

# Direct Connection



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**CONNECTING WITH THE  
DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

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Health

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Disabilities

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## First Responder Training

**INTERACTING WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM  
SPECTRUM DISORDER AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in sixty-eight children in the United States has autism spectrum disorder. In an effort to advance better understanding of how to interact with individuals on the spectrum from the perspective of public safety, the Division of Developmental Disabilities is partnering with Dennis Debbaudt, father of an adult son with autism and national expert in law enforcement training for interactions with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, and the University of Missouri Fire and Rescue Training Institute to produce a web-based unified first responder training to be hosted on the University of Missouri's Extension website.

The training will meet continuing education requirements within each public safety entity and be offered to qualified participants at no cost for a three year period.

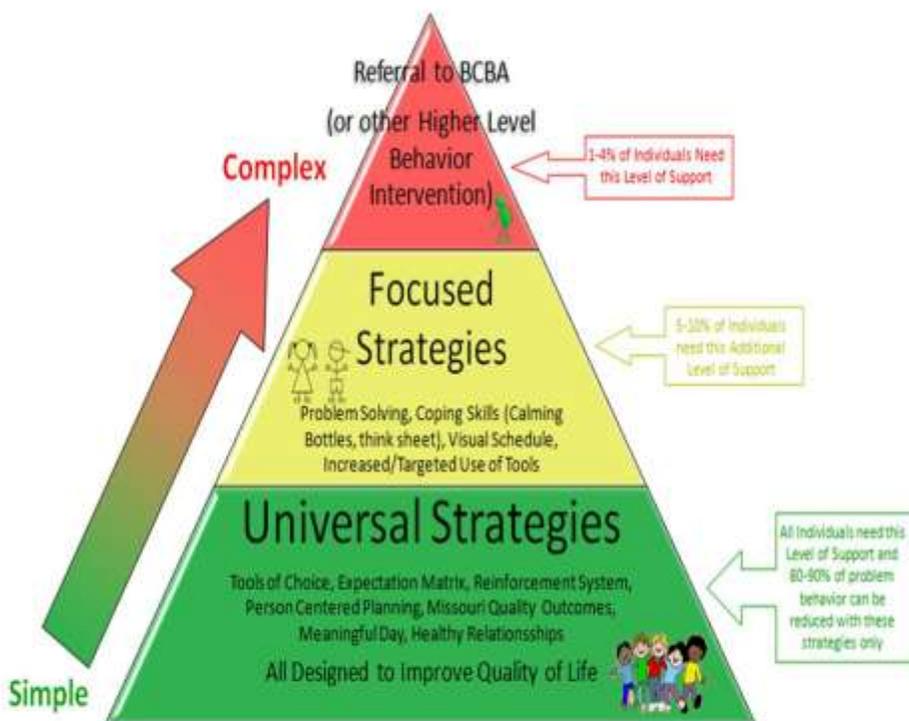
This effort promotes systemic and sustainable education and awareness of how to interact with individuals on the spectrum, advancing best practice and minimizing potential adverse encounters that might result from misunderstanding.

# Tiered Supports Networking Summit

On April 30 in Jefferson City, 240 persons participated in the first Tiered Supports Networking Summit sponsored by the Missouri Division of Developmental Disabilities. Summit participants had an opportunity to share and learn positive ways to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Technical assistance, training, and coaching to help agencies design data systems in order to implement evidenced-based positive support practices are provided through the Tiered Supports initiative. The initial outcomes show promising results for reduction in significant behavioral events for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and reduced staff turnover for providers.

There are approximately 50 agencies statewide that have voluntarily agreed to implement the Tiered Supports process.



## Agencies recognized for successful implementation of agency-wide systems to positively support behavior:

### Central Missouri Regional Office

- Help at Home, Inc.

