

ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM

Senator Mary Anne Salmon
Co-Chair

Representative Uvalde Lindsey
Co-Chair

**TO: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair Legislative Council
Representative Tommy Baker, Co-Chair Legislative Council**

**FROM: Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Co-Chair Autism Task Force
Representative Uvalde Lindsey, Co-Chair Autism Task
Force**

**RE: REPORT OF THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON AUTISM**

DATE: AUGUST 30, 2012

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 1272 of 2009, we are submitting the report of the Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism for your review.

The Task Force is pleased to report that our primary goal, the development and implementation of the Autism Medicaid waiver program was accomplished during this reporting period.

Success was achieved on a second priority: The continued development of standardized training opportunities for first responders in identification and communication of all developmental disabilities. The curriculum is being developed in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Institute and the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy.

The legislative priorities to be presented to the 89th General Assembly are as follows:

- Require school district administrators be properly informed of and properly disseminate federal educational rights and privacy act, FERPA, information and guidelines to parents and personnel having the right to know

- Continue the standardization of training opportunities regarding developmental disability recognition and interaction for first responders statewide
- Adopt federal laws and regulations relating to the use of restraints and seclusion for all students attending public schools in the state
- Continue to advocate for an increase in funding for school districts with the highest incidence rate of autism spectrum disorder
- Continue to expand the autism graduate certificate program at the University of Arkansas to include undergraduate students

We hope you will find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us, if you desire additional information.