

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY RECOMMENDATION : Organize a multi-level system comprised of existing Oklahoma entities involved with people who have autism and their families to coordinate identification, diagnosis, services, support, training, technical assistance, follow-up, research and evaluation. As gaps are documented, as research establishes the best practices and as providers become trained, create model projects and modify or expand other programs to establish and maintain a lifelong, comprehensive Oklahoma system of care and support for people with autism and their families.

LEVEL 1: Oklahoma System of Excellence

1. Statewide Administrative Autism Unit: Establish a statewide unit to facilitate the planning, financing and administration of the various recommendations herein
2. Statewide Interagency and Family Coordination Team: Create (or enhance/coordinate) an ongoing interagency and family team to ensure that existing services for individuals with autism and their families function as or are expanded into a seamless continuum of effective, integrated options with common criteria
3. Statewide Screening: Develop and coordinate statewide screening programs for individuals age 12 months or older
4. Autism Networks:
 - a. Create an “Autism Support Network” to function as a family-oriented system for referral, coordination and family support across the lifespan
 - b. Create an “Oklahoma Autism Health Network” of providers recognized for a significant level of expertise in providing health, medical or educational services to people with autism
5. Research, Training and Technical Assistance:
 - a. Develop an inter-disciplinary research center to conduct investigations into the cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention and treatment of autism in Oklahoma
 - b. Develop a comprehensive system for training and technical assistance to disseminate evidence-based knowledge and practices in autism

LEVEL 2: Regional HUBS: Phase in a system of six staffed regional HUBS to house and coordinate tiered crisis intervention, model project demonstrations and research, information and referral to local services, and training/technical assistance for families and providers

LEVEL 3: Community-based Services and Supports: Expand the array and quality of community-based services and supports available within each region