



Direct Connection

2019 Autism Rally



The Autism Awareness Rally, hosted by Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism, is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. All individuals impacted by autism are invited to attend. The rally will be held at the State Capitol Building Rotunda.

The purpose of this rally is for individuals impacted by autism to have the opportunity to connect with their local legislators to express gratitude for autism funding and their continued support of autism programs in Missouri. To find out the names of legislatures representing your area of the state, click [here](#).

For additional questions, please contact your Regional Office, local Parent Advisory Committee, or email [Leah Clausen](#) or [Rosemary Feraldi McCain](#) of the Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism.

Connecting with the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Missouri Department of
Mental Health

Division of Developmental
Disabilities

1706 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Inside this issue

- 2019 Autism Rally.....1
- Autism Satisfaction Survey.....2
- Empowering Through Employment Update.....2
- Maddy’s Makeover.....3
- Missouri Autism Projects.....3
- National Core Indicators Data....4
- Community Calendar.....5





Autism Service Satisfaction Survey Launched

The Office of Autism Services (OAS) is pleased to partner with the Missouri Institute of Mental Health (MIMH) to administer electronic Autism Project satisfaction surveys to Missouri Autism Project participants. The Office of Autism Services is grateful to benefit from the expertise MIMH will provide to help shape objective survey questions. Survey responses will reflect the quality of service delivery from the perspective of the individual receiving the service or a family member of that person.

of the questions and emphasizing the ease of submission.

The Missouri Institute of Mental Health will provide assistance in analyzing survey responses so that the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) can advance Autism Project services in ways that have positive impacts on families throughout the state.

Additionally, the survey will provide insight into a family's relationship with its Support Coordinator. While this electronic survey is limited by its format, efforts have been made to increase participation by limiting the length

"The survey will provide insight into a family's relationship with its Support Coordinator."

Empowering Through Employment-October 2018 Update

The Division of Developmental Disabilities launched the Empowering through Employment Initiative in October 2016 to assist the growing number of individuals who express an interest in community-based employment. The initiative continues to focus on resolving system barriers that serve as obstacles to employment and recognizing those who are empowering individuals through the coordination of employment services.

The newest edition of the monthly dashboard is available on the Division of Developmental Disabilities website. To access the latest information, visit [Empowering Through Employment](#). To access the Division of Developmental Disabilities employment webpage, additional tools, resources and tip sheets, please visit [Promoting Employment First](#).



Healthy Living

OBSERVE! DECIDE! ACT!

CONSTIPATION AND BOWEL OBSTRUCTION

Constipation is a significant issue for people with intellectual disability across the life course and should be actively considered as a diagnosis in this population. (Robertson, Baines, Emerson, & Hatton, 25 May 2017).

Additionally, untreated constipation can be life-threatening.

Bowel Obstruction is considered one of the six leading conditions that are likely to result in death for individuals with Intellectual/Development Disabilities (IDD) according to Health Risk Screening, Inc. (Green-McGowan, n.d.).

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has developed a guide on constipation and bowel obstruction to assist with recognizing signs and symptoms, common risk factors, and prevention methods. More information is available [here](#).

"Tolerance does not mean that one accepts the belief of the other; but it does mean that one respects him as a human being, with the right and freedom of choosing his own way of believing and living."
-Viktor Frankl



Before, Maddy would have to step over a large lip on the traditional tub, causing a fall risk. She also could not reach the showerhead to wash herself. The remodeled bathroom has given her adult independence while remaining in her family home.

Maddy's Makeover

Story submitted by Vonda Powell

Maddy Murphy is a charming young woman who lives in a northern area outside of Kansas City. She chose to remain living in her loving, supportive home. The only difficulty was the unusable bathroom.

Maddy, who has Down Syndrome, is very petite, so a typical bathroom arrangement is not optimal for her. You can see in the before pictures the obstacles she encountered to use the bathroom the way it was.

