



VOLUME 25 ■ ISSUE 12 ■ JUNE 2017

The Autism Support Center

The Spectrum

Contact us:

SUSAN GILROY, EDITOR
CO-DIRECTOR
978-624-2302

GLORIA RICARDI CASTILLO
CO-DIRECTOR
978-624-2301

WHITNEY RYAN POSADA
SENIOR COORDINATOR/
BROKER
978-624-2305

STACEY CRUWYS
COORDINATOR/BROKER
978-624-2347

JACKIE MURPHY
COORDINATOR/BROKER
978-624-3721

PHYLLIS KIZNER
ADULT SPECIALIST
978-624-3747

*NeArc at
NS Navigators
June 30th
FREE!*

An Urgent Message to People with Autism and Their Families from AFAM

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRISTINE HUBBARD
AFAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Do you or your loved one with autism depend on: A day hab program? Adult foster care funding? Home and community based waiver services from the MA DDS? Medical care and dental care from MassHealth? Residential services from DDS? SSDI payments? Children's Autism Waiver services in your home? Special education services at your child's school?

While these services are delivered to you by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or your city or town school district, they are funded in significant part by the Federal Government through Medicaid and other programs. The Federal Government contributes roughly 50 cents of every dollar Massachusetts spends on Medicaid services.

So you need to know what's happening in Washington, D.C.!

The House of Representatives recently passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA) (the bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)). According to the [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\)](#), the AHCA:

- Slashes Medicaid funding by \$834 billion over the next decade and results in an estimated 23 million people losing their health insurance by 2026 due to higher premiums and a fundamental restructuring of the Medicaid program to block grants and per capita caps
- Shifts primary funding to states; will force state officials in Massachusetts to make difficult decisions regarding allocations of funding of care among multiple vulnerable populations (e.g., the elderly vs. the disabled)
- Increases insurance coverage rates for people with pre-existing conditions, including those with disabilities, resulting in loss of care for families who simply cannot afford high premiums
- Allows states to opt-out of funding essential health benefits, including rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices and preventative and wellness services on which our families rely

The devastating impact of what the bill proposes on our loved ones with autism and their families cannot be overstated! But that's not all!

The budget plan just announced by the President proposes: an **ADDITIONAL \$610 billion** in Medicaid cuts; more than **\$70 billion in cuts to Social Security Disability benefits**; \$5.79 billion in cuts to the National Institutes of Health, the lead agency for federal research on autism; \$47 million in cuts at the Health Resources and Services Administration, eliminating all its autism programs, including training for health care professionals to screen and diagnose autism; and \$35 million in cuts to the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, which leads the autism surveillance efforts at the Centers for Disease Control.

If these changes and cuts are adopted, Massachusetts will not be able to make up the difference! The Senate leadership is now working on changes to the House-approved version of the AHCA. The time for **action is now!** Here is what you can do:

Call your Senators today (202-224-3121) and tell them to oppose cuts to Medicaid. Share personal impact stories about how Medicaid helps you and your loved ones. Reach out to friends and family in other states to call their Senators on your behalf. Thank you!

Impending Medicaid (MassHealth) Cuts and the Importance of Families' Involvement in Legislative Advocacy

CONTRIBUTED BY GLORIA RICARDI CASTILLO



Jonathan, Michael, Eric, and Nancy Borr

The following is a conversation with Michael Borr, Chairman of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM)

GRC: I have known you for many years in your role as the chairman of AFAM, and I would like to know how you got involved, what inspired you?

MJB: Well, very simply, almost twenty years ago a little boy stole my heart and he has been my motivation ever since. Our youngest son, Jonathan, was diagnosed with autism in 1991. My wife, Nancy, and I realized that we were going to need a support system in place to help us with him. We contacted the Department of Developmental Services, and we were referred to the Arc of South Norfolk; they came out to our house and did the initial intake for DDS. The Arc was our only support system as we faced all the challenges coming our way. When we were initially looking for resources, your Center (ASC) was the only one available at that time.

GRC: We were one of the first Autism Support Centers in Massachusetts, we have been around for over 25 years.

MJB: But we were in Sharon and it was too long a commute for us to go to Danvers. That is why we turned to the Arc in our area. Nancy, and I got very involved with the Arc of South Norfolk and, with other families, helped them to establish the Family Autism Center. I remember our first initiative was to do a tag sale, we received so many donations it was unbelievable. That is how we started fundraising for our autism center at the Arc of South Norfolk. Our Center was a grass roots initiative, there were many other families involved in the inception of our privately funded center. Later, as we evolved, the Center received funding from the state (DDS).

