

Missouri Autism Projects Parent/Family Information

The **award-winning, consumer-driven** Missouri Autism Projects are established in both statute at <http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C600-699/6330000220.HTM> and the Missouri Code of State Regulations at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/9csr/9c45-3.pdf>. Each of the 5 regional Autism Projects has a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) connected to it and has bylaws that provide a framework for its operation and management. Representatives from each regional PAC serve on the Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism.

The **Parent Advisory Committees** (PACs) are made up of volunteers (family members) who are appointed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities. To respond to the unique needs of their region and best serve the needs of families and their loved ones with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the PACs make recommendations to the division (annually in May) about the business model, services, and providers. The regional PACs are charged with making these recommendations based upon **input from families**.

Families are encouraged to provide input whenever possible. Many families attend the PAC meetings to provide input and may complete and return the Family Satisfaction Survey. To obtain information about the dates, times, and locations of PAC meetings, please contact your Family Resource & Autism Specialist. You may access the Family Satisfaction Survey by linking to your regional Autism Project webpage from the Missouri Autism Project homepage at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/autismprojects.html>.

Family Support is the heart of the Missouri Autism Projects. All the authorities for the Missouri Autism Projects contain the following items to define Family Support

- Services and helping relationships for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing family care giving
- May be any combination of services that enables individuals with autism to reside within their family homes and remain integrated within their communities
- Services shall be
 - Based on individual and family needs
 - Identified by the family
 - Easily accessible to the family
 - Family-centered and culturally sensitive
 - Flexible and varied to meet the changing needs of the family members...
 - Provided in a timely manner contingent upon the availability of resources

In order to receive services through a Regional Autism Project, an individual must

- Be eligible to receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Have an ASD (autism spectrum disorder) diagnosis

To apply for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, contact the intake department of your Regional Office. Link to Regional Offices: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities/>

Before enrollment in the Regional Autism Project, it is highly recommended to

- Obtain an **assessment for intervention planning*** from your clinician(s)
- Review the **Information for Families**, especially the service directory or service reference guide, on your regional autism webpage that may be accessed from <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/autismprojects.html>.
- **Provide the support coordinator with** any of the following documentation from clinicians, educators, and other professionals
 - Assessment(s) for intervention planning
 - Evaluations, education plans, and other related documentation that identifies challenges and recommendations
 - Other relevant information that will allow the support coordinator to coordinate services that are individualized and target the needs of the individual and family

* An assessment for intervention planning is described in *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Missouri Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis, and Assessment* available at <http://autismguidelines.dmh.mo.gov/>. If you don't have an assessment for intervention planning, you may wish to contact an Autism Center listed in the "Help for Your Child with Autism" brochure under the *Information for Families* Section on your regional autism project webpage that may be accessed from <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/autismprojects.html>.

To enroll in the Regional Autism Project

The Support Coordinator needs to meet with the family* to

- Develop the Individual Support Plan (not only does the plan document the need for the services requested, it also documents the goals and expected outcomes of the services requested)
- Complete the provider and services choice form or documentation
- Complete the provider referral form
- Complete the budget (enables the business office to authorize the services)

*Service monitoring provided in the natural home is governed by Directive 3.020. Link: <http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/directives/3020.pdf>. These guidelines detail for the support coordinator the frequency of visits/contacts with the individual with ASD and are a "**minimum standard. It is expected that Support Coordinators exercise professional judgment and increase visits according to the individual needs of people.**" If the enrollment process is not completed during the prescribed visit, the completion of the enrollment should not be delayed until the next mandated meeting, but should be completed at the earliest opportunity.

To complete the enrollment process, the support coordinator will submit the Autism Project Referral Packet (Individual Support Plan, Choices Form, Referral Form, and Budget) to the Utilization Review Committee. Upon plan approval, the business office will authorize services and the individual and family may begin receiving services.

The Office of Autism Services has developed the **Autism Projects Overview** webinar to provide a more in-depth overview of the Missouri Autism Projects. The webinar can be accessed on the Office of Autism Services website at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/>.

You may **learn more** about the Autism Projects, the Parent Advisory Committees, and your regional Autism Project at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/autismprojects.html>.

If you have questions about your regional Autism Project, please contact your Support Coordinator, your Support Coordinator's supervisor, or the Family Resource & Autism Specialist in the Regional Office or Satellite Office that serves you. If you continue to have questions, please contact the Office of Autism Services at 573-526-3848.