

FUNDING BASICS
AUTISM PROJECTS

<http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/facts.pdf>

(Link to Autism Fact Sheet on DMH Website)

Overview

In 1990, a group of parents came together with a common challenge. They had children with autism who needed specialized services provided locally. Those parents approached the Department of Mental Health and the Missouri General Assembly to secure funding for the first five (5) autism projects in Missouri. That first consumer driven project was established in FY'91 to deliver family support services to individuals with autism and their families living in 20 central Missouri counties. A parent advisory committee was formed and, together with the Department of Mental Health, chose TouchPoint Autism Services (formerly known as the Judevine Center for Autism) as the contracted service provider for the Central Missouri Autism Project. Five family support autism projects were developed statewide by 1994, making autism services available throughout the state. All were developed by parents and other family members and are monitored by parent advisory committees. While the Southeast and Southwest projects selected TouchPoint, the Northwest and East selected similar models using a variety of providers. The projects provide a variety of services including advocacy training, parent/caregiver/staff training, behavior management training and supports, crisis intervention and therapies, and public education and information and dissemination. Additional information can be found in the fact sheet at the link shown at the top of this page.

<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/index.htm>.