GRC: How AFAM (Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts) did come about?

MJB: In 1996, Janet George, Assistant Commissioner of Department of Developmental Services (DDS) undertook an initiative that the leadership of autism centers funded by DDS would start meeting regularly. Soon after, we were faced with two major issues that took place over the course of the next five years; the first was a change in the Commonwealth's expansive standard for services in special education from maximum feasible benefits to federal standard of free and appropriate. The other change was in eligibility for services from DDS. The change was from a functional assessment to a straight IQ. We knew we were under siege and had to advocate on our own behalf, so we organized and started to do an annual autism awareness day at the State House. We decided to organize more formally so, with the assistance of a professional facilitator, we established AFAM. We are headquartered by agreement at the Arc of Mass

GRC: What is the role of AFAM in Massachusetts?

MJB: We are an advocacy organization, a coalition of a number of different organizations that have come together to advocate on behalf of individuals with ASD and their families. AFAM does not receive funding from DDS.

GRC: What do you consider AFAM's biggest accomplishments so far?

MJB: Our two biggest accomplishments have been our insurance mandate, ARICA, in 2010 and the Omnibus Bill of 2014. ARICA was a grass roots effort, the statute was written by parents, we advocated as a group and learned from that experience just how effective we could be if we worked as a cohesive group.....we could have impact!

GRC: Why it is so hard for parents to participate in legislative advocacy? I am still trying to figure this out.

MJB: it is so challenging, it really is, and it's concerning to me, because I don't think parents realized how big of an impact they have when they do something as simple as to call their representative or state senator. It has tremendous impact and talking with the legislative aides is fine, they will listen and pass the message on to their representative or senator. They do, they listen and it matters to them. The challenge is to get them to understand that autism impacts families in a number of different ways and it is consuming. Families get so worn out just trying to make it through the day that they have difficulty looking down the road and understanding the impact they can have by advocating and getting involved to whatever degree they're able. It can be as simple as picking up the phone when they get an alert and contacting their legislators.

(Continued on next page)

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Families' Involvement in Legislative Advocacy (continued from page 2)



Michael Borr at the State House

GRC: What would be the one piece of advice that you would give to families?

MJB: Look to the future and plan for that future. Understand what you need to do to prepare and access the services needed to support your child.

GRC: Today one of the biggest topics of conversations in the disability community are the impending cuts to Medicaid, because without Medicaid providing support to community and state programs, thousands of people with disabilities would lose their place in the community, their ability to work and their hope to be part of everyday life. How can families use their voices to save Medicaid?

MJB: Get engaged in advocacy! You can simply do that by reaching out to your local Arc, autism support center or family support center. We have done something in Massachusetts that I have been told is unique around the country in the way we have organized. It's been impactful, it has made a difference and we need more families to get involved! We are facing a real crisis with the proposed cut to support services.

GRC: Which is very concerning, how do we get this message out to families?

MJB: Families need to do their due diligence to understand what these cuts will mean for many individuals with disabilities. We need help from families and by helping us they are helping themselves, it can be as simple as making a phone call in an issue, even responding to an alert when we ask them to call their legislators, family involvement is critical!

The Autism Support Center a program of Northeast Arc, is one of the founding member organizations of AFAM.

Michael J. Borr is Chairman of the Executive Committee of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts (AFAM), a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 to champion the individual and civil rights of people of all ages affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). AFAM is dedicated to improving and expanding the funding and resources for Massachusetts residents with an ASD, by educating and informing legislators and policy-makers and by generating greater awareness and mobilizing public support. Since its founding, AFAM has been hosted by The Arc of Massachusetts and the two organizations have collaborated to advocate for legislation and regulations affecting the lives of people with disabilities.

Michael and his wife, Nancy, have two grown sons, Eric and Jonathan. Jonathan is on the autism spectrum and currently resides in a group home operated by AMEGO. Both Michael and Nancy were founding members of the Family Autism Center at The Arc of South Norfolk, where Nancy is a program assistant and Michael is a member of the Center's steering committee.

Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts was formed in 2004 to address the need for public advocacy on behalf of individuals, families and professionals who have or deal with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) which also encompasses Asperger's Syndrome and high-functioning Autism. The organization provides an important arena for mobilizing those of us who deal with ASD in our day-to-day lives as the most eloquent and persuasive spokespeople for our concerns. Our efforts focus not only on the State House but also on towns and city halls that also have responsibility for service delivery and funding.

