



The Special Needs Planning Center

Providing Continuity of Care



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The SNPC Mission:

*Providing continuity of quality care
for our loved ones*

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IMPORTANT AUTISM LEGISLATIVE CHANGES—NY LAW TO EXPEDITE DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

Governor George Pataki of New York signed into law a bill which requires all companies who provide health insurance plans in the State of New York to cover individuals with Autism. It requires all health policies renewed, modified or amended after January 1, 2007 to cover treatments such as speech therapy and magnetic imagining among others. According to the New York State Insurance Superintendent, Howard

Mills "Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that impacts the families of affected individuals almost as much as those who have autism themselves," he also stated, "the department has always interpreted state law as prohibiting insurers from denying coverage based on diagnoses of medical conditions. We know how important it is for those with autism spectrum disorders and families to see this clearly spelled out." This is an

extraordinary break through for families and individuals who are affected by autism. It is a light for others to follow in their own states to push for greater treatment options for our children and loved ones. Please read the article on page 2 by Mike Wasmer to see how you can make a difference in Kansas.

Majority of information for this article was taken from

SNPC ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS



Over 100 individuals attended the Special Needs Planning Center's Annual Family Picnic on Saturday, September 8. Although the date selected (Labor Day Weekend) likely prevented some families from attending, those who were there enjoyed themselves.

The most successful activity was the Greater Kansas City Hog Association (motorcycle club). Approximately 20 Harley Davidson bikers rode their Hogs to the event to put on display for the kids, allowing them to check out their bikes and even sit on them for pictures. It was debatable

who enjoyed the motorcycles more; the children or the parents. For pictures of the event go to the SNPC website at www.specialneedskc.com.

FEATURED ORGANIZATION—
KANSAS COALITION FOR AUTISM LEGISLATION



The Kansas Coalition for Autism Legislation (KCAL) is an independent group of parents, service providers and other professionals who are dedicated to advocating for legislation to support the autism community in Kansas. The needs of this ever-growing community are not being addressed by current legislation. KCAL will continue our advocacy efforts to correct this deficiency during the 2007 session, but we need your help.

One of the biggest difficulties that we face is the lack of a unified front in Topeka. A primary goal of KCAL is to unify the legislative efforts of the autism community in Kansas. We hope to enlist at least one member from every House and Senate district in Kansas. We will have a much stronger impact on our legislators if we are all presenting the same "talking points."

The mission of KCAL includes:

1. To set realistic short and long-term goals for Kansas legislation relative to autism spectrum disorders.
2. To attempt to consolidate and coordinate the legislative efforts of individuals and local autism support groups across Kansas in order to provide a more unified voice.
3. To establish and foster a working

relationship with legislators from every Kansas district, as well as other pertinent elected officials.

4. To establish and foster a working relationship with relevant lobbyists.
5. To establish and execute a detailed step-wise plan of action to reach our legislative goals.
6. To accomplish these goals without neglecting our other responsibilities.

The epidemic increase in the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders in Kansas and around the world is a crisis that we can no longer afford to ignore. It is time to move beyond awareness to legislative action. For more information please visit our website at www.kscoalitionforautism.org or email me at mike@kscoalitionforautism.org.

Michael Wasmer, DVM

Cofounder, Kansas Coalition for Autism Legislation

SNPC BINDER AND PLAN CHANGES—HAVE YOU UPDATED YOURS YET?

Based on the need for parents to keep all of their pertinent information in one place, the SNPC has created additions to the "Blue Binder" each SNPC family uses. The additions are designed to help families organize the non-financial components in each child's plan such as social security/benefit information,

guardianship, IEP information and much more.

These new binder inserts, along with the crucial financial planning section and the Continuity of Care document, truly provide parents an all-in-one binder for the next generation of care to access should the parent or caregiver no longer be able to provide

care.

If your plan has not been updated with the new additions, you will receive them during your next review meeting. If you are not currently one of the SNPC families, contact Tracy at 816-407-1004 to request more information.



UPCOMING SPECIAL NEEDS WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **SNPC Workshop for the Brain Injury Association, North Kansas City Support Group @ Moment of Truth Baptist Church** — Thursday, October 19 — 7:00 - 8:30pm — Contact Tracy at (816) 407-1004
- **Interhab Conference** — Thursday, October 26 - Saturday, October 28
- **2nd Northland Early Education Center Annual Family Resource Forum @ NEEC Preschool** — Saturday, October 29 — 6:00pm — Contact Lauren at (816) 420-9005
- **Northland Early Education Center 25th Anniversary Open House @ NEEC Preschool** — 6:00 - 8:00pm — Contact Krista at (816) 420-9005
- **SNPC Workshop for North Kansas City Community Education @ Oak Park High School** — Thursday, January 18 — 6:30 - 8:30pm — Contact NKC at (816) 413-5460

For an updated calendar of workshops and events go to the SNPC website at www.specialneedskc.com.