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AUTISM SOCIETY
Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism
Maine



Maine Autism

Connections

A Day at the Hill with the Autism Society

by Cathy Dionne

Spring 2016

I recently traveled to Washington DC to attend an annual Day on the Hill with affiliates from around the US. This gives all affiliates a chance to discuss common issues we all face in our states. A number of workshops were offered and a one-day to visit with your Senators and Representatives. The workshops are really designed to get you ready to meet with your Congressman. There was training on Advocacy 101, Disability Advocates Networking, Setting the Stage for your Hill visit, and a commemorative group photo. Here is a list of speakers invited to meet with us:

Maria Town, Associate Director/ Disability Liaison, White House Office of Public Engagement

Connie Garner, Policy Director, Foley Hoag LLP

Ricki Sabia, J.D. Senior Policy Advisor, National Down Syndrome Congress

David Hoppe, Chief of Staff, U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (WI-01)

Hannah Malvin, Legislative Assistant, Office of Congressman Michael F. Doyle (PA-14) Co- Chair Autism Caucus

Marisa Kovacs, Legislative Assistant, Office of Congressman Christopher H. Smith (NJ-04) Co-Chair Autism Caucus

Barbara Trader, Executive Director, TASH

Kim Saunders, President, Ukeru Systems
We were armed with four different issues we wanted to share with our Congressman and urge them for support. ASM will post all four fact sheets on our legislative page of our website. Here are the titles of those four fact sheets:

[Family Support Issue – Bipartisan Congressional Assisting Caregivers Today \(ACT\) Caucus](#)

[Family Support Issue- Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage \(RAISE\) Family Caregivers Act](#)

[Long Term Services and Supports Issue – Medicaid](#)

[Education Issue- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) and Keeping All Students Safe Act \(KASSA\)](#)

I met with Philip Swartzfager, Legislative Director for Congressman Bruce Poliquin. He was very interested in what I had to say and how these issues would affect Maine families. I will follow up with a meeting this summer with Congressman Bruce Poliquin.

I also met with Patrick O’Neil, Legislative Aide for Senator Angus King. I discussed

each issue with Mr. O’Neil. He asked many questions and took notes to bring back to Senator King. I will also follow up with Senator King this summer and hopefully get an appointment with him while he is in Maine.

My take away from this adventure is that we voted in these representatives and they truly want to help Maine people – we just need to tell them our story and educate them. They hear many different bills in DC and it’s up to us to make sure they remember our story and how it relates to that bill.



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Visit us online at: *Maine*
<http://www.asmonline.org>

Stay up-to-date for Legislation issues, fund-raising events, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming happenings.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



President's Message

Over the past few weeks, I have been traveling in Belize, affording me an opportunity to learn about a different part of the world, gain some perspective for my work and professional life and allow my son and I to practice increased autonomy.

Like other parents with an adult child with an intellectual and/or developmental disability, I worry about how he will fare when I am not here to advocate, support and assist him, but know that day will eventually come. It is this worry that drives my activity in the Autism Society of Maine as well as other social policy issues in our state.



Most recently, many parents have been active in the Department of Health and Human Services' move to a single assessment--- Support Intensity Scale---as the tool driving resource allocation for adults with disabilities. Estimates are that some individuals will receive the same allocation or more resources. However, there are a number of people whose need (as measured by current resource allocation), will not be met, even at the highest level of funding in this new proposal.

It is easy for Department representatives to blame the providers---"all they care about is making money" or families---"they are afraid to take risks and allow their children" to live more autonomously. But, the fact remains, that some people's current support needs will not be supported under the SIS allocation plan, as it is currently proposed. There are many opinions, finger pointing and both informed and uninformed discussions being generated. While there are many venues to problem solve our state's challenges in developmental services---- Maine Parent Coalition, LD1816 Stakeholders Implementation Group and statewide movement through Community Connect to bring individuals, parents and families together---the system wide major and substantive changes are being finalized in isolation. Meetings for Case Managers exclude families. Meetings for families exclude service providers and case managers. This negatively impacts the strength of these coalitions. Individuals, parents and families need and want service providers with them to refine the system of care. My travels this month can only happen because I have confidence and an alliance with my treatment provider. Together, we can insure my son thrives.....which is what we all want for our children.

