



ASW MONTHLY UPDATE

PO BOX 165, TWO RIVERS, WI 54241

TOLL FREE 1-888-4AUTISM; 920-553-0278

e-mail: asw@asw4autism.org website: www.asw4autism.org

JANUARY, 2007

Jane Pribek, Executive Director

The Autism Society of Wisconsin's mission is to promote lifelong opportunities for persons within the autism spectrum, and their families, to be fully included, participating members of their communities through information and referral, advocacy, public awareness, and education and support for local Autism Society of America chapters, professionals and others who support individuals with autism in Wisconsin.

Please feel free to contact the Autism Society of Wisconsin or any local chapter if you have questions or concerns regarding autism spectrum disorders and/or your child.

UPDATES FROM AUTISM SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN LOCAL CHAPTERS

Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW)

Registration materials for our 2007 Annual Conference are available on our website, www.asw4autism.org. This conference would be a good opportunity for you to learn about autism spectrum disorders, and to meet many others families who have children with an autism spectrum disorder. Some local chapters offer scholarships for parents to attend the conference. Local chapter contact information is listed below. You can also call the ASW office for assistance.

Autism Society of Greater Madison (ASGM): ASGM holds Family Support Group meetings on the third Tuesday of every other month (January, March, May, July, September, November). Free childcare is provided during the Support Group. We also have quarterly Autism 101 classes for families of newly diagnosed children.

7-9 PM Midvale Community Lutheran Church, 4329 Tokay Blvd, (corner of Midvale and Tokay) Madison. **Phone:** (608) 213-8519 **Fax:**(608) 848-7593 **Email:**autismmadison@gmail.com

All of our meetings are free and open to the public. Free childcare is provided. ([pre-registration for childcare required](#)).

Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW): ASNEW is having a meeting on **Tuesday, Jan. 16th** at 6PM. The topic is Autism and Aspergers 101 - basic general information you need to know. We meet at the CP Center in Green Bay 2801 S Webster Ave. Call (920)497-1212 for details.

Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL):

ASL meets the third Thursday of the month at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 411 Reed Ave., Manitowoc, at 7:00 PM. For more information, call (920) 683-9381.



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Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV):

If you are interested in being on the ASFV mailing list, please contact Kathy Lett at kathy_Lett@hotmail.com or phone her at (920) 582-4724.

- Glenis Benson is presenting on "Ask the ASD Doc", **Tuesday, January 2** from 6-8 pm at the Goodwill Community Center, 1800 Midway Rd., Menasha
- Gym-Kids is Saturday, **Jan 6th** from 2-4 pm
- Parent Support Group, **Sunday, January 14**, 6:00-7:30 at Gulliver's Restaurant in Neenah

For more information on any of the above events, contact Kelly Brodhagen at 920-832-1111.

Chippewa Valley Autism Society (CVAS): CVAS can be reached at (715) 836-9507.

Central Wisconsin Autism Society (CWAS): CWAS meets the first Thursday of each month. They coincide with the school calendar year, taking July and August off. We meet at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Stevens Drive, Wausau, at 6:30 PM. We try to vary the meetings between Family Support, speakers and business meetings. CWAS can be reached at (715) 845-5524.

Thursday, January 4th, Melissa Piette, Wausau School Districts Autism Classroom Specialist, will be speaking on the subject of IEP's.

Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (ASSEW):

Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin (ASSEW)

9733 W St Martins Road, Franklin, WI 53132

For information on our events, call our office at 414-427-9345 or see our website: www.assew.org

Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin

www.assew.org or 414-427-9345

Thursday, January 4th, Morning Coffee Support Group and Library Time. 9:30 to 11:30 am Talk with other parents and browse through the library. Check out or return materials. The meeting is held at the ASSEW office, 9733 W St Martins Rd in Franklin. Light refreshments served.

Tuesday, January 9th. ASSEW Library Night, 6:30 to 8:00. The ASSEW office will be open to members. This is an opportunity to come and browse through our library and check out books and videos.



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Saturday, January 13th. "Understanding Behavior as Communication" presented by Dr. Glenis Benson. Free workshop at Nicolet High School in Glendale, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Please call to register, 414-427-9345.

Wednesday, January 17th. Adults on the Spectrum support group at the ASSEW office. 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Monday, January 22nd. Board meeting. 7 PM to 9PM. All members are welcome.

TWO NEW AUTISM SUPPORT GROUPS:

The La Crosse Area Autism Support Group will be having its first meeting Wednesday, January 24th, from 6:30-8:30 pm, at the La Crosse South Side Neighborhood Center, 1300 6th Street South in La Crosse. This support group will be open to anyone interested in the opportunity to meet and share insight, questions, feelings, and concerns regarding autism spectrum disorders. There is no fee to attend. To be added to the e-mail/snail mail list, contact Steven or Rena Cash at lax-autismgroup@charter.net or 608-519-0883.

Pierce County Area Autism Support Group will be having its first meeting on Thursday, January 18th. For more information, contact Katie Knutson at knubell@sbcglobal.net or 715-273-4548.

UPDATES FROM WISCONSIN IN-HOME TREATMENT PROVIDERS:

The Wisconsin Early Autism Project (WEAP)

Wisconsin Early Autism Project Publishes Research

Did you know that WEAP recently published a major research study in the American Journal on Mental Retardation (November 2005)? Dr. Glen Sallows and Tamlynn Graupner, MS, are the first team leaders in Dr. Lovaas's international research group to publish a full replication study of his famous study showing the effectiveness of ABA Therapy for young children with autism. The WEAP study replicated the Lovaas study by showing that after treatment, 48% of children were succeeding in regular classrooms without additional supports, and had at least average academic and language skills.

