



February 18, 2011

Join Our Mailing List!



Autism Weekly

Advisory Board on Autism & Related Disorders

412.781.4116 or toll free: 800.827.9385

ABOARD'S MISSION:

There is considerable debate throughout the autism community about the cause of autism and issues such as vaccination, diet, inclusion, and appropriate therapies. Legislative acts can also influence services to those with autism. Our policy is to inform. We trust that individuals will assimilate the information we provide and make the best decision for their children and clients.

The entire mission statement can be found at
<http://aboard.web.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>



Pennsylvania's budget process needs your input!

We will be writing a letter to Governor Corbett this week to ask him to preserve funds for autism treatment and supports. Since the time is of the essence, we urge you to complete the survey at the following link. We will include current data to support our respectful request that the 2011/2012 budget cuts not affect autism services. We will let the governor know that while we understand the difficulty of the decisions he has to make, there is a growing need in the autism community. We will list your most pressing concerns related to budget items. Our letter will politely make the point that spending dollars on preventative treatment and services will likely result in savings in the coming year and beyond. Cuts will in some cases mean very expensive emergency services or long term care, wiping out savings and then some.

Please know that while we advocate for your needs as a group, you should also send your individual letters as well. The mailing address again is:

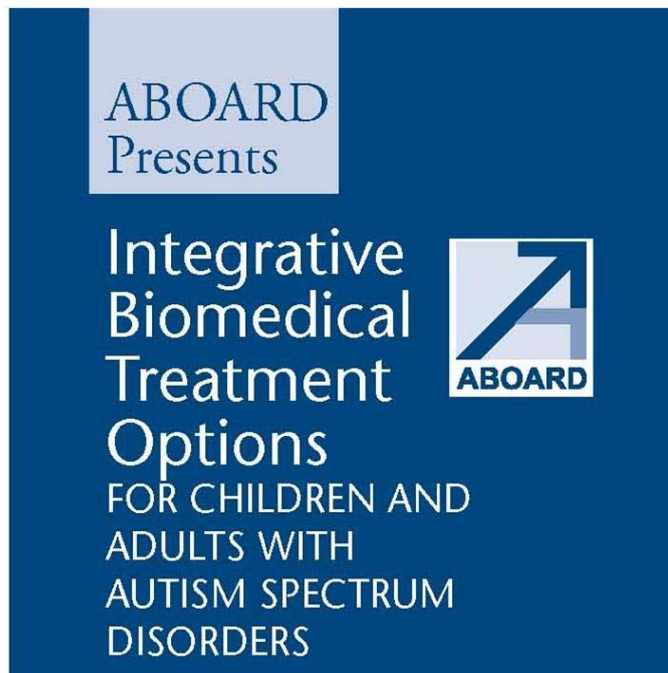
Governor Corbett's Budget Secretary, Charles Zogby, 238 Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120

and write to:

Acting Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, Gary Alexander, 502 Health and Welfare Building,
P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17120.


Thank you for your participation.

[Click here to take SURVEY](#)



ABOARD
Presents

Integrative
Biomedical
Treatment
Options
FOR CHILDREN AND
ADULTS WITH
AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDERS



Suruchi Chandra, MD

Saturday, March 19, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn

Pittsburgh Airport

Featuring:

*Gut Biology, Pathology, and Treatment
Strategies in Patients With Autism Spectrum
Disorders*

Anju Usman, MD

*Autism and the Autonomic Nervous
System*

Anju Usman, MD

*Raising a Healthy Child in a Toxic
World*

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[BROCHURE AND REGISTRATION FORM](#)

REGISTER NOW_For

[save the date]

JOEY TRAVOLTA

FILM WORKSHOP



For Students and Young Adults,
ages 14-25

July 18-29th, Monday through Friday
from 10a.m.-3p.m.

