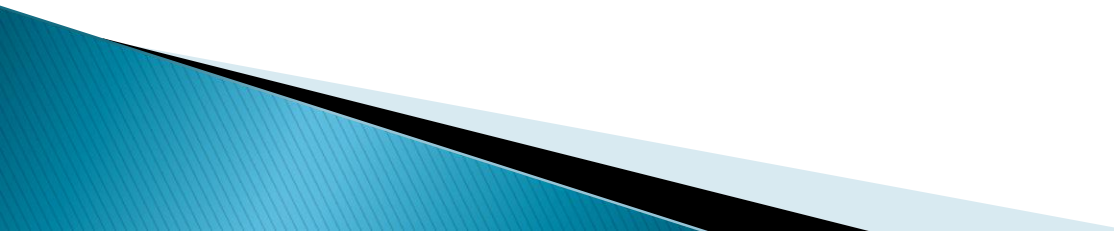



A Survey of Washington State Neurodevelopmental Centers' Role in the Early Identification and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Katie Pitt, MOT, OTR/L
Occupational Therapy LEND Trainee**

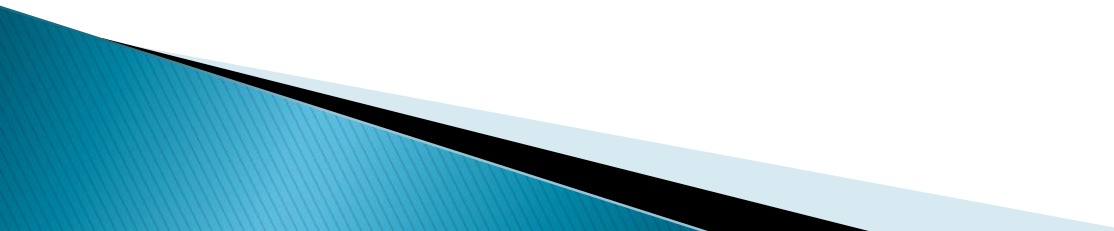
What?

- ▶ Develop a survey for Washington State Neurodevelopmental Centers (NDC) of their current practices to screen, assess, and treat children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
 - ▶ Pilot the survey
 - ▶ Revise the survey for further use
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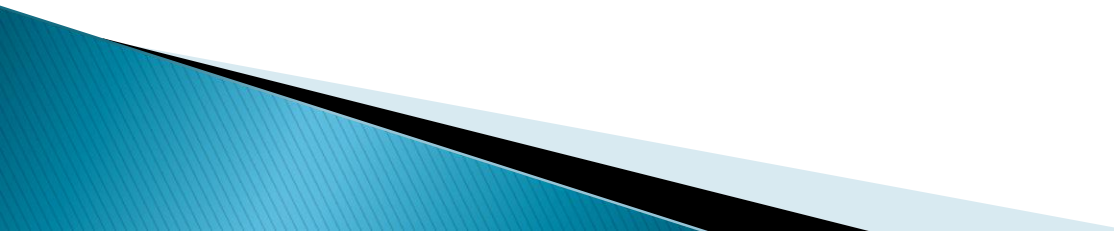
Background Information

- ▶ Washington State Autism Implementation Grant Goals:
 - Increase awareness of ASD
 - Reduce barriers to ASD screening and assessment
 - Improve access to comprehensive, quality, evidence-based intervention
 - Train professionals
 - ▶ UW LEND Combats Autism Goals:
 - Expand awareness, knowledge, and skills of health professionals, and other providers, on screening, assessment, and intervention for children with ASD
 - ▶ Combating Autism Advisory Council (CAAC)
 - ▶ Professional Experience
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Why?

- ▶ Identify what ASD screening, assessment, and intervention services are currently being offered at the NDCs across Washington State
 - ▶ Provide information to contribute to the work of the CAAC
 - ▶ Help to identify professional training needs and/or interests at the NDCs
 - ▶ Connect providers with resources
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How?