We are a group of individuals, parents and families who have advocated and problem solved for years. We are not about to handover this responsibility to a bureaucratic system and "go along to get along". We are a powerful and informed group, that in the face of personal challenge have risen to the occasion. Just because our loved ones are aging does not diminish our commitment.

Most recently, a group of parents, myself included, have joined with the Maine Association of Community Service Providers (MACSP) in requesting that the Maine State Legislature intervene on the proposed rules for developmental services. ASM sent our action alerts with active links so our membership could share their views. We have just learned that over 1300 people signed the petition asking the Health and

Editorial Notes: Maine Autism Connections and Autism Society of Maine programs and services are made possible by donations from people like you and funding from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services. We hope you will also visit us online at <http://www.asmonline.org>, where we have a great deal of information available about autism, programs, resources, news, a calendar of events, legislation and more.

President's Message (continued)

Human Services Committee at the Legislature to formally review them. The Committee voted in favor of a review of the Section 21 Rules and SIS Assessment. Representatives

Gattine, Burstein, Hamann, Hymanson, Malaby, Peterson, Stuckey, and Vachon voted with Senator Haskell in favor of this review! Please take a moment to thank them for taking this important action.

HHS Committee Contact Information

Our recommendation to social policy leaders is a simple one---no group is more vested in making our system of care responsive, sustainable and excellent. Let's come together--- individuals, parents, families, providers, Department leadership and social policy makers rather than roll-out prematurely a total systems change that will hurt some people. I want to leave my son to live in a state where regardless of how his needs may change, in Maine, he will forever receive what he needs. When a system fails to meet the needs of some, then it is a flawed system of care for all.

Please take the time to understand this issue and give feedback. It is only through active participation by all stakeholders that the system will become what it needs to be in Maine.

Below are some links to get more information and share your opinion:

<http://www.maineparentcoalition.org/latest-minutes.html>

<http://www.maineparentcoalition.org>

<http://www.asmonline.org>

Community Connect--- to get involved email: khumphrey.phadv@gmail.com

News Stories:

<http://wgme.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/hundreds-sign-petition-against-dhhs-rule-change-31181.shtml#VrNuQ8dq5US>

<http://news.mpbn.net/post/advocates-petition-change-dhhs-scoring-system-providing-services#stream/0>

<http://www.wcsh6.com/story/news/2016/02/03/families-petition-legislature-fight-dhhs-rule-change/79776786/>

Sincerely,

Laurie Raymond, President

Featured Event

14th Annual Walk for Autism

I can't believe it's been 14th years for the Walk for Autism. It started out as a small event in Biddeford and now, 14 years later, it's held in over 4 different locations; Biddeford, Bangor, Belfast and Farmington. We had 200 people at the first walk. That number has grown to over 1,200 last year across all four walks. Our walks bring together families, friends, schools, and professionals who have an appreciation for individuals with autism and their struggles and abilities. We come together across the state to recognize their accomplishments and celebrate within our communities. Join a team or walk with family and friends.

Register online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/ASMMaine/walk-for-autism-2016>.



Sibling Essay Contest 2016

In honor of Autism Awareness Month we are hosting an Essay contest for siblings.

What does having a sibling with autism mean to you? Your sibling is different from you and your relationship is different too. Tell us why those differences are important to you, and what makes your relationship special.

If you have a brother or sister diagnosed with autism and you are in grades 6-12th you are eligible to enter this contest. There will be two categories:

- 6th through 8th grade
- 9th through 12th grade

A panel of ASM Board members will select one winner from each group to receive a 50.00 gift card. Winners will be announced and their essay will be published in the June 2016

Newsletter. Essays must be received by May 1st. Please submit by email, with a photo of you and your brother or sister, to infospec@asmonline.org. Please limit your essay to no more than 500 words. See ASM website for updates at asmonline.org or call 1-800-273-5200.



April is Autism Awareness Month!

About 1 in 68 children has been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) according to estimates from Centers for Disease Control's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring. ASD is almost 5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 89). **The CDC is expected to release the new prevalence rate by the end of March.**

There is a lot that you can do to bring Autism Awareness to your community!

You can host an event or join with others and attend an event like the [Walk for Autism!](#) Create a bulletin board, wear an autism awareness ribbon, [make a donation](#) to ASM, [join our Facebook group](#), become a member of ASM, purchase an autism awareness item in the [ASM store](#) and much more!

