

NOTE: The following list represents a broad sampling of available services. This list is not exhaustive of all available resources. Inclusion does not constitute endorsement. Resources may or may not be funded through the Pennsylvania Medicaid HealthChoices program. Contact Community Care with questions.

## APPENDIX J: RESOURCES

### Adult Issues

Planning for the future, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livingplanning>

Autism Living and Working, <http://www.autismlivingworking.org/>  
ALAW is demonstrating, through the Autism Pilot Program developed jointly with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare's Office of Social Programs, that adults with Autism/Pervasive Developmental Disorder can be accommodated in order to live as valued neighbors, workers, and full citizens of our Commonwealth

Cori's Place, [www.corisplace.org/](http://www.corisplace.org/)  
Offers a structured curriculum of experiential learning, emotional growth, and leadership opportunities.  
570-287-1237

United Rehabilitation Services, Inc., <http://www.ursweb.org/overview.html>  
The main focus of URS is work and meaningful employment. With the support of a highly trained staff, a comprehensive plan of rehabilitation is developed to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving vocational goals, objectives, and employment.  
570-829-3681

### Advocacy

ABOARD (Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders), [www.aboard.org](http://www.aboard.org)  
Committed to "maximizing potential, maximizing possibilities" for children, adolescents, and adults with Autism. ABOARD offers information dissemination, a lending library, support groups across the state, and media communications.  
35 Wilson Street, Suite 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, 412-781-4116

Advocacy and Resources for Citizens (ARC) with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities, [www.thearcpa.org](http://www.thearcpa.org)  
Local ARC chapters offer information about advocacy, community resources, outpatient therapists, and support groups.

The Arc of Northeastern PA  
115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505, 570-346-4010

The Arc of Luzerne County  
183 Market Street, Suite 102B, Kingston, PA 18704, 570-714-6320

The Arc of Wyoming County  
86 East Tioga Street, PO Box 338, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 570-836-4001

## **Advocacy (continued)**

AutismLink, [www.AutismLink.com](http://www.AutismLink.com)

National non-profit organization, founded in Pittsburgh, offering a comprehensive website that provides an array of information about Autism support, resources, and links to national and local organizations across Pennsylvania. The AutismLink listserv gives members up-to-the minute information about Autism news on national, regional, and local levels. Online chat rooms, discussion groups, and forums connect families directly affected by Autism with professionals, presenting the opportunity for collaboration on formal and informal levels. Mentoring program for parents of newly diagnosed children.

135 Cumberland Road, Suite 105, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 1-866-PUZZLE-2

Autism Speaks (NAAR and Autism Speaks Working Together), [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org) and [www.autismwalk.org/pittsburgh](http://www.autismwalk.org/pittsburgh)

Bob and Suzanne Wright formed Autism Speaks to help raise awareness, much needed funding, and support the thousands of families across the nation who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders. In February 2006, the National Alliance for Autism Research merged with Autism Speaks to unite forces in the fight against Autism.

Beth Whitehouse – Pittsburgh Regional Director, [bwhitehouse@autismspeaks.org](mailto:bwhitehouse@autismspeaks.org)  
4068 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101, 412-487-6851

Fighting Autism, [www.fightingautism.org](http://www.fightingautism.org)

Mission is to improve the quality of life for children with Autism through research, education, advocacy, and treatment. Fighting Autism hosts an annual conference where scientists and physicians present the most current innovative research and biomedical treatment options for those with Autism and hold monthly biomedical support group meetings.

351 Ivy Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044, 412-641-7383

KIDS TOGETHER INC, [www.kidstogether.org](http://www.kidstogether.org)

Advocates, volunteer non-profit provides information on inclusive communities, schools, list serve, e-mail, newsletter, website.

PO Box 45, Quakertown, PA 18951, [staff@kidstogether.org](mailto:staff@kidstogether.org)

Special Kids Network, [www.health.state.pa.us/skn](http://www.health.state.pa.us/skn)

A free service offered to the families of children with special needs.

614 West Fourth Street Williamsport, PA 17701, 1-877-986-4550; TTY 877-986-5432

Disabilities Rights Network of Pennsylvania - Formerly Pennsylvania Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PP&A) and the Disabilities Law Project (DLP), <http://drnpa.org>

Pennsylvania Parents and Caregivers Resource Network

PO Box 4336, Harrisburg, PA 17111-0336, 717-561-0098

## **Autism Organizations and Websites**

DPW Bureau of Autism Services, <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/Autism>  
Resources, trainings, and general information.

Autism Society of America, [www.autismweb.com/resources](http://www.autismweb.com/resources)

Includes information on Applied Behavior Analysis and the diagnostic criteria for Autism and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders.

