



DIRECT CONNECTION

*Current news from the Missouri Division of
Developmental Disabilities to keep you informed*

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MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Navigating Autism Services

In an effort to provide individuals, families, and service coordinators with core, credible information regarding resources in Missouri, the Office of Autism Services, Division of DD, formed a partnership with MO-FEAT, Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment, to develop a guide, "Navigating Autism Services: A Community Guide for Missouri." The Guide is intended to answer the questions, "Where can I go today for help?" and "Who can I call today for more information?" The Guide also lists several resource directories in Missouri which contain names and contact information for providers of services, including those services which are parent referred:

1. Autism Alliance of Greater Kansas City, www.autismalliancekc.org
2. Autism Society of America, www.autismsource.org
3. Autism Speaks, www.autismspeaks.org
4. Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment, www.mofeat.org

The Guide can be downloaded from the DMH's website at <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/mrdd/new/manual/navigationguide09.pdf> .

Missouri College of Direct Support Training available to individuals pursuing a career as a Direct Support Professional

The Division, Missouri Planning Council for DD and the University of Missouri- Kansas City have partnered to recruit and train new Direct Support Professionals to meet the growing demand for workers. The intent of the partnership is to offer the Missouri College of Direct Support (MoCDS) Training Program to individuals not currently employed as a direct support professional, but who have an interest in pursuing career opportunities in the field.

The Department of Elementary & Secondary Education has approved the MoCDS Certificate Training Program, offered through the University of Missouri- Kansas City. The training is provided regionally by eleven agencies that currently use the MOCDS curriculum with their existing staff. The training site coordinators are recruiting interested, unemployed individuals through the Career Centers, local Workforce Investment Boards and Vocational

Rehabilitation Offices. Upon completion of the training, training sites will work with successful students to find employment in the developmental disabilities field.

To learn more about the certificate training program and location of the training sites, click on the following links http://www.moddrc.org/user_storage/File/Training_Program_Overview.pdf
http://www.moddrc.org/user_storage/File/RevisedTrainingSiteMap.pdf

IN FULL SWING

Missouri Autism Guidelines Initiative

As a result of a partnership between the Thompson Foundation for Autism and the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the State of Missouri will have best practice guidelines around screening, diagnosis and assessment of Autism Spectrum Disorders. The publication, "Autism Spectrum Disorders: Missouri Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis and Assessment" is expected to be released in the Spring of 2010.

Missouri's Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism and the subsequent recommendations served as a catalyst for development of the guidelines. To order the full guidelines or to order overviews targeted specifically for clinicians, families, educators or service providers, please visit www.autismguidelines.dmh.mo.gov or contact the Office of Autism Services at 573-751-4054 or toll-free 800-207-9329.

IN DEVELOPMENT

State Releases January 2010 General Revenue Report Announcement of Additional Expenditure Restrictions

State Budget Director Linda Luebbering announced today that 2010 fiscal year-to-date net general revenue collections declined 12.5 percent compared to fiscal year 2009, from \$4.44 billion last year to \$3.88 billion this year.

Net general revenue collections for January 2010 decreased by 22.4 percent compared to those for January 2009, from \$722.8 million to \$561.2 million.

Because of the revenue situation, additional expenditure restrictions of \$73.8 million are being made to ensure the budget stays balanced for the remainder of the fiscal year

BRIGHT IDEAS

Mayme Young Miller to chair Mental Health Transformation Working Group

Mayme Young Miller has been named as the chair of the Mental Health Transformation Working Group within the Department of Mental Health. Miller previously served as Director of Constituent Services for Governor Jay Nixon and as the Governor Office Liaison to the Department of Mental Health. She has been a member of the Mental Health Transformation Working Group since July of 2009. She began work as the chair on February 1.

“It is important that we continue to set a new direction for mental health services in our state. Mayme brings outstanding leadership skills to this process,” said Department of Mental Health Director, Keith Schafer.

Missouri’s Mental Health Transformation initiative started with a federal grant in 2006.

Missouri was one of only nine states awarded a competitive five year, \$11 million grant by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to reform the state’s mental health system. A 2009 evaluation by SAMHSA rated Missouri high for building partnerships among state agencies and creating the foundation for transformation.

“This is an exciting opportunity to build on the work that has been done,” Miller said.

“Missouri has the potential to be a national leader in the way we provide mental health services.”

Some of the Transformation priorities for 2010 include: expanding employment and housing opportunities for DMH clients; improving integration of persons with dual diagnosis; improving mortality rates and health outcomes for people with disabilities and behavioral disorders; increasing the voice of consumers in their treatment planning; and reducing stigma surrounding people with addiction problems, developmental disabilities and mental illness.

Miller has also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Financial Services and Consumer Protection divisions, including two years as Chief of the Consumer Complaint Unit, overseeing complaint investigators and the Consumer Fraud Hotline in the Attorney General’s Office. Prior to her tenure with the Attorney General Office, Miller was an attorney in private practice for three years, both in her hometown of Charleston, Mo., and in Austin, Tex. Miller earned her bachelor’s degree in clinical psychology from Southeast Missouri State University in 1996 and her juris doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 2000.