Teachers are also taking this opportunity to educate their students about autism and promoting understanding and inclusion for their fellow classmates. We are happy to help in any way we can, by providing autism information, books & dvd's from the [ASM Lending Library](#) or by offering an autism presentation. Autism Information Specialists are trained by ASM and can give a presentation to your class about autism on all grade levels.

Autism Awareness Packets are available and can be mailed to you FREE by ASM!

This year, ASM will have four different autism awareness packets to choose from: Schools, First Responders, Doctor's Offices, and a General Autism Information Packet. Each packet will contain autism information, poster, brochures, autism awareness ribbons, and depending on which packet, will determine additional information and resources.

If you create a bulletin board or display with these materials, please send us a photo by email, and we will post on social media!

To request your Autism Awareness packet call ASM at 1-800-5200 or email: library@asmonline.org

April Autism Awareness events and information will be posted on [ASM's online calendar](#) page. Please let us know if you are planning an event, and we will advertise it as well.

April 2, 2016 World Autism Awareness Day

The United Nations General Assembly declared April 2nd World Autism Day. It was first observed in 2007. Across the globe, autism organizations celebrate the day with fundraising, autism awareness-raising events, or showing support by wearing an autism awareness symbol such as the autism ribbon.

As part of a global initiative to help raise awareness for autism, iconic landmarks around the world will "Light It Up Blue" as part of World Autism Awareness Day.



Upcoming Events

FREE Sensory Friendly Movie “JungleBook” April 16, 2016

The Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club is sponsoring a sensory friendly movie event featuring “Jungle Book” for families whose children with autism live in the Lewiston/Auburn area. The movie will be closed to the general public and will start at 10:00am; you may arrive by 9:30am. Reserved seating is required. Each child will receive popcorn and a drink. This event is FREE!

Flagship Cinema - 730 Center St., Auburn, ME
Contact ASM: 1-800-273-5200 to reserve your seat by
April 11, 2016.

5th Annual Softball Tournament for Autism Union Street Athletic Fields, Bangor June 18, 2016

Get your bats and cleats ready! It’s time for teams to register for the 5th Annual Softball Tournament for Autism. David Huffstutler and I have been sending out sponsorship letters, getting local businesses involved, and now it’s time for the teams to get on 1st base and start the run for home plate.

This is a Co-Ed tournament. You have to have at least 10 players but not more than 13. Registration is \$250 per team. You can have each player pay a portion or get sponsorships for the entire team or a portion of the sponsorship. Last year there were 10 teams. We want to have 12 teams this year. Deadline for registration is June 1, 2016.

Please go to our website for registration forms or sponsorship forms. You can also view our event on Facebook.

2016 ASM Family Retreat Weekend July 15 - 17, 2016

Please join us! Families from all over the state come together for this weekend to connect and have fun! Children are cared for by respite providers and get to swim, rock climb, create a craft, and make new friends. Parents have the option of attending presentations and participating in fun workshops or just relaxing! Everything is included! Meals, respite care, dorm room (for up to 4 persons), activities and entertainment! This year’s theme is “Dinosaurs!” with Saturday evening entertainment being a movie, “The Good Dinosaur” in the auditorium.

St. Joseph’s College, Standish, ME - Applications Available
April 1st

ASM’s Camp Summit July 25 to August 18, 2016

Camp Summit is offered FREE to children ages 5 to 15 with autism. Each child has a one on one camp counselor who is a student from the University of Maine. This program fosters social communication with fun peer activities and field trip adventures.

Located in Farmington, the summer camp offers 2 - two week programs that run Monday through Thursday from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Applications are available on April 1st. Space is limited! Call ASM to have your child’s application sent to you.
ASM: 1-800-273-5200

Maine Coalition for Housing & Quality Services (ASM is a satellite site for this meeting)

The Coalition began in May, 2006, formed by a group of parents of individuals with developmental and related disabilities.

Purpose: to create a system of quality housing and personal supports that is person and family centered, with choice and dignity being at the forefront of efforts.

The Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Services is working on developing and implementing a new system of care, a Lifelong Continuum of Care for People with Developmental Disabilities. You can participate in this process by joining the Maine Coalition for Housing and Quality Service and see the evolving design.

