

# THE HELP GROUP SUMMIT 2012

## *Building Bridges to Vocational Success & Semi-Independent Living For Young People with Moderate to Severe Autism*

### **Panel of Presenters**

**Lou Vismara, MD — Moderator**  
Parent and Staff, Senator Darrell Steinberg

**Janis White, PhD**  
Chief Operating Officer, Regional Center of Orange County

**Pamela Clark, MA**  
Director of Autism Schools, The Help Group

**Jason Bolton, PsyD**  
Chief Psychologist, The Help Group

*Building Bridges to Vocational Success & Semi-Independent Living*

*Topics and Subjects for Discussion*

**Overview of the “Autism Tsunami”**

**The Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders**

**Statewide Employment Action Plan**

**Successful Training/Employment Programs**

**Successful Transition from Schools to Employment**

**Transition Challenges/Opportunities for Individuals with  
Moderate-Severe ASD**

**Residential Opportunities & Successful Community Integration**

# *Autism: A Public Health Crisis*

## **National Statistics on ASD**

- ASD now affects 1 in 88 children
- There are over 24,000 new cases diagnosed annually
- ASD is more prevalent than juvenile diabetes, childhood cancer & pediatric AIDS combined.
- ASD is fastest growing serious developmental disability
- The economic impact of autism is over \$137 billion annually

## **California Statistics on ASD**

### **Regional Centers**

- Caseload increased 634% from 1987 to 2002
- There are almost 57,000 consumers with ASD
- ASD now represents two-thirds of all new cases
- Regional Centers probably serve only about 20% of ASD
- 84% are under the age of 22 years

### **School Districts**

- >60,000 students with ASD in special education
- Districts ~ doubled ASD students in past 4 yrs
- ASD in special education has increased >400% in past 9 years
- There has been >1000% increase in ASD students K-12 during past 12 years

*Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders*

**To provide a legislative forum to promote policies and legislation to better assist individuals with ASD and their families**

**To advance the work of the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism**

**To deal with the fiscal challenges that confront the State**



Senate Autism Committee Web Site:

<http://autism.senate.ca.gov/>

# *Senate Select Committee on Autism & Related Disorders*

## *Issues & Areas Addressed*

- **Early ID & Rx.**
- **Health Insurance Coverage**
- **Training & Employment**
- **Housing**

## *Task Forces & Working Groups:*

- **network of advocates**
- **Exchange information**
- **Promote community outreach**
- **Provide recommendations**

## *Autism Regional Task Forces*

- **Sacramento (Steinberg)**
- **Marin/SF (Leno)**
- **East Bay/Oakland (DeSaulnier)**
- **Peninsula/Santa Clara (Alquist)**
- **North Bay (Wolk)**
- **North Coast (Evans)**
- **Central Valley:**
  - **Fresno (Rubio)**
  - **Bakersfield (Fuller)**
- **Los Angeles:**
  - North LA (Liu, Padilla, Pavley)**
  - South LA (Price)**
- **Orange County (Correa)**
- **San Diego (Vargas)**

## **Legislation Enacted into Law**

**SB 1175 – Expansion of Housing for ASD (Sen. Steinberg)**

**SB 1531 – Police Officer Training on ASD (Sen. Correa)**

**AB 2302 – Expanding Credentials to Educate Students with ASD (Asm. Bass)**

**AB 131 – Teacher Credentialing for Preschool Age Children with ASD (Asm. Beall)**

**SB 812 – Housing Element Information on Individuals with Disabilities (Sen. Asburn)**

**SB 946 – Autism Insurance Mandate for Behavioral Health Treatment (Sen. Steinberg)**

# The Tsunami of Young Adults with Autism

*Currently 6,000 adults with ASD are Regional Center (RC) consumers*

*This number will almost double in the next 5 years*

*By 2018, there will be more than 19,000 adults with ASD in the RC system*

*Most Regional Centers will see more than a 300% increase in the numbers of adults with ASD during the next decade*

*Purchase of Services: Costs related to age & diagnosis*

- *children without ASD.....\$3,447*
- *children with ASD.....\$6,993*
- *adults without ASD.....\$15,935*
- *adults with ASD.....\$36,704*

# Transitional Challenges Facing Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

- *67% families no knowledge of transition programs*
- *78% no knowledge of job development agencies or professionals*
- *74% wanted to work but were unemployed*
- *Of those employed, 74% worked < 20 hours per week*
- *85% lived with parents or family members*



# Employment Challenges Facing Individuals with Autism in California

*California ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in disability employment*

*Regional Center (RC) consumers ~ unemployment of 84.2%*

*Unemployment among individuals with Autism >90%*

*Only 9,297 participants in supported employment programs*

*Only 17,623 RC consumers have an earned income*

*Annual average: \$4,824*

# Unlocking the Secrets to Finding & Keeping a Job

- *Seamless transition with supports in place for work*
- *Interagency collaboration: More bang for the buck!*
- *Lifelong learning: (continuing education, postsecondary institutions)*
- *Satisfying social life*
- *Independent/ supported living options*
- *Parental & familial supports*
- *Jobs & employment opportunities*
  - ❖ *Choice and self-direction*
  - ❖ *Flexible, individualized services & supports*
  - ❖ *Appropriate benefits*
  - ❖ *Innovation*
  - ❖ *Workforce education & training*

*Mark W. Vismara: A Personal Perspective on Building Bridges to Independence & Vocational Success*