## **Autism Organizations and Websites (continued)**

Autism Information, [www.autisminfo.com](http://www.autisminfo.com)  
Education, resources, and advocacy.

Autism Network for Dietary Intervention (ANDI), [www.autismndi.com](http://www.autismndi.com)  
Provides help and support for families using a casein/gluten-free diet in the treatment of Autism and related disorders.

Autism Speaks, [www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)  
Autism Speaks aims to bring the Autism community together as one strong voice to urge the government and private sector to listen to concerns and take action.

Autism Today, [www.autismtoday.com](http://www.autismtoday.com)  
Autism directory, forum, events, and information about interventions.

Autism Research Institute (also home of Defeat Autism Now!), [www.autism.com/ari](http://www.autism.com/ari)

Autism Research Network, [www.autismresearchnetwork.org](http://www.autismresearchnetwork.org)  
Provides information about the networks supported by the National Institute of Health and the research they conduct.

Autism Society of America, [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)  
Education, resources, and advocacy.

Applied Behavior Analysis Resources (Richard Saffran's Website), [rsaffran.tripod.com](http://rsaffran.tripod.com)  
Information on treatment and therapy (including applied behavior analysis, behavioral intervention, behaviors modification, and discrete trial training), special education, early intervention, and child disability resources.

Autism Connection, [www.autism-connection.org](http://www.autism-connection.org)  
A nonprofit providing information and resources about Autism and other developmental disabilities.

Dr. Carbone (Verbal Behavior), [www.dr-carbone.net](http://www.dr-carbone.net)  
Verbal behavioral therapy.

Center for Excellence in Autism Research (CeFAR), <http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/research/CeFAR/default.htm>  
This Pittsburgh based Center of Excellence under the direction of Nancy J Minshew, MD, an internationally recognized expert in Autism, is the among the top three CPEA's in the country. Dr. Minshew is working with a team of scientists from Carnegie Mellon University as well as the University of Illinois at Chicago, to search for the genetic, cognitive, and neurological basis for Autism.

Centers for Disease Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/>  
Autism information.

Christina Burk, [www.christinaburkaba.com](http://www.christinaburkaba.com)  
Applied Verbal Behavior

Cure Autism Now, [www.canfoundation.org](http://www.canfoundation.org)  
An Autism Speaks website.

## **Autism Organizations and Websites (continued)**

Dana's View from the Inside, [www.danasview.net](http://www.danasview.net)  
Message board links and stories of recovery.

Dan Marino's Childnettv, [www.childnet.tv](http://www.childnet.tv)

Dan Marino's Foundation, [www.danmarinofoundation.org](http://www.danmarinofoundation.org)

Defeat Autism Now, [www.autism.com/ari](http://www.autism.com/ari)

ARI, a non-profit organization, publishes the Autism Research Review International, a quarterly newsletter covering biomedical and educational advances in Autism research.

Developmental Delay Resources, [www.devdelay.org](http://www.devdelay.org)

A nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the needs of those working with children who have developmental delays in sensory motor, language, social, and emotional areas. DDR publicizes research into determining identifiable factors that would put a child at risk and maintains a registry, tracking possible trends. DDR also provides a network for parents and professionals and current information after the diagnosis to support children with special needs.

Do 2 Learn, [www.do2learn.com](http://www.do2learn.com)

Offers ASD information and picture schedules.

Exploring Autism, [www.exploringautism.org](http://www.exploringautism.org)

Helps families who are living with the challenges of Autism stay informed about breakthroughs involving the genetics of Autism. Explains genetic principles as they relate to Autism and provides the latest research news.

Families for Early Autism Treatment, [www.feat.org](http://www.feat.org)

A non-profit organization of parents, family members, and treatment professionals dedicated to providing best outcome education, advocacy and support for the Autism community.

First Signs, [www.firstsigns.org](http://www.firstsigns.org)

A national non-profit organization dedicated to educating parents and pediatric professionals about the early warning signs of Autism and other developmental disorders.

Generation Rescue, [www.generationrescue.org](http://www.generationrescue.org)

Formed by parents of children who have been diagnosed with childhood neurological disorders (NDs). Provides scientific and medical literature in support of the position that environmental illnesses can be treated through biomedical intervention.

Governor's Commission for Children and Families, [www.pachildren.state.pa.us](http://www.pachildren.state.pa.us)

Health and Human Services, advocacy resources, and guides for parents and families.

Monarch Educational Materials [www.monarchmaterials.com](http://www.monarchmaterials.com)

Dedicated to helping individuals diagnosed with Autism, PDD, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and developmental delays, by creating tools that promote identification, generalization, social skills, conversational skills, and recall ability.