The information above comes from the website of www.maineparentcoalition.org

ASM is one of many satellite sites for the Parent Coalition which meets the second Monday of every month at One City Center in the Burton Fisher Community Meeting Room, 1st floor, in Portland, Maine, from 12:00 – 2:00 pm or you may stop by ASM in Winthrop to attend the meeting by satellite. Meetings are open to the public. If you can’t attend in person sign up to receive the minutes from this very informational meeting.



“For the Love of Cats”

by Deb Lipsky

In the beginning of December one of my cats “Adam” needed immediate lifesaving surgery. It was a painful recovery process for both of us as he needed 24/7 home nursing care for 4 weeks afterwards. During this process I became convinced that you have to have a death wish if you plan on or attempt to give an uncooperative cat a pill. Poor Adam had to sport a green Tupperware quality bowl on his head to prevent him licking his stitches. The correct veterinarian term for this is an “Elizabethan collar”. It should be more appropriately called “satellite dish perched on kitty’s head collar”. Despite this agonizing hurdle I still remain an avid cat lover because cats including Adam respect my autistic needs and are a furry four legged extension of myself. The pet parent world is really split between 2 majority pet types: cats and dogs. As a cat person I love the fact that cats don’t need constant attention either emotionally or physically. I grew up with a lap dog and my entire teen years were spent being annoyed by a pet wanting to always be at my side, craving my affection, and always under foot. It was like having a child and I am not fond of children. “Heidi” was my mutts name and the most annoying habit she had was to chase after our chickens lapping and slurping up and devouring the “hot off the grill” fresh chicken poop like it was a gourmet buffet. If that wasn’t bad enough, with eager anticipation she would finally come when called (after she had her fill) and eagerly expect to lick my face with her tongue. We had cats too, and both the cats and I were always disgusted when she dove into the litter box like a high dive diving champion and used a kitty tootsie roll as a chewy toy. Nor did I ever understand why when I took Heidi out for the sole

purpose of going “poopy”, she saw it as an opportunity to play, frolic, and do everything else but her business thereby throwing my allotted time frame for elimination out the window. Nothing against dog lovers but the dog personality just clashes with my autistic nature.

Cats however are content as long as they have a place to sleep, a place to poop, and a full food dish. Just like parallel play, cats are parallel pets. In my house I do what I want when I want. Meanwhile the cats are off in some corner asleep, sitting on a chair, or staring outside the patio door for hours at the squirrels scurrying around the bird feeder (to them that is the ultimate in “cat television”). We are in sight but not actively engaging each other, content with just occupying the same space at the same time. Cats to some degree will reward us with affection if we beg hard enough for it and if they are in the mood to bestow it upon us. You don’t teach a cat to “roll over or play dead”...it is beneath their dignity. I love their fierce spirit of independence. I do have 3 cats that love to play “fetch” when the mood strikes them so that satisfies any latent dog cravings that may still lurk deep within my sub-consciousness. Paul Provenza once wrote, “I have cats because they have no artificially imposed, culturally prescribed sense of decorum. They live in the moment. If I had an aneurysm in the brain and dropped dead, I love knowing that, as the paramedics carry me out my cats are going to be swatting at that little toe tag.”

In January Adam developed complications and fell critically ill on the eve of a major snow storm. We rushed him to a trauma hospital where I had to make a split second decision

to either opt for immediate major surgery or watch him die horribly within a few hours. The surgery would cost thousands of dollars but to me it was a no brainer....Adam as I write this article is worth more than all my new furniture and appliances combined. The emotional toll it took on me has been enormous requiring yet more painful post-operative care for another four weeks. How do you tell a pet that their suffering is only temporary and that you put them through it to help them and not torture them? In December I came down with that four week cold that was circulating around and I was hosting Christmas at my house. In January I developed a nasty secondary bacterial infection that has zapped all my energy. Adam however (as of Feb. 1st) so far is recovering very well and we are cautiously optimistic that he will be fine now. My wallet however and in particular my VISA card which funded the operations is in critical condition and not expected to survive.

