

Adult Subcommittee Meeting #4  
Date: December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

In attendance: Joe Carter, Chairman; Tim Ferguson, parent and ATF member; Kathryn DeCola, family member; Brooke Stephens, Director of Triumph Services; and Jennifer Muller, Autism Society of Alabama.

Guest: Kerry Mataya, Director of the Autism and Asperger Syndrome Consulting Group (AASCG)

Discussion:

1. We began the meeting with a discussion around Dr. Karen Berkman's presentation on The Center for Autism & Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida (CARD-USF) and the overview of the Florida autism system. All agreed the presentation was informative. There was concern expressed that, according to Jim Wyre's announcement, there will not be financial support requested this year to accompany the legislation being proposed.
2. We reviewed the format for recommendations from the Subcommittee to the Interagency Autism Council recommended by Jennifer Muller, which was taken from the format used by the state task force groups at NATTAP. We decided to add a statement of the problem for each of the areas we address. We will try to use specific examples in stating the problem rather than just using numbers to help the Council members understand the impact on individuals with autism and their families.
3. We agreed to address the following areas as long-term goals: Supported Employment; Transportation; Identifying the Number of Adults with ASD in Alabama; Range of Housing Options and Alternatives; The Lack of Services for Adults with Asperger's or HFA; Adequate Funding for Services and Supports; Standards of Care for Adults with ASD; Community Awareness of Adults' Needs; Emergency Response Personnel; Case Management; Workforce Development; and Estate Planning. The Subcommittee members recommended some short-term strategies to address these areas. Joe will do an initial draft of the Subcommittee suggestions and distribute for review, comment, revisions.
4. Kerry Mataya joined us and presented information on AASCG:

Kerry founded The Autism and Asperger Syndrome Consulting Group, LLC in 2004. AASCG is focused on intervention-based services for children, adolescents, and adults with characteristics of Asperger Syndrome and PDD-NOS. Services include but are not limited to:

- Observation & Interview
- Staff Observation & Training
- IEP Preparation & Participation
- Social Skills Groups
- Life Skills Coaching
- Functional Assessments & Behavior Modifications
- Academic Tutoring

- Conferences/ Workshops/ Seminars/ In-Services

Kerry reported she currently works with adults 18 to 34 years of age. Of the approximately 250 individuals AASCG serves in the Birmingham and Huntsville areas, about 80 of those are adults. Kerry has also done work in the Mobile area and is aware of adults with ASD in South Alabama who have needs for services and supports. Many of the adults she works with are not eligible for assistance with case management or funding. They do not have mental retardation and are therefore ineligible for assistance through DMH/MR or the 310 Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority or the MR/DD Medicaid Waiver.