Cost: \$2900.00 for two weeks

*This workshop is specifically designed to meet IEP, Transition,
and Vocational Goals.*

[call, click, or email AHEADD for more information]

877.AHEADD.1 (877.243.2331)

www.aheadd.org/joeytravolta | admin@aheadd.org





HIGHMARK.
WALK
FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Organizations Unite to Make a Difference

Save The Date!
Saturday, May 21, 2011
Heinz Field, Pittsburgh, PA

We are one of 69 organizations participating in the 2011 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield underwrites 100 percent of the cost of the event and funds raised directly benefit the participating organizations.

Mark your calendar, find those walking shoes and look for more information to come soon!

www.walkforahealthycommunity.org

HIGHMARK.
Blue Cross Blue Shield
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Come out and walk for ABOARD!

Spring will be here soon and it's time to start thinking about supporting **ABOARD** at the 9th annual Walk for a Healthy Community presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. This year's fundraiser benefits 67 local health and human service agencies in Southwestern PA, including ABOARD. Because all costs are underwritten by Highmark **ABOARD** receives 100% of the money that is collected.

To register, go to www.walkforahealthycommunity.org and select ABOARD as the organization that you would like to support. Would you like to be a team leader? On this website you can register as an individual walker, team leader or just make a donation. Pre-register and donate \$25 to receive a t-shirt on walk day!

Walk Details:

WHERE: Heinz Field, Pittsburgh

WHEN: Saturday May 21, 2011

REGISTRATION: Starts at 7:15am

5K WALK START: 9:00am

ONE-MILE FUN WALK START: 9:15am

Call 412-781-4116 or email autismwalk@aboard.org with any questions.

ABOARD and the families that we serve thank you for your support!



Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!



Today's eblast is provided free to the families through the support of our sponsors!



SOUTH HILLS LOCATION	PITTSBURGH AFFILIATE
110 Fl. Couch Rd., 2nd Floor	5167 Butler Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15241	Pittsburgh, PA 15201
Phone: (412) 831-1223	Phone: (412) 781-3990
Fax: (412) 831-1034	Fax: (412) 781-3966

www.shs-pgh.org

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Click here to learn about **What's Happening** at ABOARD and all our upcoming events, conference and seminars for 2010!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING PROVIDE THIS SERVICE TO OUR FAMILIES FOR FREE!

Feature

BAS Family and Individual Mini-Grants

The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) has announced the availability of mini-grants to support children and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and families that include an individual with ASD. The full application packet including directions, frequently asked questions and answers, and the application will be available for download from the [BAS web site](#) at the close of business **February 18**. Individuals who do not have Internet access or printing capabilities can request that a paper application be mailed by calling BAS at 866-539-7689 (select option # 2) after 5:00 p.m. on February 18. BAS will post a webcast regarding the mini-grant application process. Visit <http://bastraining.acrobat.com/p53796987> after February 18 to view this informative webcast.

The Bureau of Autism Services Announces the 2011 Family & Individual Mini-Grants

The Bureau of Autism Services will once again make mini-grants available to support children and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and families that include an individual with ASD. A focus of this project is to reach out and serve individuals and families that are not able to access existing support systems for various reasons (for example: eligibility criteria, age, waiting lists).

How do I obtain an application for the mini-grant?

Applications for the 2011 Family & Individual Mini-Grant will be available on the Bureau of Autism Services website (www.autisminpa.org) by the close of business on **February 18, 2011**. If you do not have internet access or printing capabilities, requests for paper applications to be mailed to you can be made after February 18, 2011 by calling 1-866-539-7689. The full application packet will provide complete details regarding the grant, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section, directions for completing the application, and the application itself.

What if I have questions about completing the application or the application process?

This year we have developed a recorded webcast that shares information about the mini-grant application process, including a sample completed application and FAQs. This webcast will be posted by the close of business on February 18, 2011 to: <http://bastraining.acrobat.com/p53796987/>.

If you have questions that are not answered on the webcast or in the FAQ included with the application packet, you may email DPW-AutismOffice@state.pa.us or call toll-free, 1-866-539-7689.