It is really hard to concentrate on finishing this article given these circumstances so I would like finish my article by including a few “tips” from a book called, “The Awesome Book of Cat Humor” on a cat’s survival guide. It’s a handbook for cats. To cat owners out there they will appreciate the humor that veils the truth. It makes me smile during this time when the weight of the world is resting on my shoulders. Thank you



“For the Love of Cats” (continued)

to all my loyal readers in advance for your understanding. I normally don't including anyone's writing but my own so this is way out of my comfort zone.

Cat Survival Guide

1. Doors. After you have ordered a door opened, stand halfway in and out and think about several things. This is particularly important during very cold weather, rain, snow, or mosquito season.
2. Chairs and rugs. If you have to throw up, get to a chair quickly. If you cannot manage in time, get to an Oriental rug. If there is no Oriental rug, shag is good. When throwing up on the carpet, make sure you back up so that it is as long as a human's bare foot.
3. Bathrooms. Always accompany guests to the bathroom. It is not necessary to do anything----just sit and stare.
4. For people paying bills or working on income taxes or Christmas cards, sit on the paper being worked on. When dislodged, watch sadly from the side of the table. When activity proceeds nicely, roll around on the papers, scattering them to the best of your ability. After being removed for the second time, push pens, pencils, ad erasers off the table, one at a time.
5. Walking. As often as possible dart quickly and closely as possible in front of the human, especially on stairs, when they have something in their arms, in the dark, and when they first get up in the morning. This will help their coordination skills.
6. For knitting projects or paperwork, lie on the work in the most appropriate manner so as to obscure as much of the work as possible (or at least the most important part.) Pretend to doze, but every so often reach out and slap the pencil or knitting needles. The worker may to distract you. Ignore it. Remember, the aim is to hamper work. Embroidery and needlepoint projects make great hammocks in spite of what humans tell you.
7. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between the eyes and book, unless you can lie across the book itself.

A New ASM Website is Coming!

Trending now, and into the future, many of us use mobile devices to look up information online. We realize it is important that the ASM website is compatible and easy to navigate for users.

We are pleased to announce that a “New and Improved” mobile friendly website is being developed by PHD Consulting, Maine Web Design.

Our website is a valued resource with over two million visitors since its conception!

We are hoping this project to be completed in April.



Family Documentary Screening

The Autism Society of Maine and [Port Resources](#) have joined together to offer a FREE movie event for families. “The Family Next Door” is a documentary about the Lund Family. Experience the first hand reality of autism and how one family's grace, patience and determination steers them on this unpaved road of “The Family Next Door”. To see website/trailer visit <http://www.thefamilynextdoor.com>

Although this is a free movie event donations would be gladly accepted, look for a table with information on the Autism Society of Maine and Port Resources.

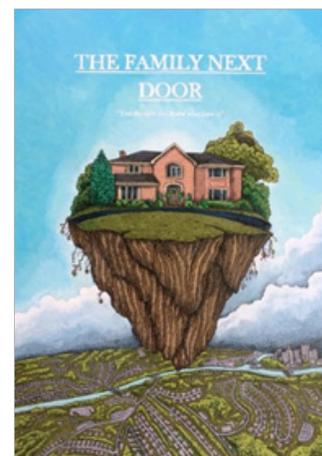
This movie will be offered free in 4 different locations and dates:

April 4 at 7 pm - Flagship Cinema, 730 Center Street, Auburn

April 12 at 7 pm - Flagship Cinema, 75 Wells Plaza, Wells

April 19 at 7 pm - The Woodfords Club, 179 Woodfords Street, Portland (doors open at 6:30)

April 28 at 7pm - The Portland Eagles, 184 St. John Street, Portland (doors open at 6:30)



Legislative Update

By Dennise Whitley, ASM's Legislative Liaison

The Second Session of the 127th Maine Legislature opened on January 6, 2016 and the Statutory Adjournment is April 20, 2016. Because the Second Session is relatively short, legislation is restricted to carry-over bills, legislation proposed by the Governor and bills deemed to be of an emergency nature. ASM is tracking a few carry-over bills and only 2 new bills introduced this Session. Please see the ASM Tracking Sheet link on our website for the complete list.