**AFAM's offices are located at
The Arc of Massachusetts, 217 South Street, Waltham.
Contact them at 781-891-6270
Www.afamaction.org**

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

My Chosen Career

Contributed by Marijke Callahan, M.Ed., BCBA, LABA
Northeast Arc's Autism ABA Services



Marijke and Caitlin

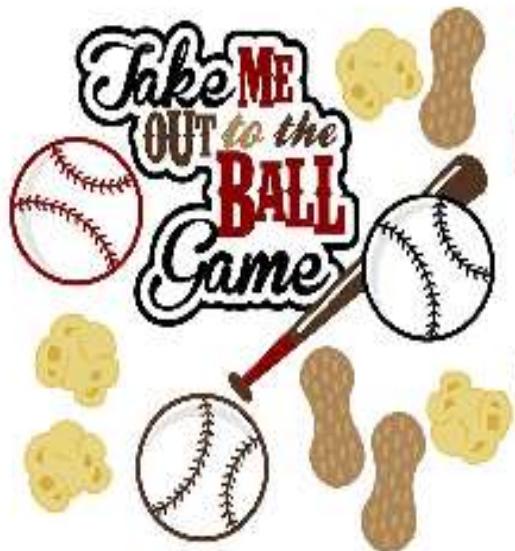
My younger sister arrived 8 weeks early. She was born with hydrocephalus, which caused a myriad of learning disabilities, and she struggled her way through most of her academic career. My parents fought bitterly with the school system every year to get her the services she desperately needed to be successful. Homework assignments were conquered through long hours and many tears. My sister completed her PhD in Geology in August 2013. Her determination, and the support of my parents and many special educators throughout out her life, led her to achieve things no one at the time believed were possible. I strongly believe that my family's experiences influenced my own career path.

As an educator for over 20 years, I have found that my most rewarding experiences have been those that involved people diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Although I began my career as a general education teacher, I always found my way back to working with these extraordinary individuals.

At a very young age I knew I wanted to be a teacher. In high school I took Child Study each semester and enjoyed working in the integrated preschool attached to the school. As an education minor in college (Social Psychology major), I worked in the preschool on campus as part of the Work Study program. I was always excited to begin each new student teaching experience in the public schools and hone my skills in curriculum development and classroom management. After five years in general education, I got the opportunity to teach at a private school for individuals diagnosed with autism and I have never looked back! During my time at this school I conducted research in the field of autism and presented my findings at national and international conferences. I pursued my Master's degree in Special Education, achieved my certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and am now also a Licensed Behavior Analyst.

Now, as a BCBA at Northeast Arc, I take great pride in working with families and other service providers providing them with the strategies that work best for children, adolescents, and adults with autism or other neurological disorders. Each day that I do my job, I am reminded that every individual with autism is unique, which encourages me to continue learning. Working with families in their homes can be an intimate experience. This work has strengthened my ability to collaborate with families in educating and caring for their child with autism at home and within the community.

I can only hope that over the course of my career I will continue to make a positive impact on the lives of families living with autism or other neurological disorders. My job is challenging and rewarding and the people and families I work with every day inspire me to do my best!



Join the Autism Support Center for Autism Awareness Night with the North Shore Navigators!

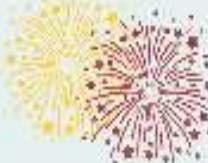
Children and adults on the Autism spectrum, along with their families, are invited to be on the field during the pre-game festivities!

FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH

6:20 pm Join the players on the field while Marissa Michaela Kearney performs the national anthem

6:40 pm First pitch thrown out

7:00 pm Game on! Watch the North Shore Navigators play against the Brockton Rox



Post Game Fireworks will begin 15 minutes after the game.
Feel free to stay (or not!)



FRASER FIELD
365 WESTERN AVE
LYNN, MA 01904



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TICKET! CUT HERE.

ADMIT 6

NortheastArc

**AUTISM AWARENESS NIGHT
AT FRASER FIELD**

NORTH SHORE NAVIGATORS VS BROCKTON ROX
FRIDAY, JUNE 30 | GAME TIME AT 7 PM
POST-GAME FIREWORKS

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Touch to Talk Goes to School: Lynn's Shoemaker School

CONTRIBUTED BY GLORIA RICARDI CASTILLO

About Touch to Talk

Northeast Arc, in partnership with generous volunteers and contributors, seeking to increase, expedite, and support access to tablets and applications for communication, initiated a program under the auspices of the Autism Support Center called Touch to Talk, a communication program. Our goal is to help children with autism and other developmental disabilities to express themselves more fully. We do this by empowering families and school personnel to access the tools, clinical expertise and technical know-how-to necessary to facilitate their children/students' expressive language acquisition.