Who is eligible to apply for the mini-grant?

Applicants meeting eligibility requirements may apply for up to \$500 in grant funds. Priority will be given to applicants who have **not** previously received a Bureau of Autism Services Mini-Grant. **Funding for these mini-grants is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Not everyone who applies for this grant will be funded.**

Please refer to the Mini-Grant Application & Information Packet for information about eligible activities. We are pleased to offer additional options for adults.

Applications Available:
February 18, 2011

Application Deadline:

April 15, 20

Education



Fragile X Syndrome - Medical/Disability Information for Classroom ...

Fragile X syndrome, also known as Martin-Bell syndrome, is the most common inherited form of mental disability. Impairments can range from mild to severe cognitive disabilities with a range of symptoms. Those diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome often have attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, as well, and approximately 5% of these students also have an autism spectrum disorder.

http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/inmdict/html/fragile_x.html

Special needs children bullied at school

Make it a part of your child's IEP: As noted in Walk a Mile in their Shoes, parents of special needs children should make sure that their child's [IEP](#) includes goal that help protect them from bullies and their unwanted and harmful behaviors. Following are some examples of the types of goals parents who suspect their child is a victim of bullying should insist on in their child's IEP.

[Special needs children bullied at school - Santa Ana special education](#)

[Examiner.comhttp://www.examiner.com/special-education-in-santa-ana/special-needs-children-bullied-at-school#ixzz1EEgO2jQj](http://www.examiner.com/special-education-in-santa-ana/special-needs-children-bullied-at-school#ixzz1EEgO2jQj)

Rural



Make-A-Wish helps Lower Burrell boy who loves movies

The other is when he is gripped by multiple seizures from the epilepsy he endures each day of his life. His mother, Nicole Jamison, said Blaik is also autistic, has developmental delay, sensory perception disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

[Make-A-Wish helps Lower Burrell boy who loves movies - Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/westmoreland/s_722704.html#ixzz1E2qOxG6y

Research



Researchers win \$3 million grant to study Fragile X

Three internationally respected UC Davis researchers - two expert in fragile X syndrome and one in epilepsy - have joined forces to test the efficacy of an innovative new approach to treating children with fragile X, through a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Congress.

The researchers will explore the safety and effectiveness of a synthetic neuroactive steroid drug, ganaxolone, for treating the anxiety that is common in children with fragile X, a condition that is the leading cause worldwide of inherited intellectual disability and the most common single-gene cause of autism. The collaboration includes Randi Hagerman, an international authority on fragile X-related disorders, Michael Rogawski, known worldwide for his epilepsy research, and David Hessl, an expert in psychophysiology studies.

<http://www.sacramentotoday.net/news/templates/community.asp?articleid=1505&zoneid=1>

Of Interest



Rhodesian ridgeback stands tall as autism service dog

The American Kennel Club acknowledged Wyatt's unique qualities by awarding him one of its prestigious American Canine Excellence (ACE) awards last year. He won top service dog.

Wolfe and Wyatt work with hundreds of autistic and developmentally disabled children.

<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/parenting-family/pets/dogs/story/2011/02/Rhodesian-ridgeback-stands-tall-as-service-dog-for-autism/43713674/1>

Autistic kids can connect with animals

A study showed assistance dogs could help autistic children learn about living beings, feelings and needs, Griffin says. And he cites a 2010 study published in the journal Psychoneuroendocrinology that shows how service dogs have a physiological effect on autistic kids.

<http://yourlife.usatoday.com/parenting-family/pets/dogs/story/2011/02/Autistic-kids-can-connect-with-animals/43713676/1>

Events/Info



ABOARD Support Group Meeting

For a complete listing of the ABOARD Support Groups please see our website at www.aboard.org !

THE GAME GROUP

For Aspergers and PDD Kids ages 9-15 and their parents

1st & 3rd Saturdays of every month, 12:30 to 2:30 PM

We go swimming on the 3rd one!

