



ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC)

SPHARC is a comprehensive web-based resource center intended to provide ongoing technical assistance and facilitate cross-state learning among states working to strengthen systems of care for children, youth and families with autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

SPHARC is designed to establish an ongoing peer-to-peer network, and exchange of resources and information.

The screenshot shows the AMCHP website interface. The header includes the AMCHP logo and navigation links: About AMCHP, About Title V, Events, MCH Topics, Publications, Advocacy, Groups & Regions, Member Center. The main content area is titled "State Public Health Autism Resource Center" and features a description: "The State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC) is a comprehensive resource center for state Title V agencies and others interested in improving systems for children, youth and families with autism spectrum disorders." Below this, there is an "Announcements" section with a link to "AMCHP Annual Conference 2011: Act Early Networking Session - open to all members of Act Early state teams" and a bullet point stating: "This meeting will provide a forum to discuss Act Early team activities, and share strategies and lessons learned with other states. Staff from CDC's Act Early Team will lead the meeting."

The screenshot shows the "State Spotlight" section for Alaska. It includes a photo of a group of people, a map of Alaska, and text describing the state's challenges and initiatives. Key points include: "Alaska is the largest and most rural of the six demonstration grants. The state faces significant geographical and financial challenges in delivering services to families newly diagnosed children with ASD. Alaska is currently working on the following activities and programs to address the challenges: 1. Engaging individuals, agencies, and departments. Extensive committee work and planning identified membership, set goals, and began the work by leasing out priorities with a focus on broad objectives. The steering committee with members from leaders in the field of CDRCH help to direct the grant's implementation. At the first planning meeting, they recommended dividing into 2 primary focus areas: Screening/Training Subcommittee and Media/Awareness/Outreach Subcommittee. The Steering Committee met quarterly and the subcommittee's (meeting every other month) further teased out goals and responsibilities and moved to even smaller and more focused workgroups. As the workgroups met weekly and monthly, they talked through the intentions and practicality of activities. (I am attaching a slide of the organization chart that explains the work plan). As these committees worked together, relationships were cultivated that involved, engaged and oriented new people and began some of the necessary bridge building to ensure a collaborative process. 2. Autism Awareness Month. The Media/Awareness/Outreach Subcommittee chose to use April (as Autism Awareness Month) as the kickoff to a Statewide Awareness Campaign. Several tools and target activities were identified during April. a. A large number of agencies, individuals, and groups were doing activities that did not have a coordinated platform. For example, through the efforts of parents, providers, educators, and agencies, we discovered 27 separate events going on. They included fundraisers, book fairs, walks, social events, movie showings."

The screenshot shows the "By Topic" section with the following categories and links:

- Awareness**
 - National Autism Awareness Month
 - "Learn the Signs. Act Early." Campaign - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), in collaboration with a number of national partners, launched a public awareness campaign called "Learn the Signs. Act Early." The campaign aims to educate parents about childhood development, including early warning signs of autism and other developmental disorders, and encourages developmental screening and intervention.
 - CDC's Autism Website
- Care Coordination**
 - Making Care Coordination a Critical Component of the Pediatric Health System: A Multidisciplinary Framework - The Commonwealth Fund released this report proposing a framework for care coordination in a high-performing pediatric health care system.
- Cultural Competence**
 - Multilingual Web Resource
 - National Center for Cultural Competence
- Data, Assessment and Evaluation**
 - CDC's National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD): Data & Statistics
- Diagnosis and Screening**
 - Developmental Screening Toolkit for Primary Care Providers
 - CDC's National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD): Screening & Diagnosis
 - 100 Day Toolkit - Autism Speaks created this toolkit specifically for newly diagnosed families, to make the best possible use of the 100 days following the diagnosis of autism.
 - AAP: Implementing Developmental Screening in the Medical Home - A recorded teleconference and materials are accessible from this link.
 - Organization for Autism Research (OAR): Diagnosis
 - Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (M-CHAT)
 - Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Online
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders, Diagnosis, Prevalence, and Services for Children and Families (April 2010) - The most recent issue of the Society for Research in Child Development's Social Policy Report provides a summary of selected

SPHARC Provides

- Informational Call Recordings and Materials
- News and Regularly Updated Resources for Public Health Leaders, Families and Health Care/Service Providers on Such Topics as:
 - Awareness, Care Coordination, Cultural Competence, Data, Assessment and Evaluation, Diagnosis and Screening, Family Involvement, Financing of Care, Health Reform, Interagency Coordination, Medical Home, Policy, Provider Training, State Systems of Care, Surveillance and Transition
- State Spotlights/Best Practices in Building Systems of Care for Children and Youth with ASD
- Expert's Corner of Key Issues Facing States
- Timely Announcements for State Title V Programs on ASD

For additional information, please contact Melody Gilbert at mgilbert@amchp.org



Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
2030 M Street, NW, Suite 350
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 775-0436 • www.amchp.org

Visit www.amchp.org/spharc to learn more!