On Friday May 26th, 2017, the Touch to Talk program returned to Shoemaker School in Lynn (in 2015 we did our first Touch to Talk program at Shoemaker). We scheduled another AAC training and Touch Chat training for parents and educators. Touch to Talk donated ten iPad minis and ten TouchChat applications to students at Shoemaker's COACH program. The school had selected ten candidates for the program—students with limited verbal abilities or non-verbal, who were already using PECS(Picture Exchange Communication Pictures). Each child in the program will receive an iPad mini and the TouchChat application at no cost to the family. The iPad will belong to the child/family to be used at school, home and out in the community. We at the Northeast Arc are very excited for this collaboration; parents and school personnel working together with us in this initiative of affording students the opportunity of enhancing not only their communication skills but their quality of life as well. A big thank you to, Lisa Davis, Northeast Arc Speech and Language Pathologist for her presentation on Autism & AAC Strategies for Home Practice, also to Miki DiVirgilio, COACH Program Manager and to all the educators and clinicians at Shoemaker school in Lynn Ma, for their enthusiasm, energy and commitment to support the students going forward with their communication goal.



Lisa Davis M.S.CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
Northeast Arc

Gloria Ricardi Castillo, Co-Director of the Autism Support Center

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Touch to Talk (Continued from page 6)



May 26, 2017



Dear Gloria,

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful opportunity you and the Northeast Arc have so graciously provided the families and staff at the Shoemaker school in Lynn, Ma.. The introduction of the iPads mini to our COACH program has made a tremendous difference in the lives of our non-verbal children. You have provided these students and their families the priceless gift of communication. As educators working with children on the autism spectrum, we see firsthand the struggles that a non-verbal child and their families encounter on a daily basis. Access to an iPad and the TouchChat application has opened up new possibilities, and has helped these families better deal with the daily struggles that go along with this disability. Your continued support of our staff, children and families has been immeasurable. I work with varying forms of augmented communication on a daily basis. I have come to understand that training and practice is key. Many times we focus so much on teaching the student, that we forget that this is like learning a new language for the families as well. Your training sessions are a great way for parents to become more comfortable with the iPad and the TouchChat application, as well as learn more about the different ways to engage and communicate with their child. Producing a functional communicator across all settings, is the ultimate goal, and caregiver training is crucial in order to make this happen.

Again, the work you do, and the help that you have provided the children, families and staff at the Shoemaker school is greatly appreciated. I thought it was important for you to know that your organization is making a difference in the learning and life of our students. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely, Tara Laundry, Speech Therapist, Shoemaker Elementary School



JUNE 21, 6-7:30PM ATTAINABLE SAVINGS PLAN

Learn about the features and benefits at this workshop!

The Attainable Savings Plan (the ABLE Savings Plan offered by MEFA and managed by Fidelity) provides individuals with a disability, and their families, a tax advantaged way to save for qualified disability expenses while helping to avoid impacts to disability benefits. A person can own an Attainable account if they have a significant disability which occurred prior to reaching their 26th birthday.



NEW SAVINGS PLAN FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

PRESENTER:
MARTHA SAVORY
MASS. EDUCATIONAL
FINANCING AUTHORITY

RSVP REQUIRED!
978-777-9135

HOSTED BY
**AUTISM SUPPORT
CENTER**

6 Southside Road
Danvers, MA 01923
978-777-9135



set sail

with the Autism Support Center

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR ONE OF THESE FABULOUS SIGHTSEEING CRUISES IN EITHER HISTORIC SALEM OR BEAUTIFUL NEWBURYPORT

SPACE IS LIMITED SO REGISTER TODAY!

MAHI MAHI CRUISES AND CHARTER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

10:00AM TO 12:00PM

23 CONGRESS ST.

SALEM, MA 01970



Mahi Mahi

Harbor Cruises & Events



YANKEE CLIPPER HARBOR TOURS

YANKEE CLIPPER HARBOR TOURS

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

11:00AM TO 12:30PM

WATERFRONT PROMENADE PARK

22 MERRIMAC ST.

NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950

WWW.HARBORTOURS.COM

PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY TO PREPARE FOR BOARDING.

REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.

RSVP (978) 777-9135 - ASK FOR ASC



Please note that pictures will be taken at the event for marketing purposes (e.g. for use in newsletters, on our website and Facebook page), and by attending you grant Northeast Arc permission to use your image unless you notify us otherwise in advance.

