



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

Exploring the  
Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Autism Services & Resources

Presented by:

Kristin Morgan, Director, Office of Autism Services



**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

- 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)

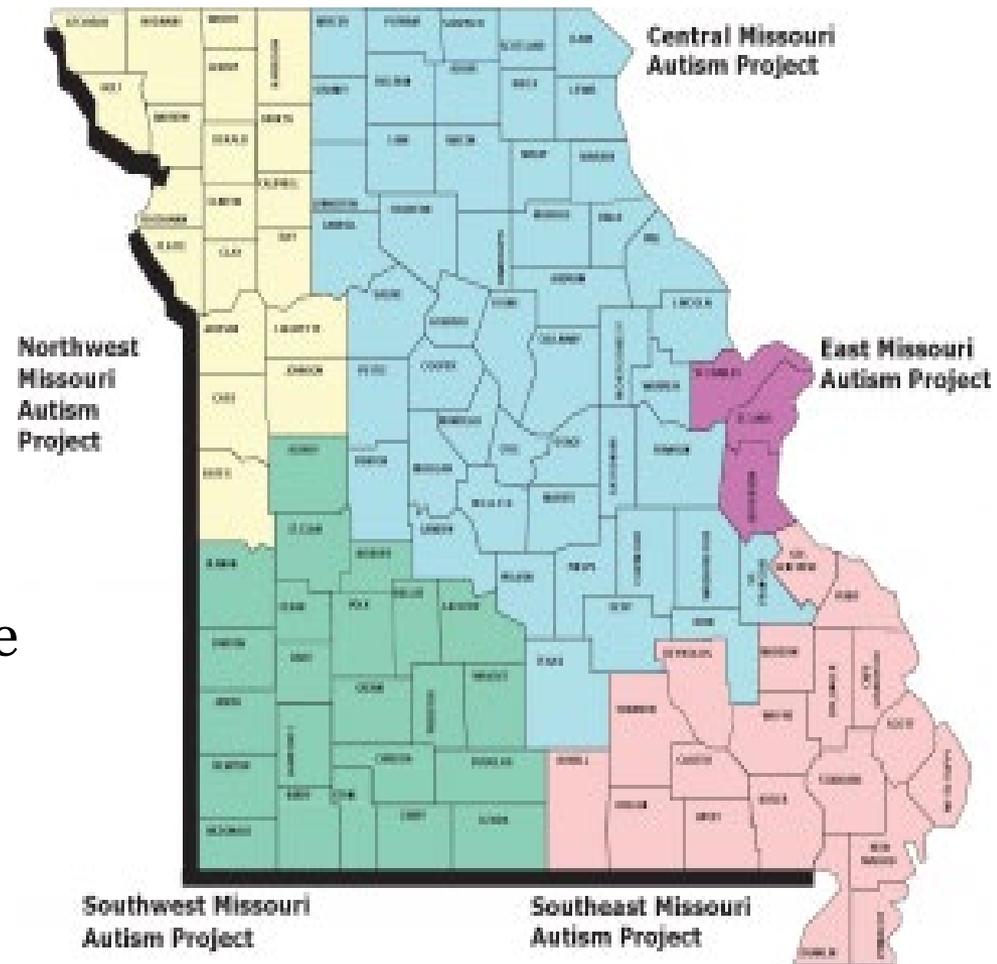
- Services are provided through Medicaid or Autism Projects
  - Medicaid services include State Plan Services and Waiver Services
    - State Plan: Children under age 19 can receive autism services through State Plan
      - Includes ABA, speech, occupational, physical therapy
    - DD Waiver: Adults (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



## Autism Project services may include:

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

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

## All Teach, All Learn Model

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



Extension for **C**ommunity **H**ealthcare **O**utcomes



# 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

## **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

- 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/>

Kristin Morgan

Director, Office of Autism Services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Department of Mental Health

[kristin.morgan@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:kristin.morgan@dmh.mo.gov)

573-522-1691





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**Thank You**