

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM**



**Indiana Legislative Services Agency
200 W. Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

October, 2006

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2006

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Francine Rowley-Lacy
Attorney for the Commission

Sarah Brooks
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A copy of this report is available on the Internet. Reports, minutes, and notices are organized by committee. This report and other documents for this Committee can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.

I. STATUTORY DIRECTIVE

The Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation (IC 12-11-7-5 and IC 12-11-7-6) directing the Commission to do the following:

- (1) Study the service delivery system for individuals with autism and the families of individuals with autism, including the following:
 - (A) An analysis of the number of Indiana citizens believed to have autism.
 - (B) Funding amounts and sources.
 - (C) Types of expenditures and services provided.
 - (D) The number of clients served.
 - (E) Relationships among agencies and organizations.
 - (F) Residential options for individuals with autism.
- (2) Study the need and effectiveness of programs for individuals with autism.
- (3) Oversee and update the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with autism.

The Legislative Council did not assign any specific topics to the Commission for the 2006 interim.

II. SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM

The Commission met 4 times during the interim, on August 24, 2006, September 21, 2006, October 6, 2006, and October 26, 2006.

The Commission received information concerning the following:

- (1) An update from the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) on: (A) the conversion of state funded services to waivers, including the Autism waiver, the Developmental Disability waiver, and the Support Services waiver; (B) the status of the service delivery system; (C) waiting lists; and (D) costs for services.
- (2) An update from the Indiana Resource Center for Autism that included the accomplishments that the state of Indiana has made regarding autism, challenges the state will encounter, and results of a needs assessment survey.
- (3) The history, services, and funding of the Christian Sarkine Autism Treatment Center (Center), including the Helping Answer Needs by Developing Specialists in Autism (HANDS in Autism) Program located at the Center.
- (4) The history and purpose of the Indiana Autism Task force.
- (5) An update from the Indiana Autism Coalition and the Autism Society of

Indiana concerning the status of the Indiana comprehensive plan on autism.

(6) An update on the Indiana Insurance Mandate from the Indiana Department of Insurance.

(7) An overview of the services provided by the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS).

(8) An update on the federal Combating Autism Act of 2006.

(9) An overview of the training provided to emergency services personnel by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

(10) Issues concerning health insurance coverage for individuals with autism.

The Commission passed by a 13-0 vote each of the following legislative drafts to be introduced during the 2007 session of the General Assembly:

(1) The Emergency Medical Services Personnel Draft (PDOC 20071726.001) requiring certified emergency medical services personnel to successfully complete a course of education and training on autism.

(2) The Continuing Education for Teachers, School Administrators, and Para-professionals Draft (PDOC 20071727.001) Allows a governing body to adjourn its schools to allow teachers, school administrators and paraprofessionals to participate in a basic or an inservice course of education and training on autism.

The Commission passed by a 13-0 vote the following draft resolution to be introduced during the 2007 session of the General Assembly:

The Medical Students Autism Training Draft Resolution, encouraging medical schools in Indiana to include in their curriculum training in Autism Spectrum Disorders for medical students, specifically resident students majoring in pediatrics, family medicine, general medicine, and neurology.

The Commission is not required to file a final report. Additional details concerning the Commission's proceedings are available in the Commission's minutes, which can be accessed from the General Assembly Homepage at <http://www.state.in.us/legislative/>.