- ▶ Contact the director of the Neurodevelopmental Center with a cover letter explanation and copy of the survey via email
 - ▶ Complete the survey during a phone interview with the director or their designee
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Survey

Washington State Neurodevelopmental Centers Survey of the Role in the Early Identification and Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Screening

1. If there are concerns that a child may be presenting with a possible Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis, what are some of the action steps the staff in your program may take? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Nothing, just continue to observe/monitor the child
- B. Discuss with team members or other staff
- C. Discuss with the family member(s) or caregiver(s)
- D. Provide information and/or resources to the family about ASD
- E. Give the family information to seek out an ASD evaluation in the community
- F. Complete an evaluation of the child to rule-out an ASD
- G. Other: _____

2. Do you utilize any specific screening tools for ASD? **Yes / No**

If yes:

Specifically what tools are used? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
- B. Pervasive Developmental Disorders Screening Test - II (PDDST - II)
- C. Other: _____

Who administers the screening tool? _____

How are individuals in your program trained to use the tool(s)? _____

ASD Assessment

3. After screening, do you feel your program has a role or expertise in assisting with a further diagnostic evaluation for an ASD? **Yes / No**

If yes:

What role does your program take in a diagnostic evaluation? _____

Do you use any specific ASD assessment tools? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS)
- B. Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS)
- C. Other: _____

Who administers these assessments? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Developmental Pediatrician
- B. Psychologist
- C. Speech Language Pathologist
- D. Other: _____

How are individuals in your program trained to use the assessments? _____

If no:

Where do you typically refer the children? _____

Family Resources

4. If a child is diagnosed with ASD, do you provide specific resource materials about ASD to the family? **Yes / No**

If yes:

What are these materials/resources? _____

Are these resources adequately meeting your needs and the needs of the families?

Yes / No

If no, why not? _____

Intervention Services for Children with ASD and their Families

5. At your center which of the following interdisciplinary team members work with children with possible ASDs and/or children diagnosed with an ASD? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Occupational Therapist
- B. Psychologist
- C. Registered Dietician
- D. Social Worker
- E. Special Educator
- F. Speech Language Pathologist
- G. Physical Therapist
- H. Other: _____

6. What specific services and/or programs do you have for a **child** with an ASD or concerns in this area? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Specialized Individual Services
- B. Specialized Classroom Program
- C. Specialized Group Services
- D. Other: _____

F. None

If none, where do you refer? _____

7. What specific services and/or programs do you have for **families and/or caregivers** of a child with an ASD or concerns in this area? **Circle all that apply:**

- A. Specialized Childcare for Children with ASD
- B. Family Counseling
- C. Support Group(s): _____
- D. Other: _____

E. None

If none, where do you refer? _____

Professional Training

8. Do you provide any information and/or training to your staff regarding the identification of developmental red flags concerning a possible ASD? **Yes / No**


9. Would your professional staff be interested in participating in additional training opportunities regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders? **Yes / No**

If yes, which of the following training topics would be of interest? **Circle all that apply:**

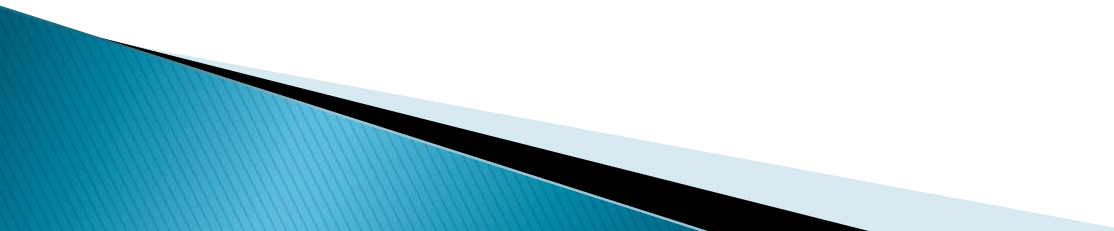
- A. ASD Screening
- B. Discussing ASD Concerns with Families
- C. Referring for an ASD Diagnostic Evaluation
- D. ASD Assessment
- E. Evidence-Based Early Intervention Practices for children with ASD
- F. Strategies for Providers to Work Effectively with Families Effected by ASD
- G. Other: _____

10. Can you think of any other resources that would be beneficial to support the staff and/or families at your center concerning ASDs? _____

Findings-to-Date

- ▶ Screening: Red flag checklist, M-CHAT, PDDST – II
 - ▶ Assessment: Referral, In-house assessment
 - ▶ Family Resources: First 100 day kit, Resource list
 - ▶ Intervention: Specialized and integrated programs for children with ASD, Family therapist/counselor
 - ▶ Professional Training: Home program curriculum, Staying current on latest research, Early Start Denver Model, Family resource packet
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Next Steps

- ▶ Survey the remaining NDCs in Washington State
 - ▶ Compile survey information
 - ▶ Summarize and share information with CAAC and directors of the NDCs
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