The WEAP study showed that it is possible to predict which children are likely to make the most gains by looking at a few key predictors, including the child having at least some social responsiveness before starting therapy. It also identified characteristics that are not correlated with outcome, such as having a family member with autism and self-stimulatory behaviors. The study also identified six key elements that are important for effective treatment:



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- Intensity and duration
- Social Programming
- Reducing Behaviors
- Parental Involvement
- Transition to School
- Treatment Quality

You can read more about the research study at our website, www.wiautism.com. For a copy of the research, call the WEAP clinic in your area and ask to speak with an intake representative:

WEAP Madison: 608-288-9040

WEAP Milwaukee: 262-432-5660

WEAP Green Bay: 920-338-1610

WEAP Eau Claire: 715-832-2233

WEAP La Crosse: 608-781-6500

Beyond Boundaries of Autism - Serving in 23 Wisconsin Counties.

Advocacy Alert

If you are on the waiting list for receiving your slot, you are most likely feeling some high anxiety, and also, that one more day to wait is one day too long. Across the state, families with children with disabilities share this anxiety with you. We, in the Autism community, have benefited from the hard work of families who have come before, some of whom, never received the services they hoped for, because their child 'aged out' of the eligibility. The difficult work of advocacy never goes away. It is ALWAYS the task of those who need the help the most to somehow find the energy to also take steps to insure the funds are allocated to continue the support.

In this newsletter, you will find a draft letter from the Wisconsin Autism Council with the following request:

The Autism Council strongly supports your work in elimination of waiting lists for all children in need of long-term supports. Currently, there are greater than 250 children on the waiting list for intensive autism services. We support continued funding for the children currently receiving intensive treatment and ongoing support. We urge you to include funding for 250 new intensive autism slots for each year of the biennium 2007-2009 as well as funding that would equip families to support their children with long-term support needs.

On behalf of all families who are currently waiting and those who have yet to begin that journey, it is urged that you contact your legislators, and let them know how important it is that the 250 new slots be allocated. Beyond Boundaries of Autism would be interested in hearing from any of you that feel you could help with a concerted effort to bring attention to this issue. You may call Vivian Hazell at 920-252-0798 or e-mail at vhazell_bba@gwicc.org



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Wisconsin Council on Autism

November 30, 2006

The Honorable Jim Doyle
Governor, State of Wisconsin
Room 115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Ms. Helene Nelson, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
1 West Wilson Street
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson:

The Autism Council is working diligently to successfully address your charge to advise the Department of Health and Family Services on the autism program and is grateful for the opportunity to provide expertise and guidance to this program. We applaud the priorities you are placing in the 07-09 state budget for investing in Wisconsin's children. In our advisory role as autism experts, at our November 20, 2006 meeting, the Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

The Autism Council strongly supports your work in elimination of waiting lists for all children in need of long-term supports. Currently, there are greater than 250 children on the waiting list for intensive autism services. We support continued funding for the children currently receiving intensive treatment and ongoing support. We urge you to include funding for 250 new intensive autism slots for each year of the biennium 2007-2009 as well as funding that would equip families to support their children with long-term support needs.

We give you our greatest support in your efforts to support children and families and hope that our resolution is helpful in advancing efforts for additional resources to families currently on waiting lists for autism services.

Sincerely,

Wisconsin Autism Council

- ▶ Nissan Bar-Lev
- ▶ Heather Boyd
- ▶ Terri Enters
- ▶ Vivian Hazell
- ▶ Rose Helms
- ▶ Joan Ketterman
- ▶ Milana Millan
- ▶ Paula Petit
- ▶ Paul Reuteman
- ▶ Glen Sallows
- ▶ Pam Stoika
- ▶ Michael Williams



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IDS "While You Wait" Services

Waiting for funding doesn't have to mean waiting for services. If you are wondering what you can be doing while you wait for intensive services to begin, consider our *Family Foundations - While You Wait* program. Our specially trained consultants equip parents with knowledge and strategies to support children's communication, relationship, and cognitive growth. Build a strong foundation for your child's development, and for a more successful intensive therapy experience, regardless of the intensive program you plan to use. Contact IDS Intake Coordinator Sam Garlock at (608) 441-0123 for more information.

CESA #7 ON-LINE DISCUSSION

Join CESA #7's On-Line Discussions. The purpose of the "Online Discussions in Special Education" is to provide a platform for parents and school staff to share information, support and expertise in all disability areas. The Online discussion topics change monthly and each month the group is moderated by an autism consultant with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorders.

There is no cost for this service. You can join the discussion at

<http://www.cesa7.k12.wi.us/sped/chatroom/index.htm>.

Family Respite Care Services, Inc in Janesville, WI serves families that have a child or children with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and/or special health care needs in Rock County. Most families we serve are on a waiting list for funding from programs such as Family Support. We provide four core programs: Respitality, Respite, Sib's Day Camp (open to kids grades K-12 from within and outside of Rock County), and The Respite Registry (open primarily to Rock County, but may be helpful to parents outside of Rock County). We also have the Reye Jean Timmer Memorial Fund, which is a statewide fund available to families across the state of Wisconsin. To find out more about Family Respite Care Services, please call us 608-758-0956 or check out our website at www.rockcountyrespite.org

Life Journey Through Autism: A Parent's Guide to Research

This Guide is currently available as a publication as well as a downloadable document on the web site listed below. The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) provides the Guide at no cost to parents and families affected by autism, that is, those who have a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

<http://www.researchautism.org/resources/reading/index.asp>