



THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AUTISM

*“Supporting individuals with autism and their families:
forging new directions for real change”*

Closing the Gaps ~ Improving Services & Increasing Opportunities

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Overview & preliminary draft of the recommendations from the three Commission Task Forces:

1. Public Education, Awareness, & Outreach

- Providing effective public information, education and community outreach through a strategic multimedia campaign that is culturally competent and reaches a diverse audience.
- Developing and promoting “One-Stop Systems” that would enable families to access and navigate complex systems of care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD.)
- Improving community-based supports for individuals with ASD.
- Empowering families and caregivers with greater knowledge, supports, and advocacy.

2. Early Identification & Intervention

- Effectively screening for ASD using scientifically validated methods as part of routine well-baby visits.
- Improving assessments, referrals and interventions for ASD.
- Improving health plan coverage for ASD screening, diagnosis, assessments, interventions, and treatments.

3. Comprehensive Services Across Systems of Care

- Establishing statewide “best practices” for the diagnosis and intervention of ASD.
- Defining the roles and responsibilities of regional centers, school districts, health plans, and other systems of care in providing services for ASD.
- Improving the collaboration and integration of services between regional centers and school districts.
- Establishing an integrated and seamless system of care from birth to age 5 years.

4. Training & Professional Development of Service Providers

- Providing multidisciplinary training teams with “Best-Practices” expertise.
- Providing appropriate training, curriculum and supports to teachers and paraprofessionals.
- Establishing access to validated best practices and providing ongoing training.
- Establishing innovative approaches to professional development that include a major focus on meeting the needs of underserved communities.

5. Helping Adults with ASD Live, Work, and Prosper in Inclusive Communities

- Providing safe, secure, affordable housing with appropriate support systems such as transportation and appropriate social venues.
- Expanding transitional services such as vocational training and post-high school education that will improve the opportunities for individuals with ASD to achieve and maintain meaningful employment.
- Providing effective training and supports to police officers, first responders, and other public officials so as to enable them to deal appropriately and safely with individuals with ASD.

6. Holding Systems Accountable for Delivering Services & Improving Outcomes

- Identifying ASD as a key public health issue and establishing the infrastructure that is required to address the challenges of this problem.
- Establishing a voluntary, comprehensive ASD registry.
- Evaluating and considering ways to improve existing systems for conflict and dispute resolution.