

ASD Identification Teams Project

Frequently Asked Questions

OCCYSHN and Oregon Commission on ASD (OCASD) are working in partnership to implement OCASD's Screen Identification & Assessment (SIA) Subcommittee recommendations related to the identification of children, birth to 5 years, with ASD. The project is funded by a grant from the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs and the OCASD.

What is the long-term goal of the project?

The goal is to establish a single, valid and timely identification process in the local community that determines both educational eligibility for autism services and a medical diagnosis.

The process will include:

- ASD identification based on DSM criteria
- Evaluation through an interdisciplinary team with knowledge of important health issues such as etiology, presence of associated medical conditions, presence of another mental health problem and atypical presentation for ASD
- Use of representative tools for evaluation

Who should participate? Participants will include the CCN physician, the CCN mental health consultant, the CCN coordinator, education professionals responsible for autism evaluations of children 0-5, other members of the CCN team as needed. Education professionals may include those from regional autism programs and administrative staff from the ESD, school district, or EI (whoever is responsible for the autism eligibility evaluations).

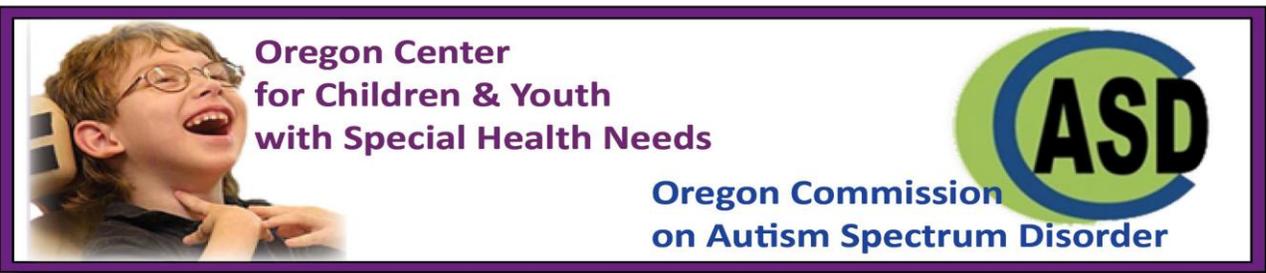
Who has administrative responsibility?

Overall administrative responsibility is with the OCCYSHN and the CCN program.

How will team and local process development take place?

Individual teams will determine a process that works within their community using the CCN infrastructure as the launching platform. In developing their process, the ASD Team will consider questions and issues and resolve them to the extent possible.

- How will referrals be made?
- How will appointments be scheduled? How will evaluations be structured, i.e. sequentially or simultaneously?
- How will observations of children take place in a naturalistic environment?
- How will information be shared, and how will record keeping take place?
- How will the local ASD team market their services in their community?
- What is the process for referring to a regional center for evaluation when there is disagreement between medicine and education?
- Billing and reimbursement for the medical and mental health evaluations.



What is expected of project participants?

- Commitment to the project’s long-term goal
- Implement SIA recommendations to the extent possible
- Establish a integrated process for autism identification
- Use the recommended tools (See the Roles & Responsibilities of ASD Team Partners table)
- Participate in regular conference calls
- Attend monthly CCN meetings
- Participate in at least one on-site technical assistance visit from project staff

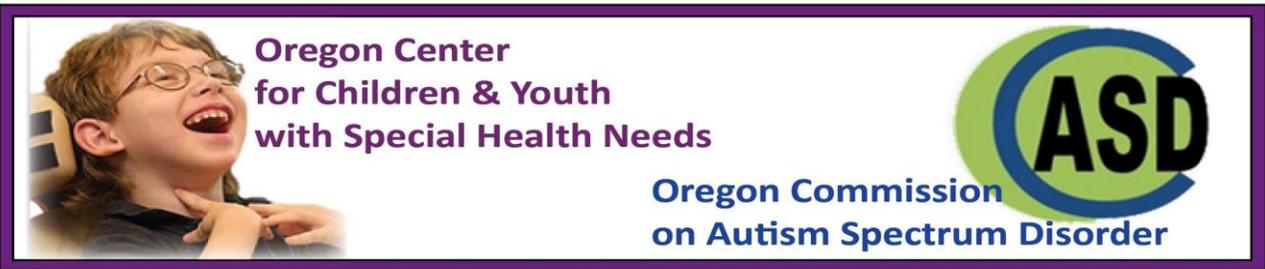
What can participants expect from OCCYSHN?

OCCYSHN will:

- Provide training to participants in the ASD Teams Project. Autism identification training is scheduled for March 1 and 2. ADOS training will be scheduled in local communities on an as-needed basis.
- Technical assistance with process questions through the local CCN Consultant
- Technical assistance with identification questions through Bob Nickel, MD, Arlene Hagen, MD, and Darryn Sikora, PhD

Anticipated Timeline for ASD ID Teams Project Implementation	
Project Concludes November, 2013	
January – February	Teams develop understanding of project and Memoranda of Understanding are developed; OCCYSHN gathers data; teams begin initial formation; OCCYSHN schedules site visits with each of the local ASD teams
March 1-2	Team members participate in training event in Portland
March	Team members meet as needed to determine the Child Find and referral process and the collaborative process for ASD identification.
March	On-site technical assistance visits start, conference calls to individual sites as needed
April	Conference call with all 4 sites # 1, on-site technical assistance visits continue,
May	Conference Call with all 4 sites # 2, teams begin implementing new autism identification process
September	Conference Call with all 4 sites #4
October	Conference Call with all 4 sites #5; Teams participate in project evaluation, each team reports on plans for sustainability
October 31	Formal project supports and funding conclude for ASD Teams, OCCYSHN disseminates recommendations for sustainability of autism identification teams to the 4 project teams and all CCN sites
November	OCCYSHN reports to AMCHP and the OCASD

Project Evaluation:



At the project's conclusion, ASD Team Project members will be able to identify:

- What are the benefits of collaboration?
- What worked well and what were the challenges?
- What were the costs, both \$ and personnel time for MDs and educational staff?
- Who needed to be involved, and what competencies did they bring to the process?
- Was the technical assistance provided adequate? Any recommendations for additional TA?
- What difficulties did teams experience in implementing the OCASD recommendations?
- How can the local process be sustained? What are the challenges to sustaining it?