## **Autism Organizations and Websites (continued)**

National Autism Association, [www.nationalautismassociation.org](http://www.nationalautismassociation.org)  
Educating and empowering families affected by Autism and other neurological disorders, while advocating on behalf of those who cannot fight for their own rights.

OASIS (Asperger's Support), [www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/](http://www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/)  
Online Asperger Syndrome information and support.

Relationship Development Intervention (Dr. Steven Gutstein) – [www.connectionscenter.com](http://www.connectionscenter.com)  
Details Dr. Steven Gutstein's intervention.

Talk About Curing Autism, [www.tacanow.org](http://www.tacanow.org)  
Provides information and resources and support to families affected by Autism.

Unlocking Autism, [www.unlockingautism.org](http://www.unlockingautism.org)  
Founded to increase awareness about Autism.

Yahoo! Groups – [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)  
Over 700 chat rooms and message boards related to Autism can be found by using the search engine in the "Groups" section of the Yahoo! Homepage. This is an excellent way to connect with other families affected by Autism.

## **Autism Publications**

The Advocate, [www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)  
Available through the Autism Society of America.

Autism/Asperger's Digest Magazine, [www.autismdigest.com](http://www.autismdigest.com)  
Monthly magazine offering information about Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder.

Exceptional Parent, [www.eparent.org](http://www.eparent.org)  
Monthly magazine for parents of children with special needs.

Future Horizons, [www.futurehorizons-autism.com](http://www.futurehorizons-autism.com)  
Catalogs, newsletters, books, audiotapes, videos, and a list of conferences.

Mothering Magazine, [www.mothering.com](http://www.mothering.com)  
A natural family living magazine often featuring columns and stories about families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Newly diagnosed information: Familial Stress, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livingfamily>.  
An article from the Autism Society of America; discusses and outlines the unique stressors experienced by families who have recently received a diagnosis of Autism for one of their children.

Schafer Autism Report, [home.sprynet.com/~schafer](http://home.sprynet.com/~schafer)  
Daily email report, perhaps the most comprehensive publication on the latest news about everything related to Autism.

## **Blindness**

PaTTAN (Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network)  
<http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/supportingstudents/lprintbraille.aspx>

### **Blindness & Visual Services**

300 G Laird Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702  
570-826-2361 or 1-866-277-4163; TTY: 570-826-2023 or 1-800-651-6117

## **Communication Resources**

Adapted Books, <http://schools.nycenet.edu/D75/academics/literacy/adaptedbooks/catalog.htm>  
Complete catalog of books with pictures files in order to adapt and make them more interactive. Uses boardmaker and Adobe PDF.

Assistive Communication Links, <http://prekese.dadeschools.net/PRIMETime/PTlinks.htm>

Do 2 Learn, <http://www.dotolearn.com/>

A web site providing activities to promote independence in children and adults with special learning needs. Free teacher and parent materials.

Boardmaker-Mayer-Johnson, <http://www.mayer-johnson.com>

Enhances learning and human expression for individuals with special needs through symbol-based products, training, and services. To facilitate the creation of symbol-based communication and educational tools, Mayer-Johnson offers a family of powerful, yet easy-to-use Boardmaker software products designed for specific needs.

PA's Assistive Technology (AT) Lending Library, [www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/atlend/branchlist.htm](http://www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/atlend/branchlist.htm)

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), [www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat](http://www.disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat)

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), <http://www.pecs.com/>

Lori Frost and Andy Bondy pioneered the development of The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) beginning in 1985 within the state of Delaware. It is a unique augmentative/ alternative training package that allows children and adults with Autism and other communication deficits to initiate and develop functional communication.

## **County Assistance Offices**

Luzerne County Assistance Office - Hazleton District  
10 West Chestnut Street, Hazleton, PA 18201, 570-459-3801

Luzerne County Assistance Office - Wilkes-Barre District  
205 South Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711, 570-826-2100

Lackawanna County Assistance Office  
200 Scranton State Office Building, 100 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509, 570-963-4525

## **County Assistance Offices (continued)**

Susquehanna County Assistance Office  
33 Spruce Street, Montrose, PA 18801, 570-278-3891

Wyoming County Assistance Office  
Rt. 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 570-836-5171

## **Deafness**

Office for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
45 North Fourth Street, Allentown, PA 18102-3413, 610-821-6111

Graham Mulholland, Executive Director  
Developmental Disabilities Council, 569 Forum Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-6057 or 1-877-685-4452; Fax: 717-772-0738; paddpc@aol.com