Special Needs Services (SNS) of Ray County worked with the family to identify Maddy's needs for her bathroom remodel. Through the funding of her Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Community Support Waiver, she was able to obtain a bathroom with widened doors, a higher toilet, safety grab bar in the shower, lowered cabinets and closets for smaller stature, and a zero-entry walk in shower - all of the things that will allow her to age at home with her best support - her family.

Her mother, Kim, says that it is now safe, accessible, and allows her adult dignity in her bathroom. "I give her some oversight, but she can now complete many hygiene routines alone that she couldn't do in the other bathroom."

The family also did much of the prep work, aesthetics, and cleanup, which allowed them to stay within a budget.



Maddy with Kim, Thad, and Tucker

Missouri Autism Projects

In 1991, dedicated individuals made grass root efforts to establish family support services for individuals with autism and their families. As a result of these efforts, legislation was enacted (RSMo 633.330 and 9 CSR 45 – 3.060) that directed the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) to establish programs and services for persons with autism, and funding was secured for those statewide services. Missouri's five autism projects were established:

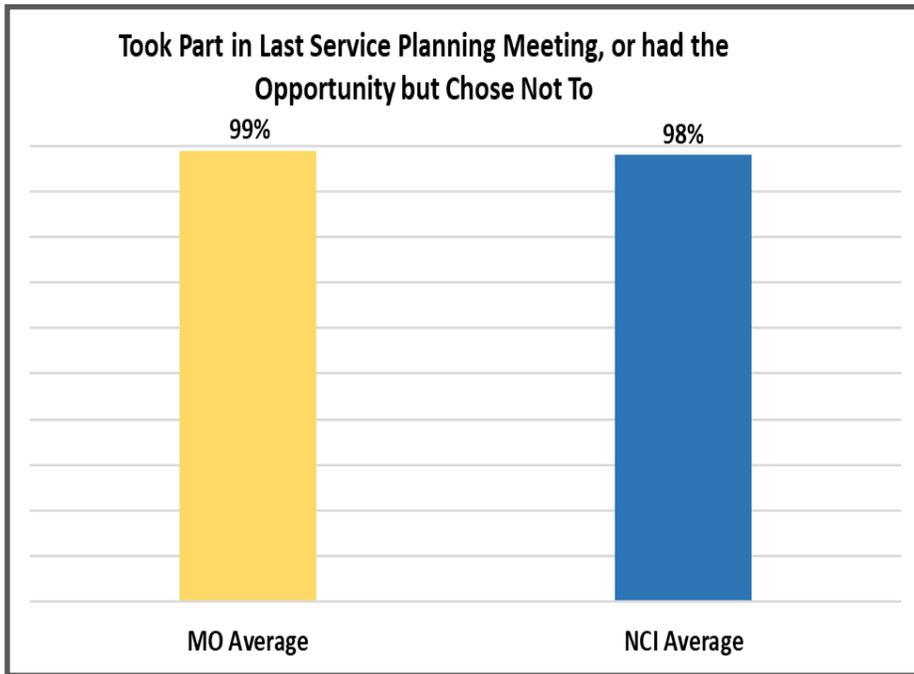
Central Missouri Autism Project
East Missouri Autism Project
Northwest Missouri Autism Project
Southeast Missouri Autism Project
Southwest Missouri Autism Project

Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) were formed to represent and oversee each autism project and to make recommendations for service needs and providers. Each regional autism project Parent Advisory Council 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.

More information about Missouri's five autism projects can be found on the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Office of Autism Services' [website](#).

Those who are interested in becoming a member of a regional Parent Advisory Council (PAC) should contact the [PAC Contact](#) in their region for an application or call the Office of Autism Services at 573-751-4054.