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Support Groups

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION	MEETING DETAILS	CONTACT INFO
Central Middlesex Area			
Mandarin Group	ASC-sponsored For Mandarin-speaking parents of children diagnosed with ASD; connect and network with other families; enjoy periodic family days	Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main St, Acton. Bi-monthly meetings, TBA. Facilitator: Wen Li	ASC at 978-777-9135 or asc@ne-arc.org
Burlington Group	ASC-sponsored General discussion and networking for parents of children and teens with ASD. Occasional guest speakers.	@ Burlington Public Library, 22 Sears St, Burlington. Meets the 1 st Monday of the month @ 6:30pm Facilitator: Chris Curtin	ASC at 978-777-9135 or asc@ne-arc.org
Merrimack Valley Area			
Spanish Group	ASC-sponsored for Spanish-speaking parents of children with disabilities. Occasional workshops & events offered	@ Family and Youth Initiative, 130 Parker Street, Lawrence; Meets 3rd Friday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am. Facilitator: Gloria Ricardi Castillo	Gloria Ricardi Castillo at 978-624-23201 or gcas-tillo@ne-arc.org
Newburyport Group	ASC-sponsored for parents of children diagnosed with ASD. General discussion and networking.	@ Newburyport 5 Cents Bank, State St, Newburyport; Meets the 2 nd Thursdays at 7 pm. Facilitator: Nancy Lucier	Contact Susan Gilroy at 978-624-2302 or asc@ne-arc.org
North Shore Area			
Parents of Adults (18+) with AS	ASC-sponsored for parents of adults with Asperger's, high cognitive autism; general discussion, info sharing.	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers; 1 st Mondays, 6-8 pm; Facilitator: Phyllis Kizner	Phyllis Kizner at 978-624-3747 or pkizner@ne-arc.org
Grandparents' Group	ASC-sponsored for grandparents coping with ASD. Networking, info sharing, support.	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Road, Danvers; 3 rd Wednesdays at 10-11:30 am Facilitator: Susan Gilroy	Susan Gilroy at 978-624-2302 or sgilroy@ne-arc.org
Danvers Group	ASC-sponsored for parents of young children (under 10), info sharing and occasional workshops/guest speakers	@ Autism Support Center, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers, 6 to 7:30 pm; 3 rd Thursdays; Facilitator: Jackie Murphy	Jackie Murphy at 978-624-3721 or jpmurphy@ne-arc.org
Transition Group	NeArc-sponsored for parents of transition-aged youth ((14-22). Discussion and workshops on turning 22 related topics	@ NeArc, 6 Southside Rd, Danvers; 3 rd Tuesdays at 6:30-8:30 pm; Facilitated by Nancy Lucier	Nancy Lucier at 978-624-2350 or nalucier@ne-arc.org
Adult Group (18+)	ASC-sponsored for adults with Asperger profile, high cognitive autism.	@ Breaking Grounds Café, 67 Main St., Peabody. 1 st Thursday, 11am-noon. Facilitated by Phyllis Kizner	Phyllis Kizner at 978-624-3747 or pkizner@ne-arc.org
Danvers Panera Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for parents of children with disabilities; general discussion	@Panera Bread, Liberty Tree Mall, 100 Independence Way, Danvers; 2 nd Tuesdays at 10 am. Facilitated by Aymee Lucifora/Fariba O'Donald	Fariba O'Donald at 978-624-2381 or Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380
Lynn Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for parents of children with disabilities; general discussion	@ Brothers Deli, 41 Market Street, Lynn; Last Thursday at 10 am. Facilitated by Fariba O'Donald	Fariba O'Donald at 978-624-2381 or Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380
Lynn Spanish Group	NeArc Family Resource Center sponsored; for Spanish-speaking parents of children with DD; general discussion	@ CenterBoard, City Hall Sq.Lynn; 2/28 Facilitated by Aymee Lucifora	Aymee Lucifora at 978-624-2380

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Focus On Adults

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission



Many individuals who have services via DDS, are not aware that you are also able to obtain services via MRC. Their main purpose is to assist those with disabilities find and sustain employment. A person needs to have a physical or mental impairment to apply for services which range from vocational assessments, to job training, and job searches. If you or a loved one has a sincere interest in employment, follow the link below to find the office closest to you.

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/disability-services/vocational-rehab/vr-area-offices/>

If you have questions about Turning 22 and adult autism services, contact Phyllis Kizner, Adult Specialist, at 978-624-3747.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Online research for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder: Children's Quality of Life Study

If you have a child with: Autism, Aspergers, or PDD-NOS (Pervasive Developmental Disorder – not otherwise specified) AND Your child is age 8-11 years

We are interested in hearing from you!

We are interested in factors related to quality of life of children with ASD from the view of their parents.

For more information go to Quality of Life Study

<https://survey.psyc.unb.ca/qolconsent.aspx>

Or contact the investigators at t533z@unb.ca or bdentrem@unb.ca. Visiting the website does not obligate you to participate.

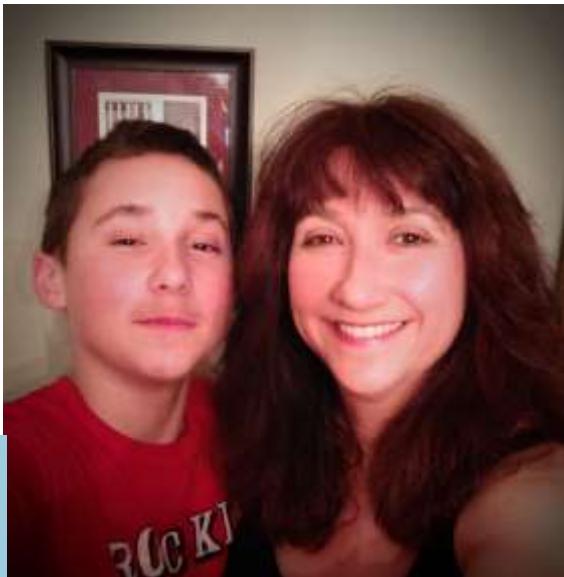
Participation in this study involves approximately 30-45 minutes of completing questionnaires online. After completing the questionnaires, you may choose to enter a draw for 1 of 5 \$20.00 Visa gift cards. This study is being conducted by Mandy Fulton, Ph. D. Candidate, t533z@unb.ca, and Dr. Barbara D'Entremont, Ph.D, L.Psyc, Professor, bdentrem@unb.ca from the University of New Brunswick. For more information, please contact either investigator. This project is on file with the Research Ethics Board (REB 2016-125).

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Ask the Advocate:

Afterschool activities



Ask the Advocate!

Nancy Lucier
Northeast Arc Advocacy Program

Question: I would like my child to participate in an afterschool activity but I am afraid he will not be able to do it without support?

Answer: All students have a right to participate in "the life of the school" which goes beyond the academic school day. If you have a child on an IEP who would like to participate in any school program before or after school (ex: sports, clubs, social groups, etc.), sign your child up for that activity and then request a team meeting to discuss the supports necessary for the student to access and successfully and safely participate in the activity/program.

*If you need an advocate, please call our Advocacy Intake Coordinator at:
1-978-762-8352*

COMMISSIONER HOWE RETIRES

Like many in the disability community, we at ASC are saddened to learn of DDS Commissioner Elin Howe's retirement effective July 14. Commissioner Howe has served in the post for ten years.

In a letter to DDS staff she said, "I have been honored to work with and support families, the largest provider of services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Commonwealth and absolutely the very best advocates not only for their own family members but for everyone in the system."

There were many positive changes in Massachusetts for people with autism and other developmental disabilities during her tenure. She surely will be missed. We wish her a long and satisfying retirement.



Gloria Ricardi Castillo, Elin Howe, and Susan Gilroy

Is your child having difficulties in school?

**Do you need help with their (IEP)
Individualized Education Program?**



Take advantage of a 1 hour Individual IEP Consult
with an Educational Advocate for \$25

*Thanks to the Support from Department of Developmental Services and the United Way of the North Shore these Consultations may be **FREE** to families who are eligible to receive family support services through the North Shore Area office.*

Restrictions: 1 per year at the \$25 rate per person. (Regularly \$80)

June 2nd & 16th

Northeast Arc Center for Excellence

6 Southside Road, Danvers, MA

9:30am, 10:45am & 12:00 noon



June 5th & 19th

Centerboard

16 City Hall Square, Lynn, MA

9:30am, 10:45am & 12:00 noon



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact:

alucifora@ne-arc.org / 1-978-624-2381

or

fodonald@ne-arc.org / 1-978-624-2380



The Arc
For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities



United Way
of Massachusetts Bay
and Merrimack Valley

IT'S A FACT:

Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the United States.

