



2nd Annual National Autism Policy Conference
Philadelphia, PA April 10-11, 2008
PRELIMINARY SUMMARY

A comprehensive report based on workgroup recommendations will be developed June 08. This report is not intended as a public document but as a reference in the development of steps forward.

Attendees: 100 Attendees representing **26 states** and a cross section of state agencies

Conference Objectives:

- To review and discuss the ongoing challenges and success states face in developing and implementing policy to improve support for individuals across the lifespan with autism.
- To identify and develop innovative solutions to three key issues at state and national levels.
- To provide a starting point for states, charged with providing services, to participate in the development of a national agenda regarding autism.

Workgroups: Three workgroups were designed as guided discussions: **Creative Funding, Collaboration of Systems, Adult Services**. Each workgroup was repeated in an afternoon session which built upon discussions from the morning session.

The primary issues each workgroup identified and discussed within each topic were as follows:

Workgroup I: Developing Creative Funding for Autism Services

Issue #1: Better use of existing funding

Issue # 2: Creative ideas for funding supports for individuals who do not meet a level of care

Issue # 3: Creative ideas for state-only funded programs that can create net savings for the state

Sample Solutions: Development of a family waiver, online trainings, insurance mandate, task force to identify needs assessment of barriers for providers and families, call to federal agencies (resource center, funding IDEA, national guidelines for states)

Workgroup II: Coordination of Service Provision Across Systems

Issue # 1: Lack of cross-system training and standards

Issue # 2: Coordination and collaboration of funding sources

Issue # 3: Federal constraints

Sample Solutions: Development of data sharing system, Collaboration Centers, development of clear definitions (autism, assessment protocols, agency responsibilities, etc), State level Autism Coordinator/specialist, intervention consensus, national task force, pooled funding

Workgroup III: Developing Policy to Support Adult Services

Issue # 1: Capacity (standards, workforce development, accountability, training)

Issue # 2: Employment

Sample Solutions: State level Autism Navigator, incentives for providers, mandated training across systems, mentoring protocols, national website on best practices for adults, university level training, develop funding guide for lawmakers, business leadership network, needs assessment for businesses, use of legislative resources to identify national employment issues and practices, revision or extension of VR services

2007 National Autism Policy Conference Overview

Attendees: 93 attendees representing **23 states** and a cross section of state agencies

- Workgroups identified and discussed issues at different stages of the lifespan:
Workgroup I: Autism and Early Intervention
Workgroup II: Needs of Children and Adolescents
Workgroup III: Transition to Adulthood

This year's conference built upon the issues identified in last year's summary report.