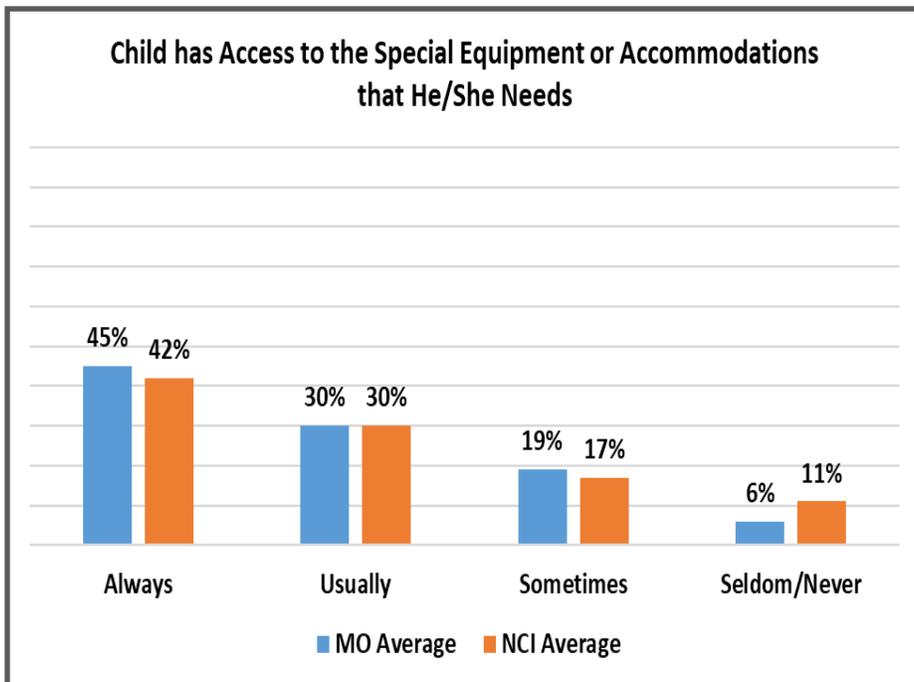
National Core Indicators Data



These data are from the 2016-2017 National Core Indicators (NCI) Adult In-Person Survey, which is a face-to-face interview with adults (age 18+) who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The graph to the left demonstrates the percentage of individuals in Missouri who took part in their last service planning meeting (or had the opportunity and chose not to) as compared to the NCI (nationwide) average for this measure. To review the full survey results, please click [here](#).

“Each of us makes his own weather, determines the color of the skies in the emotional universe which he inhibits.” - Fulton J. Sheen



These data are from the 2016-2017 National Core Indicators (NCI) Child Family Survey, which is a questionnaire mailed to the family of children (younger than age 18) who receive services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities and live in the family home.

The graph to the left demonstrates the percentage of respondents/family members in Missouri who report that their child has access to the special equipment or accommodations that he/she needs as compared to the NCI (nationwide) average for this measure. To review the full survey results, please click [here](#).

Community Calendar

January 23, 2019 – Autism Awareness Rally, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. State Capitol Building Rotunda, Jefferson City, Missouri
For additional questions, please contact your Regional Office, local Parent Advisory Committee, or email [Leah Clausen](#) or [Rosemary Feraldi McCain](#) of the Missouri Parent Advisory Committee on Autism.

March 13, 2019 – Save the Date—Disability Rights Legislative Day, Jefferson City, Missouri
More information will become available on: http://www.moddcouncil.org/?page_id=whatsnewstory&id=34

May 20 & 21, 2019 – Save the Date—29th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference, St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Missouri 63303

May 31—June 2, 2019 – Seeking Opportunities for and Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) Conference 2019, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Independence, Missouri
More information is available on: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soar-regional-leadership-advocacy-conference-tickets-51084913351>

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



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

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

1706 E. Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: 573-751-4054
Fax: 573-751-9207
Website: <https://dmh.mo.gov/dd/>



Fostering Self-determination



Supporting Families



Facilitating Individualized Services and Supports



Developing Accessible Housing



Promoting Employment First