Research Opportunities

Adult Study:

My name is Victoria Sampson. I am an undergraduate student at Miami University. I am conducting an examination on the impact of childhood experiences on independence and achievement for adults with autism spectrum disorder. The study is orchestrated under the supervision of Ashley Johnson, a clinical faculty member and Elisa Abes, an associate professor at Miami University. I am seeking participants eighteen years of age or older with autism spectrum disorder. Interested subjects must have been raised and received schooling within the United States. Individuals with co-occurring conditions or people who use an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device are eligible to participate. Participation in this study will consist of either an online survey or an interview lasting approximately ninety minutes. During the interview or survey, the subject will be asked questions on a range of topics regarding their experiences as an individual with ASD. There are closed-ended questions, but many of the questions are opened-ended to encourage the participant to elaborate on their responses. Parents (or legal guardians) who have an adult child who meets the study's criteria are eligible to participate in the study rather than their child. Parents (or legal guardians) will take part in an alternative interview or survey.

There has been a significant amount of research on autism spectrum disorder in the past decade. The majority of this research, however, has focused on children, more specifically on the clinical treatment of ASD. As a result, there is a lack of inquiry on the experiences of adults with autism spectrum disorder.

The purpose of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of what life is like for an autistic individual in the United States. We also hope to ascertain if there is a correlation between a person's education and medical interventions during childhood and their current whereabouts in life. We aspired to use the resulting information to educate the public on the lives of people within the autistic community. We believe that understanding the experiences of these individuals could help alleviate some of the stigma and discrimination autistic people face. The data could be used as the basis for the development of innovative programs that support people with ASD. These programs, in turn, could equip these individuals with the supports and attitudes needed to become independent members of society.

To learn more about this study, please contact me at Sampsovr@miamioh.edu

Your participation and or feedback will be greatly appreciated,

Victoria R. Sampson

Miami University | Class of 2019

Undergraduate Summer Scholars (USS) | 2017

Inclusive University Program (IUP) | Student Mentor

Speech Pathology & Audiology Major | Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Certificate Program

Parent/Teacher Surveys

From Mia Daniels & Kara Durgin from Penn State University: Our research team is conducting a project to determine how autism school **teachers** are successfully treating people with autism. The research would require you to complete an online survey (https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_29ywoUXuThMDdVr) examining what autism treatments you have seen implemented, what treatments you find effective, and your thoughts about the treatment effectiveness. The number of questions will depend upon your experience with different autism treatments.

All responses will be confidential.

We really appreciate any help you can give us in understanding the quality interventions for people with autism in the United States.

Sincerely,

Mia Daniels mcd43@psu.edu

Kara Durgin kld294@psu.edu

This is Morgan Zymnis & Hande Hakkoymaz from Penn State University. Our research team is conducting a project to determine what treatments for people with autism that **parents** find effective.

The research would require you to complete an online survey (https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0J65uCQMwSu5Hwx) examining what autism treatments you have seen implemented, what treatments you find effective, and your thoughts about the treatment effectiveness. The number of questions will depend upon your experience with different autism treatments.

All responses will be confidential.

We really appreciate any help you can give us in understanding the quality interventions for people with autism in the United States.

Sincerely,

Morgan Zymnis mzz5205@psu.edu

Hande Hakkoymaz

JUST FOR GRANDPARENTS!

If you are a grandparent of a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum and you would like to meet other grandparents you are encouraged to join our support/discussion group. We recognize that your needs and concerns may be somewhat different than a more traditional parent support group so we hope to come together to build a network to share tips and resources, as well as encouragement. Our meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 am at our site in Danvers.

When:
3rd Wednesdays @ 10-11:30am

Location:
The Library @ ASC, 6 Southside Road, Danvers

Contact:
Susan Gilroy 978-624-2302 or sgilroy@ne-arc.org

- Information
- Encouragement
- Support
- Sharing



We need you! Your Input on Housing Options Needed!

Your input is needed! The Housing Subcommittee of the Massachusetts Autism Commission is conducting a survey to identify housing options currently available to people in Massachusetts with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The Committee is holding Community Input Sessions to gather information from adults with ASD as well as their families and advocates about housing needs and preferences. Some questions that will be discussed during these Community sessions include:

- Where do adults with ASD currently live? Is this where they prefer to live?
- What would an ideal living situation for an adult with ASD look like?
- Do younger adults have the same preferences?
- What supports are needed to assist adults with ASD to live in these types of living situations?
- What are the barriers that prevent adults with ASD from living in the setting of their choice?

Dates and Locations:

- Monday, June 5, 2017 – Focus on families
@ Northshore Crossing, Revere
- Tuesday, June 6, 2017 – Focus on Self Advocates
@ Roger Public Library, Copley Square
- Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – Focus on families
@ Waltham Public Library, Waltham
- All events will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
A light dinner will be provided.

Space is limited. To reserve, please [click here](#) or call Rachel at 617-266-3637 ext. 129. After you register, you will receive more specific information about the location including public transportation and parking.



85 MUSEUMS & CULTURAL EVENTS 10 FRIDAYS. 100% FREE FREE FUN FRIDAYS!



JUNE 23
Lyric Stage Company of Boston
Mary Baker Eddy Library
The Sports Museum
Clark Art Institute
The New England Historical Foundation's Home
Winslow Homer Art Museum
Penobscot Eastern Moose
The Discovery Museum

JUNE 30
Boston Children's Museum
MIT Museum
Norman Rockwell Museum
Gosman's Museums
EcoTarium
Maritime Gloucester
New Bedford Whaling Museum
The Gardens at Fane Park (Mass Hort)
The Faneuil Hall Marketplace

JULY 7
Boston Children's Museum
Harvard English Institute, Collier Library, Tisch Library
National Hall Museum and National Arts Museum
Massachusetts Performance Arts Center
Artsline Party Children's Museum
Falmouth Maritime on the Green
Plymouth Harbor Museum
Cleavans Museum in Danvers
The Faneuil Hall Marketplace

JULY 14
Edward M. Kennedy Institute
The Metropolitan Waterworks Museum
Harvard Museums of Science & Culture
Lazell Anderson Auto Museum
Provincetown Art Association and Museum
Duxbury Maritime History Museum
Museum of Natural History
Cape Ann Museum

JULY 21
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Tanglewood
Boston Atheneum
The Hall of Fame of the NCAA
Falmouth Museum, The Trustees
Ripley's Museum of Stamps & Postal History
Lyman Museum
Hancock Shaker Village
Sandwich Glass Museum

JULY 28
JFK Presidential Library and Museum
Commonwealth Museums
Arts in the Attic
The Eric Carle Museum
Berkshire Thrush Group
Holmes Diamond
Cape Cod Museum of Art
Whitney Museum
Tracey Hill Botanic Garden

AUGUST 4
Commonwealth Shakespeare Company
Old State House
The Old Corner Bookstore
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Children's Museum of Melville
International Whaling Hall of Fame
The Old Manse, The Trustees
JFK Hyannis Museum

AUGUST 11
Franklin Park Zoo
Follett Craft Museum
Cape Cod Maritime Museum
American Revolution Museum
Urban Museum of Photography
Fitzgerald Art Museum
Jacobs' Paper Goods
Jewell College Museum of Art
Rauner Library, The Trustees

AUGUST 18
The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston
Old Statehouse Village
Freedom Trail Foundation
Butterfield Park Zoo
Cape Cod Children's Museum
Concord Museum
Berkshire Museum
Emily Dickinson Museum

AUGUST 25
Duxbury Harbor Islands National and State Park
Massachusetts Maritime Museum
Pineott Plantation
WAMC MuICA
Nantucket Whaling Museum
The Old Corner Bookstore & The Old Post House
Museum of African American History
Cape Cod Museum of Natural History
Heritage Museums & Gardens



The Boston Globe WCVB

Please visit HighlandStreet.org or call 617.969.8900 for more information.

Come join our friends from
**Community Covenant Church
of Peabody**

for an evening of

BINGO

Sunday, June 4th, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Northeast Arc
6 Southside Road, Danvers
Lots of Fun, Prizes and Snacks

It's always fun to be with friends!

For further information contact Suzanne sryan@ne-arc.org

The Spectrum

The Spectrum is a monthly electronic publication of the Autism Support Center. This newsletter is published to inform parents and professionals of resource information, upcoming events, and other autism-related topics. ASC is funded primarily by the Mass. Dept. of Developmental INFORMED. EMPOWERED. CONNECTED. Services. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the funding source. ASC does not endorse any product, service or theory referred to in this newsletter. Articles, resources and announcements are included for information only.

Anyone wishing to contribute information for this newsletter should send it to asc@ne-arc.org or to our mailing address. Parent contributions are encouraged. Announcements are *included as space is available*.



**PLEASE CONTACT
ASC AT 978-777-9135
OR VISIT [HTTP://NE-ARC.ORG/SERVICES/AUTISM-SERVICES/](http://NE-ARC.ORG/SERVICES/AUTISM-SERVICES/)
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



6 SOUTHSIDE ROAD, DANVERS MA 01923

NortheastArc
Lifelong support for people with disabilities

