

SONNENBERG CONSULTANTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010



the Kenosha area that will accept any child!

Company News

- ❖ Keep your eyes out-- Evals are coming for all line therapists and the Seniors!
- ❖ Team meetings are mandatory at all houses. Contact your Senior asap if you are unable to attend to work something out.
- ❖ If you are sick, please do not come into work that day as we do not want the child to become sick as well or pass it along to anyone else.
- ❖ If you do have to call in, call both the family and your Senior a min. of 2 hours before your start time.
- ❖ Set up a make-up time with the family when you call in.
- ❖ Mark at the bottom of your timesheets whether all shifts have been completed for the month.

Fundraiser

Senior, Char Geissman has started a fundraiser at Mariah's Bar (2724 Roosevelt Rd. Kenosha).

Family Groups

Starting in January 2010!

- ❖ **Parent Support Group**
 - This will be a meeting for parents to get together and converse about anything that is on their mind. Some meetings may have local speakers come in.
- ❖ **Sibling Support Group**
 - This will be a time for all of the siblings to come together and have a place where other children understand exactly what they are each going through!
 - There will be round tables, numerous different activities, and, most of all, fun!
- ❖ **Volunteers**
 - Paid volunteers are needed for each group.
 - Can volunteer for one, a few, or all groups!
- ❖ **Contact Information**
 - Dates and times of meetings are TBA.
 - If you are interested please contact Char Geissman:
262-496-8735
cgeissman@hotmail.com



Many wishes for the New Year!



Upcoming Events

Chicago 2010 Conference

Monday May 24-May 30

Westin O'Hare Hotel

Symposiums

Roundtables

Workshops

Rescue the Children Rally

A lot of presenters including

Jenny McCarthy as a keynote speaker!

For more info. visit autismone.org

Walk Now for Autism

This spring in Chicago and Milwaukee

As CDC Issues New Autism Prevalence Report, Autism Speaks Asks, "What Will It Take?" for Government to Meet the Challenge of this National Health Crisis

NEW YORK, N.Y. (December 18, 2009) In the wake of today's new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) stating that autism now affects 1 in every 110 American children, Autism Speaks, the nation's largest autism science and advocacy organization, called on the federal government to immediately step up its efforts and dramatically increase funding to address the growing national autism public health crisis.

Now that the government has confirmed that one percent of American children have autism, the question becomes what it will take to get our elected leaders to wake up and take on this crisis in an appropriate way," said Bob Wright, co-founder of Autism Speaks. "Must we wait until every member of Congress has a child or grandchild with autism, or until every household is impacted by this devastating disorder? With nearly 750,000 children on the autism spectrum, we need meaningful action now that acknowledges the scope of this problem and allocates the resources necessary to take the fight against autism to a new level. We cannot expect the millions of people impacted by this crisis to wait another 20 years for answers."

The CDC report, published in this week's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR), states that 1% or 1 in every 110 children has been diagnosed with autism, including 1 in 70 boys. This represents a staggering 57 percent increase from 2002 to 2006, and a 600 percent increase in just the past 20 years. Other significant findings include that a broader definition of ASDs does not account for the increase, and while improved and earlier diagnosis accounts for some of the increase, it does not fully account for the increase. Thus, a true increase in the risk for ASD cannot be ruled out. Even though parents typically express concerns about their child's developmental progress before age three, the average age of diagnoses is not until 53 months, although diagnoses are occurring earlier than found in the 2002 study.

The CDC numbers validate what we already know: We have a major public health emergency on our hands that is taking an enormous toll on millions of families across the country," said Autism Speaks President Mark Rothmayr. "These families want answers that can only come through further research. They also desperately want access to services that are, at this point, grossly inadequate to meet the current and growing needs of people with autism. That must change quickly, before our society becomes overwhelmed by the demand for these services in the coming years and decades."

During his campaign, President Obama committed to \$1 billion of annual federal spending on autism by 2012. In October, he identified autism as one of his administration's top three public health priorities. This new prevalence data must compel Congress to take action to fulfill the President's promise in the upcoming FY 2011 budget process," said Wright. "It is also vital that any healthcare reform legislation sent by Congress to the President must include an end to insurance marketplace discrimination against people with autism by requiring insurers to deliver coverage for behavioral health treatments."

There are too many children with autism who are being diagnosed at six, seven or even eight years of age, which is far too late for them to experience the maximum benefits of early intervention services," said Dawson. "Clearly, we need to do a better job of diagnosing children as early as possible ideally by age two. We know that early

intervention can make a critical difference in a child's outcome.ö
http://www.autismspeaks.org/press/cdc_autism_prevalence_1_in_110.php

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