At the Valley Points Family YMCA, New Kensington Location
(Get directions at www.vpfymca.org)

Kids have the opportunity to socialize and play board games, video games, or Legos. (Bring your own!) Meanwhile, parents can participate in a *positive* based support group.

This group is for kids who already have the ability to socialize, but need more opportunities to do so.

Please contact Ginger Shaffer at 724-567-6965 or thegamegroup2009@gmail.com for further details and to RSVP.

GET CONNECTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Perspective Program: Intervention Research Study for Adults with ASD

The Perspectives Program at the University of Pittsburgh is developing new non-drug interventions to meet the unique needs of adults with autism spectrum disorders. Individuals with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, between the ages of 16-40, are now being accepted into the program. All participants will receive one of two new

experimental interventions, Cognitive Enhancement Therapy or Enriched Supportive Therapy, at no cost. Participants must be able to come to the University of Pittsburgh on a regular basis. A new session is beginning soon. To enroll or find out more information contact 1-866-647-3436 or autismrecruiter@upmc.edu.

Creating Agreement Workshop

On February 28, 2011, UCP Kids is pleased to welcome Kerry Smith and Suzanne McDougall from the Pennsylvania ODR. This workshop is designed to focus participants' understanding of and skill development in the areas of effective communication, collaboration, problem solving, and resolving conflict! Join us at UCP Community Service Center from 6:00-9:00 pm. For more information and to register go to <http://www.ucpclass.org/ucp-community/ucp-kids-invites-you-join-us-learning-about-creating-agreement> .

Local Task Force 2011 STEPP Awards

The Local Task Force on the Right to Education (LTF3) is proud to sponsor the Scott E. Folmer Memorial: Student, Teacher and Exemplary Practice or Partnering (STEPP) Awards which recognize the outstanding support of children receiving special education services.

You may complete the online nomination form by clicking the link located on the LTF3 homepage (<http://www.ltf3.org>). Nominations must be received by Monday, March 15, 2011.

Pressley Ridge is hosting a Professional Development Series on Autism and emotional disorders.

The topics include Instructional Strategies for Students with Emotional, Behavioral, Trauma, and Loss Issues (March 2-Greensburg), and High Functioning Autism and Asperger's Syndrome in the Regular Education Classroom (March 16-Beaver Falls, April 19-DuBois). To learn more about these seminars featuring nationally renowned speakers, visit www.pressleyridge.org/educationtraining/, call 412.872.9474 or email educationtraining@pressleyridge.org.

The Adult Autism Waiver must be renewed by June 30, 2011.

This provides an opportunity to make revisions and improvements based on our experience and your input. Prior to submitting the renewal application to CMS, the Bureau of Autism Services is providing a period of 30 days for you to review the revised document and offer feedback or suggestions. The feedback period will be open from 1/28/11 to 2/28/11. Pending approval, the renewed Adult Autism Waiver will go into effect July 1, 2011.

To review the Adult Autism Waiver Renewal Application and access the public comment section, please:

Visit the BAS Virtual Training Center: <http://bastraining.tiu11.org>

Set up a free account if you do not already have one. If you have an account but do not remember

your log-in information you will be able to request that it be emailed on the homepage.

Once you have logged in, select Adult Autism Waiver Renewal: Public Comment

To request a printed copy of the renewal application, or a copy in a different language, please call toll free in PA: 1-888-539-7689 or email: ra-odpautismwaiver@state.pa.us with Waiver Renewal in the subject line.

Wesley Spectrum Services 2011 Extended School Year Programs

Wesley Spectrum Offers a Variety of Educational and Therapeutic Extended School Year (ESY) Programs for Students that Quality for ESY.