Of particular interest to ASM was the carry-over bill LD1421 An Act To Establish a Tax-free Savings Program for Individuals with Disabilities. ASM actively supported this bill which will make it possible for people in Maine to take advantage of the ABLÉ Act which was passed federally in December of 2014 with the provision that each state must develop regulations before accounts can be opened. ABLÉ Act accounts are qualified savings accounts that receive preferred federal tax treatment. With the new accounts, people with disabilities will be able to accrue up to \$100,000 without losing access to Social Security and other government benefits. Medicaid coverage will remain intact no matter how much money is saved in an individual's ABLÉ account. Modeled after 529 college savings plans, funds in the accounts can be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing and other expenses. Interest earned on savings in the accounts will be tax-free. Individuals with disabilities that originated before age 26 will be eligible for the new accounts.

The Taxation Committee amended and passed LD1421 with this Summary: "This amendment changes the bill to a resolve directing the Treasurer of State to review the experience of other states in implementing tax-advantaged qualified savings programs for qualified individuals with disabilities and report the results of the Treasurer of State's

research and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters by January 15, 2017. The committee is authorized to submit a related bill to the First Regular Session of the 128th Legislature. " ASM Director and Board members expect to have a meeting with State Treasurer Hayes to share their expectations about the ABLÉ Act .

There have been important proposed rule changes by the Department of Health and Human Services that ASM has taken an active role in by submitting comments from the Board . Regarding Proposed Rule: Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder, we expressed concern that many families were not aware of the proposed rule changes or how they could impact their loved one, since the notice was over a holiday period. The Society continues to get calls/inquiries from concerned parents who have limited knowledge or information about the proposed system's changes. Other major concerns:

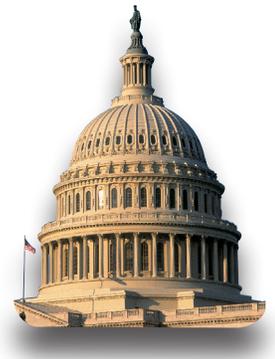
- For some of the most vulnerable individuals, there is a significant gap in funding.
- How will the Department insure that the Person Centered Planning teams continue to be the decision making team relative to a person's plan and support needs?
- The proposed rules rely only on the SIS score to determine a level of funding. The 5 SIS Levels equate to 3 levels of funding. Why would each level not have its own level of funding?
- The proposed rules establish a complicated process through the QESS for additional support

hours (which leaves many questions about who will do what, what will the timeframes be, what will the member's right for appeal/ grievance be) and requires additional credentials and experience.

- Using one tool as a measure of support needs is contradictory to the purpose of the SIS as outlined by the AAIDD. Why can't Maine consider a client's history, additional assessments (SLP, OT, PT) in determining the level of care?
- The rules outline a process that allows a SIS level reconsideration for changes that will impact an individual for 6 months or longer. What reassurances can the Department include in the rules that outline a solid safety net and thoughtful planning so that Maine's most vulnerable individuals are cared for?

The ASM Board also made comments to the Office of Aging and Disability Services on Regulations Governing Behavioral Support, Modification and Management For People with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism in Maine.

There are 5 major areas of concern with the new Regulations which the Society cited and ended with this comment: "The task of developing behavioral regulations toward the protection of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities is a huge undertaking. In these proposed regulations, there is more focus on rights and avoiding past



Legislative Update (continued)

historical mistakes, often occurring in institutional settings, than on evidenced-based interventions and supports that could offer hope and opportunity to our individuals and families. Our membership has raised these children into adulthood, often with marginal or no supports. These regulations discount that monumental commitment and the importance of their role in determining programming needs. Our population needs protections. That is clear. We have mechanisms for that through Adult Protective Services, Licensing and Regulatory Entities and advocacy by the individuals and families. In managing the most severe behaviors, many of the processes outlined in these regulations seem appropriate, but for many individual situations they do not. We urge you to reconsider the scope of these regulations and involve more stakeholders in their creation to insure the system of care both protects and provides therapies to our Maine citizens with Autism.”

To read the full ASM comments on Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, and comments to Office of Aging and Disability Services on Regulations Governing Behavioral Support, Modification and Management For People with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism in Maine, please see the ASM website http://www.asmonline.org/involved_legislative.asp

The 2 newly introduced bills of interest:

LD1522 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of the Final Repeal of Chapter 101, MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 32: Allowances for Waiver Services for Children with Intellectual

Disabilities or Pervasive Developmental Disorders, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services Health and Human Services Committee

LD1555 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age 20, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education

Education Committee

Both of these bills have had Hearings and Work Sessions and were voted Ought To Pass by the Health and Human Services Committee and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, respectively.

