent Advisory Councils (PAC)
  - Each of the five Autism Projects has a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) that represent and oversee each project and make recommendations for service needs
  - Responsibilities include advocacy, contract monitoring, public education, planning, and review of service delivery.
- Missouri Parent Advisory Council
  - Serves as a liaison between the regional PACs and the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Autism Project services may include:

- Behavior Management Training & Supports
- Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration Therapy
- Communication & Language Therapy
- Information & Referral Assistance
- Parent or Caregiver Training
- Public Education & Information Dissemination
- Consultation on Individualized Education & Habilitation Plans
- Contemporary and Emerging Evidence-based Practices
- Assessment
- Life Skills
- Music Therapy
- Advocacy Training
- Crisis Intervention
- Respite Care
- Staff Training
- Social Skills Training

Autism Services - Eligibility

To access Autism Services, an individual goes through DMH-DD Regional Offices and must first meet eligibility requirements

- Individuals wishing to utilize Medicaid State Plan or Waiver Services must meet Medicaid eligibility requirements
- Individuals must have a developmental disability, which is attributable to autism spectrum disorder—must be documented
  - Eligibility is determined through a functional assessment rather than a specific diagnosis
  - The mental or physical impairment must have manifested prior to age 22
  - The disability must be determined to likely continue indefinitely ***and***
  - The disability results in a substantial functional limitation in two or more of the following major life activities:
    - Self care; self direction; capacity for independent living; learning
    - Receptive and expressive language development and use; and mobility

Missouri ECHO Autism Communities

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All Teach, All Learn Model

- Interactive
- Peer-to-Peer Learning
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Not 'telemedicine' but 'telementoring'

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

Missouri ECHO Autism Communities

ECHO Autism Psychology

- Focus on diagnostic practices of psychologists and training on ADOS

ECHO Autism STAT/Primary Care

- Focus on training providers on STAT (Screening Tool for Autism in Toddlers and Young Children) and the M-CHAT (modified checklist for autism in toddlers); focus on capacity to manage care for an individual with ASD

ECHO Autism Crisis Care

- Focus on community mental health providers, inpatient psychiatry teams, and emergency department professionals capacity to manage care for individuals with ASD in crisis
- Prepares crisis teams to be Autism Ready

Missouri ECHO Autism Communities

ECHO Autism Mental Health

- Focus on counselors, psychologists, and social workers capacity to manage ongoing care for individuals with ASD

ECHO Autism Early Intervention

- Focus on speech, physical, and occupational therapists; including First Steps providers to manage ongoing care and implementation of best practices for individuals with ASD

ECHO Autism Caregiver Support —ON HOLD

- Focus on parent training providers and caregivers

ECHO Autism Family Advocates

- Focus on family advocates to serve as an Expert Team to provide support and training to other family advocates

Missouri Commission on ASD

- RSMo 633.200 established the Missouri Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

- Mission: Produce an "Autism Roadmap for Missouri" encompassing the lifespan of a person living with an ASD

Autism Webpages and Resources

- Missouri Autism Centers
  - https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/autism/centers\
- Missouri Autism Guidelines
  - https://autismguidelines.dmh.mo.gov/
- Office of Autism Services
  - https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities/autism
- CDC on Autism
  - https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html
- Missouri ECHO Autism Communities
  - https://echoautism.org/

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Thank You