Wesley Spectrum Digital Storytelling ESY for Students on the Autism Spectrum

Wesley Spectrum Social Skills ESY for Adolescents with Asperger's Syndrome

Wesley Spectrum Academy ESY

Wesley Spectrum Highland/Integrated ESY

Wesley Spectrum Academy and Highland/Integrated ESY Summer Work Program

Programs are located in Upper St. Clair, Whitehall, Gibsonia and Penn Hills. For additional information, contact Dave Grabowski at 412-885-7017, or visit www.wesleyspectrum.org for a full brochure.

Variety 2nd Annual Autism Awareness Night at Please Touch Museum

This event is scheduled for April 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Families can register via the link below or by filling out the attached paper form.

<http://www.varietyphila.org/events/sign-up-guardian/2nd-annual-autism-awareness-night-at-please-touch-museum/>

The museum will be closed to the general public and open just to children AND youth (up to age 18) who are diagnosed with autism and their families. The cost is only \$20 per family. There will be a great new exhibit at the museum in addition to our annual resource fair and there will even be some new elements such as performances by some of Variety's kids!



*The Royal
Masquerade
Bowl*

Presented by:
ABOARD &
Caste Family Fund

a cocktail party
benefiting families with
Autism Spectrum Disorders

REGISTER NOW For

{ Save the date }
Sat May 7
9pm

at Prior's Tap and Tavern
inside Princess Lanes



Contact the Office at 412-449-0165 for more information!

save the date!

AUTISM *through* *the* LIFESPAN

A part of the Passavant Hospital Foundation Extending the Care ETC Program Series
Passavant Hospital Foundation Conference Center & Legacy Theatre at Cumberland Woods Village



Presentations and breakout sessions each day

Wednesday, April 13th early childhood to adolescence

research

findings and implications

education

working with the system to meet individual needs

medicine

primary care, co-occurring conditions and diagnosis

Thursday, April 14th transition: adolescence through adulthood

research

review of relevant state & federal legislation

planning for independence

employment

Sponsored by:

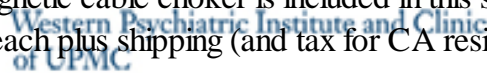


This Valentine's Day

Show your love while supporting Autism Awareness with these *Limited Edition* cherry red [Autism Awareness Puzzle Pieces](#) made in the USA by glass artist Janine Stillman.

Available only until 2/28/11.

(an 18" black magnetic cable choker is included in this special promotion)
\$30 each plus shipping (and tax for CA residents)



The "Romantic" Puzzle
A cherry red puzzle piece adorned

with scrolls of beautiful gold/orange/pink
dichroic glass suspended from a silver
or gold plated hanging loop.



The "Contemporary" Puzzle
A cherry red puzzle piece adorned with
splashes of beautiful gold/orange/pink dichroic glass
and polka dots suspended from a silver
or gold plated hanging loop.



***Support Autism Awareness Dichroic glass puzzle piece
jewelry and gifts www.designsbyja9.com***

ABOARD will receive a donation of \$10 for each puzzle purchased.

*Autism...
Together we can solve the puzzle!*

CLICK HERE TO MAKE A PERSONAL DONATION TO ABOARD!

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Your donation qualifies as a charitable deduction. ABOARD is registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Charitable Organizations. To receive a copy of the official registration and financial information, please call 800-732-0990 within Pennsylvania or visit www.dos.state.pa.us.

ABOARD is a member of the The Chamber of Commerce



United Way

United Way of Allegheny County Contributor Choice Agency Number 9817

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add a CAUSE Toolbar so every web search will help ABOARD generate funds! <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/toolbar>



GOODSEARCH.COM or GOODSHOP.COM - Select "ABOARD

OUR MISSION

ABOARD IS DEDICATED TO MAXIMIZING THE SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL POTENTIAL AND POSSIBILITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS WITH AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS. THROUGH FAMILY SUPPORT, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION, EDUCATION & TRAINING, AWARENESS BUILDING AND COLLABORATION, WE PROVIDE HOPE AND HELP TO PENNSYLVANIANS CONFRONTED WITH THE CHALLENGES OF AUTISM.

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