ASM on Social Media!

The Autism Society of Maine has a wonderful Facebook Community including parents, professionals, individuals and anyone interested in autism. If you are not already a friend of our Facebook page, we welcome you to join us!

By “liking” ASM’s Facebook page you can help us spread the word to hundreds of new supporters!



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Autism-Society-Of-Maine/107781499258293>



We have a great collection of videos and will be adding more throughout the year!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AutismSocietyofME>



Follow us on Twitter as we ‘tweet’ about autism!

<https://twitter.com/autismsocietyme>



My Autism Team logo A reputable and friendly place to connect with other parents in Maine.

<http://www.myautismteam.com/>



A young man from Maine has designed a blog to provide personal insight into overcoming the challenges of living with a disability. Here you will find helpful disability resources and tips on: social issues, improving oneself, and technology. <http://zachfly.com/>

Share Your Story!

Would you like to share your story of a loved one with autism? An uplifting story that can be an inspiration to other families? The Autism Society of Maine is currently accepting entries for the “Maine Autism Connections” newsletter - summer edition.

This is for Maine residents and due by May 1, 2016. Please send your story of approximately 500 words along with a photo to ASM by email: info@asmonline.org Questions? Call: 1-800-273-5200

Sea of Blue Walk & 5k for Autism April 30, 2016

The Neighborhood House
1 Kimball Road, Northeast
Harbor

Registration is on site only
This event is to benefit the
Autism Society of Maine

9:30am - Walk starts
10:00am - Run starts

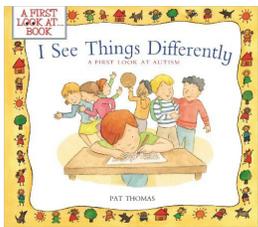
FMI contact Chris & Matt Heel
(207) 276-4134
mheel-3@verizon.net

Welcome to the Autism Society of Maine Library!



ASM's Lending Library is a valuable and free resource for parents, caregivers, educators, children and professionals working with children and adults on the autism spectrum. The Lending Library is a FREE resource for Maine residents. The collection can be viewed on the ASM website or you may request a printed list to be mailed to you. Stop by the office, or have material sent to you (we will include return shipping label) by calling or emailing: 1-800-273-5200 email: library@asmonline.org
Online library page: <http://www.asmonline.org/library.asp>

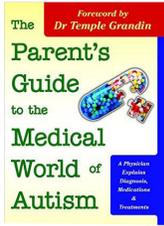
See Things Differently: A First Look at Autism by Pat Thomas



This book will help children understand what autism is and how it affects someone who has it. A wonderful catalyst for discussion that will help children to better understand and support autistic classmates or siblings. The story line is simple and easily

accessible to younger children, who will learn that exploring the personal feelings around social issues is a first step in dealing with them. Full-color illustrations on every page.

The Parent's Guide to the Medical World of Autism: A Physician Explains Diagnosis, Medications and Treatments by Edward Aull



Dr. Aull clearly explains the world of diagnosis, treatments, and the overwhelming world of medications for parents facing a diagnosis for their child of autism. The much needed explanation of what is safe, and what to use when can be found here. Concepts about utilizing medication treatment, why medications might give an adverse outcome, and what might be done to improve the patient's results are also explained.

Model Me Airplane (dvd) by Model Me Kids®



Follow Owen as he goes through the airport, security, and boarding. Then join him on the plane as he listens to the flight attendant, buckles his seatbelt, and enjoys the plane ride. Video presents the essential elements of air travel. (Recommended for ages 3-14)

The ASM Library has complete series of Model Me Kids® videos. Modeling videos demonstrate social skills by modeling peer behavior at school, on a playdate, at a birthday party, on the playground, at a library, at the dentist, restaurant, and more. Designed as a teaching tool for children and teenagers with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the videos are used by teachers, parents, and therapists. Watch previews on Model Me Kids website: <http://modelmekids.com/autism-video-samples.html>

Donations

In Memory of:

Ethel Ramsey

Lloyd & Jane Wickett

Linda Wing & Kia-Lynne Heckman

Alice Warren

Richard & Shirley Sanders

Conrad Graham

Kazuko Graham

In Honor Of:

Todd Lapointe & Kerrie Riley by *Rachel Lapointe*

The Vaillancourt Family by *Carol Connolly*

Terri Port & Steve Lishansky, and
Colonel & Mrs. Michael Port by *the Vaillancourt Family*

Donations / Fundraisers

Joel Gottlieb

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Jean Butler

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Regina Marsters

Jack Dyer

Norris, Inc.