### Kirksville Satellite Office

- Specialized Support Services
- Chariton Valley Association, Inc.
- Restoring Hope LLC

### Poplar Bluff Satellite Office

- Restoring Hope LLC
- Swifts Supported Living ISL/NW

### Kansas City Regional Office

- Heartland Residential Care
- Community Choice Inc.
- DSN Missouri
- Abilities, LLC
- Center for Behavioral Medicine

### St. Louis Regional Office

- Easter Seals Midwest

### Rolla Satellite Office

- Future Care, Inc.
- Washington County Handicapped Services
- Restoring Hope LLC,
- Swifts Supported Living ISL/NW

### Honorable Mention

#### (active for less than one year)

- Central Missouri Regional Office
- Sisters Supported Living
- Twin Oaks Independent Living
- Cole County Residential Services
- Rolla Satellite Office
- Ozark Valleys Community Services, Inc.



# Missouri Autism Projects

The Department of Mental Health’s Division of Developmental Disabilities funds five regional autism projects that collectively provide services to approximately 3500 families statewide. The first project was established in 1991 after families in rural Missouri approached legislators to ask for autism-specific family support. As a result of these efforts, authorities were established and funding was secured for family-centered services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder throughout the state.

Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) were formed to represent and oversee each autism project and to make recommendations for service needs. Each regional autism project Parent Advisory Committee elects members to sit on the Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism, which serves as a statewide liaison for the regional committees and the division.

For more information about the Missouri Autism Projects, click on:  
<http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/autismprojects.html>

# Sharing Success – David’s Story

In June of 2014, David began receiving pre-vocational training services from Preferred Employment Services (formerly Alternative Opportunities, Inc.), an agency that is contracted by the Missouri Department of Mental Health to provide employment services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) using Southwest Missouri Autism Project funding. David had previously received services from Vocational Rehabilitation, but he still needed to improve on social interaction skills, handling criticism, managing emotions, and self-advocacy.

In October 2014, David began volunteering at the Discovery Center of Springfield, a non-profit museum and science center. David is an avid science lover but was unsure about interacting with and explaining exhibits to visitors of the center. Within just a few months, David was interacting with visitors and peers.

By March of 2015, David was receiving compliments from Discovery Center staff on his work ethic and attitude towards others. In April of 2015, David re-entered Vocational Rehabilitation services in the Employment Services Plus (ESP) program, specifically designed to support individuals with autism. His Job Developer assisted him with completing applications, updating his resume, and strengthening his interviewing skills by discussing questions and practicing mock interviews. On May 6, 2015, David was offered a part-time position at the Discovery Center of Springfield. He began the following week as a Visitor Experience Staff and was provided on-site as well as off-site supports.

Although David will continue to need additional supports both on and off the job, it is apparent that his skills have progressed to a level of being ready for competitive employment. His work ethic and performance are exceeding his employer’s expectations. Staff members at Preferred Employment Services continue to encourage him by providing positive feedback and addressing any concerns that arise to ensure that his employment outcome will remain successful.

| <b>Missouri Autism Projects FY16 Allocations: \$8,750,648</b> |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| East Missouri Autism Project                                  | \$1,668,054 |
| Northwest Missouri Autism Project                             | \$1,884,155 |
| Central Missouri Autism Project                               | \$2,047,933 |
| Southeast Missouri Autism Project                             | \$1,553,988 |
| Southwest Missouri Autism Project                             | \$1,596,518 |

# Community Calendar

**July 29 - 31, 2015** – Annual APSE-MO Employment Summit

Employment University: July 29, 2015

Full Employment Summit: July 30 - 31

To learn more about the Summit or to register, click on: <http://apsemo.org/>

**August 16-18, 2015** – Save the dates for the 2015 Real Voices Real Choices Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort and Conference Center, Osage Beach, Missouri

For more information, click on: [http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/consumer\\_safety/fior.pdf](http://dmh.mo.gov/docs/consumer_safety/fior.pdf)

*“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”*

-Albert Einstein

MISSOURI DIVISION OF  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES



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

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH