

Accommodations: Rooms are available at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center, New Cumberland, PA. Call 717-774-2721 and mention "Autism Conference of PA" to receive the special rate of \$84/night (*available until 4/11/06*).

Other nearby hotels:

Comfort Inn – 717-774-8888
Days Inn South – 717-774-4156
Fairfield Inn – 717-774-6200.

Directions: (*all roads lead to I-83 Exit 40A*)

- From the East: PA Turnpike West to Exit 242, then I-83 North to Exit 40A
- From the West: PA Turnpike East to Exit 242, then I-83 North to Exit 40A
- From the North: I-83 South to Exit 40A
- From the South: I-83 North to Exit 40A

At I-83's Exit 40A (Limekiln Road Exit), go to stoplight, then straight ahead. The hotel is behind Pizza Hut.

Call for Exhibitors!

This showcase will feature a Resource Fair. We are inviting service agencies, product vendors, service providers, applied research-related organizations, support organizations, and others to take this opportunity to share information with the statewide autism community. **If you are interested in exhibiting**, contact us **no later than April 21** at 412-856-7223 or asapgh@aol.com.

Invite your legislator and any viable candidate to learn what Pennsylvania government must do to begin serving *appropriately* the huge population of individuals with autism in our state. **This is an election year!**

Conference Co-chairs:

Dan Torisky, ASA Pittsburgh
Marie McClay, ASA Philadelphia

This is your call to action, for action now! Please join us May 5-6.

PA Autism Showcase Conference
4371 Northern Pike, Monroeville, PA 15146

PA Autism Showcase Conference **A CALL TO ACTION, FOR ACTION NOW**

Presented by

The Pittsburgh & Philadelphia Chapters of the Autism Society of America, and the Autism Society of Pennsylvania (PennSAC), *in cooperation with* Chairpersons of the PA Autism Task Force, and the Autism Caucus of the PA Legislature

UPDATED SCHEDULE!

May 5, 2006 (Friday) 11:30 am - 7 pm
May 6, 2006 (Saturday) 8 am - 3:15 pm

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center
New Cumberland, PA (South of Harrisburg)

You can make a difference!

Join in discussions with members of the PA Autism Task Force and other leaders in the state's autism community. Let your voice be heard as to what must be done to **improve the lives of those with autism and their families in Pennsylvania.**

Featuring

DAVID S. MANDELL, Sc.D.
NANCY J. MINSHEW, M.D.
REP. DENNIS O'BRIEN
LINDA RHEN, Ed.D.
NINA WALL-COTE, M.S.S., L.S.W.

www.autismsocietypgh.org
www.asaphilly.org

PA Autism Showcase Conference A Call to Action, For Action Now

Who should go: Individuals with an interest in the future of autism services and how they are and will be provided in PA, including individuals with autism, legislators, educators, caregivers, parents and family members, agency professionals and related departmental staffers.

Conference objectives: This conference is intended to unify the PA autism community behind the action recommendations of the PA Autism Task Force. Autism-appropriate services were found to be deficient, or nonexistent, in every area of need. But *only the unified demand of the entire autism community* can bring about a continuum of appropriate services for Pennsylvanians with autism. Attendees will walk away with full awareness of what specific action steps must be taken NOW to press for necessary government action.

Key presenters:

REP. DENNIS O'BRIEN

- Chair of the House Judiciary Committee
- Chair of the PA House Autism Caucus
- Honorary Autism Task Force Chairman

LINDA RHEN, Ed.D.

- Director, Bureau of Special Education, PA Department of Education

DAVID S. MANDELL, Sc.D.

- Autism Task Force Chair
- Center for MH Policy and Services Research, University of Pennsylvania

NANCY J. MINSHEW, M.D.

- Autism Task Force Chair
- Director, Center for Excellence in Autism Research, University of Pittsburgh

NINA WALL-COTE, M.S.S., L.S.W.

- Autism Task Force Chair
- Director of Autism Affairs, Department of Public Welfare

Breakout sessions coincide with the "areas of need" subcommittees of the Autism Task Force and will be led by committee chairs and/or lead members. Our goal is to **determine specific action steps** necessary for driving positive change at the state level to improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families.

AGENDA

Note: This is an updated schedule!

FRIDAY, MAY 5

- 11:30 - 1:00 p.m. Registration/Resource Fair
 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Introduction
 1:30 - 3:15 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 1. Research Issues – Accelerating scientific research and translating it into practice**
 - 2. Funding Streams – Obstacles: fragmentation, inadequate utilization, inefficiency**
 - 3. Rural Issues – Lack of quality services in more remote regions of Pennsylvania**
 - 4. Information and Advocacy – Developing/ implementing a state system with easy access**
- 3:15 - 3:30 p.m. Break/Snack
 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Autism Advocacy/Interest Groups Session to Plan Unified Action
 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Open Networking Session with cash bar & hors d'oeuvres

SATURDAY, MAY 6

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast
 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Introduction
 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Keynote Panel
 9:45 - 10:00 a.m. Break
 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Morning Breakout Sessions
- 1. Needs of Adults (Age 21 and older); Developing a Medicaid Waiver – Lack of statewide system of appropriate supports and the need for a waiver specific to the autism population**
 - 2. Early Intervention – Gaps in screening, diagnosis, referral, education, practices**
 - 3. Education and Certification – Removing barriers for quality educational options**
- 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Lunch/Resource Fair
 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions
- 4. Family and Social Issues – Health and education systems within context of life stages**
 - 5. Adolescence and Transition to Adulthood – Improving the lives of adolescents, their families and increasing the likelihood of successful transition**
 - 6. Needs of Children (Ages 6-12) – Gaps in educational and behavioral health services**
- 2:00 - 2:15 p.m. Break
 2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Keynote Call to Action

Please be sure to visit our Resource Fair vendors!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return by **FRIDAY, APRIL 28.**

Name: _____

Org (if app): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

_____ Friday & Saturday - \$75

_____ Friday Only - \$50

_____ Saturday Only - \$50

Note: Registration fee includes lunch on Saturday.

Indicate your choice of breakout sessions:

Friday ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4

Saturday AM: ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3

PM: ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6

Indicate method of payment:

___ CHECK (payable to PA AUTISM SHOWCASE CONFERENCE)

___ CREDIT CARD Visa ___ Mastercard ___

Cardholder's Name _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Phone/Fax/Email Registration (Credit Card Only)

412-856-7223 (ph)

412-856-7428 (fax)

asapgh@aol.com

Mail to: PA Autism Showcase Conference
 4371 Northern Pike
 Monroeville, PA 15146