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Everything Kids

Mega Industries, LLC

Rebekah Assembly of Maine

Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Dixmont United Methodist Church

New England Jumpers Association

Stonewall Stables Jumping Competition

Knights of Columbus Council #101

Annual Tootsie Roll Drive

Thank you for your generosity!

ASM Store



Gel Autism Awareness
Bracelet
\$3.00



Autism Ribbon Keychain
\$5.00



Autism Awareness Mug
\$10.00



Mini Magnet
2" x 4"
\$3.00



Autism Awareness
Magnet
8" x 3.5"
\$5.00



Silver Cuff Bracelet
Puzzle piece design cuff bracelet
Sterling silver plated 7" and flexible
for fit (gift box included)
\$10.00

The ASM Online Store has been Updated!

Try out our new shopping cart designed to give you a pleasant shopping experience that is safe and secure!

Order online at <http://www.asmonline.org/ecwid-store.asp>
or call 1-800-273-5200



Autism Ribbon Earrings
Sterling Silver plated
Includes Embossed Gift Box
\$8.00



Baseball Cap
Black/Yellow Wave Cap
with yellow font
\$15.00



Big Heart Autism Ribbon Key
Chain
1.5" x 1.5" and comes in embossed
gift box. Sterling Silver plated
\$6.00



Multicolored Puzzle Piece
Heart Hanging Charm
1" x 1" and Sterling Silver plated
\$3.00



Autism Stretch Bracelet
Sterling Silver plated
\$4.00



Autism Touches Us All Hanging
Charm
1" x 1" and Sterling Silver plated
\$3.00



Silver Ribbon Cuff Bracelet
Sterling silver plated (flexible for fit,
embossed gift box included)
\$10.00



Puzzle Piece Car Magnet
4" x 8"
\$6.00



Hand Crafted Dichroic Glass
Earrings
Sterling silver plated wire fish hooks;
5/8" x 7/8" random design & color
\$15.00



Angel Pin
Sterling silver plated with
clear crystals; 1" by 1" (gift
box included)
\$8.00



Autism Awareness Lanyard
\$6.00



Autism Awareness Lapel
Pin
\$5.00



Hand crafted Dichroic Glass Pendant
with Sterling Silver Plated bail (includes
black silk cord); 5/8" x 7/8" random design
and color
\$8.00



Support our Services: Give to the Autism Society of Maine!

The Autism Society of Maine is a statewide nonprofit organization that for over 36 years has served Maine individuals with autism and their families, professionals, and communities by providing education, advocacy, referrals, and resource development. We rely on donations and fund-raisers to help cover the cost of our programs and activities that bring awareness and community to individuals and families affected by ASD. Here's how you can help:

- General donations may also be made anytime of the year online using our secure donation forms (or you can download and print our PDF forms) at: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp
- Memorial donations to the Society in memory of a friend or loved-one may also be made at: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations.asp
- Donations through Network For Good may be made at: <https://www.networkforgood.org/donation/ExpressDonation.aspx?ORGID2=010407346>
- Donations through United Way can be directed to the Autism Society of Maine. For more information, visit: http://www.asmonline.org/involved_donations_united_way.asp
- Host a fund-raiser with proceeds going to ASM. Some of the past and current fund-raisers have included: Avon, Pampered Chef parties, Mary Kay parties, bake sales at events, selling autism awareness items at conferences or craft events, selling holiday wreaths, selling T-shirts. If any of these fund-raisers interest you, please call us for more information.

Become a Member!

The Autism Society of Maine invites you to join families and professionals in the pursuit of knowledge about autism spectrum disorders, treatments and support for Maine children and adults with autism.

You may register online at:

www.asmonline.org/involved_joinasm.asp

or call ASM at 1-800-273-5200

For other ways to contribute, contact us at asm@asmonline.org. Thank you for supporting our mission!

Call us at: 1-800-273-5200 or visit us online at www.asmonline.org