## **Diagnosis**

First Signs. <http://www.firstsigns.org/programs/pa.htm>

Geisinger Medical Center  
Pediatric Neurodevelopment, 100 N. Academy Avenue, Danville, PA 17822, 570-214-9361

Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital  
Pediatric Services, 850 South Fifth Street, Allentown, PA 18103, 1-888-44-REHAB

Penn State Hershey Autism Center  
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, 500 University Drive, PO Box 850, HP16  
Hershey, PA 17033, 717-531-8338

Wyoming Valley Children's Association  
71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701, 570-829-2453

## **Early Intervention and Transitions**

### **BIRTH TO 3 YEARS**

Lackawanna County, 570-282-1732

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties, 570-826-3030 or 1-800-816-1880

Lackawanna/Susquehanna/Wayne County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Office, 570-346-5741

### **3 YEARS PLUS**

Lackawanna County, 570-876-9219

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties, Hazleton Area School District (age three to school age)

570-826-0850 or 570-454-1870

NEIU Lackawanna, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties, 570-876-9200

## **Early Intervention Resources**

First Signs, <http://www.firstsigns.org>

Educates parents, health care providers, early childhood educators, and other professionals in order to ensure the best developmental outcome for every child. Goals are to improve screening and referral practices and to lower the age at which young children are identified with Autism and other developmental disorders. The First Signs website provides vital resources that cover a range of issues including healthy development, concerns about a child, screening and referral processes, and treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Checklist for growing children, <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/EarlyIntervention/003670018.htm>  
Appropriate milestones for children ages 1 month - 3 years.

Planning for the IFSP, <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/EarlyIntervention/003670020.htm>  
A family's introduction to Early Intervention program planning.

Early intervention contact numbers, <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/EarlyIntervention/003670016.htm>

## **Educational Resources**

Bureau of Special Education, <http://www.pde.psu.edu>  
Department of Education, 333 Market Street, 7th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333  
Dr. Frances Warkomski, State Director, [00sedir@psupen.psu.edu](mailto:00sedir@psupen.psu.edu)  
717-783-6913; TTY: 1-800-879-2301

Pennsylvania Education for All Coalition  
Chapter meetings, on-line community, Parent Consultant Network  
The Partnership Institute on Disabilities  
Temple University, 1301 Cecil B Moore Avenue, Room 423 Ritter Annex, Philadelphia, PA 19122  
Diane Perry, 215-204-3031 or 610-522-0698

Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy  
Ellen Mancuso, [emancuso@ppainc.org](mailto:emancuso@ppainc.org)  
Coalition of Pa advocacy groups for children with special needs

## **Hospitals**

### **LUZERNE COUNTY**

Geisinger Wilkes-Barre South  
25 Church Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18765, 570-826-3100

Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center  
1000 East Mountain Drive, Wilkes Barre, PA 18711, 570-826-7300

Hazleton Saint Joseph's Medical Center  
687 North Church Street, Hazleton, PA 18201, 570-459-4444

Hazleton General Hospital  
700 E Broad Street, Hazleton, PA 18201, 570-450-4357

## **Hospitals (continued)**

WVHCS-Hospital, Inc.  
575 North River Street, Wilkes Barre, PA 18764, 570-829-8111

### LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Community Medical Center  
1822 Mulberry Street, Scranton, PA 18510, 570-969-8000

Marian Community Hospital  
100 Lincoln Avenue, Carbondale, PA 18407, 570-281-1000

Mercy Hospital  
746 Jefferson Avenue, PO Box 994, Scranton, PA 18501, 570-348-7100

Mid Valley Hospital  
1400 Main Street, Peckville, PA 18452, 570-383-5500

Moses Taylor Hospital  
700 Quincy Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510, 570-340-2100

### WYOMING COUNTY

Tyler Memorial Hospital  
880 SR 6W, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 570-836-2161

### SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Barnes-Kasson Hospital  
400 Turnpike Street, Susquehanna, PA 18847, 570-853-3135

Montrose General Hospital  
3 Grow Avenue, Montrose, PA 18801, 570-278-3801

## **Insurance Departments**

Pennsylvania Insurance Department  
Bureau of Consumer Services, 1321 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-2317; 1-877-881-6388

## **Interventions**

Applied Behavior Analysis(ABA) encompasses a spectrum of specific therapies:

Discrete Trial Therapy, [http://kathyandcalvin.com/manuals/aba\\_train.htm](http://kathyandcalvin.com/manuals/aba_train.htm)  
Good overview of DTT with examples

Lovass Therapy, [www.lovass.com](http://www.lovass.com)

## **Interventions (continued)**

Verbal Behavior, <http://www.autismusaba.de/lovaasvb.html>

Discusses the differences between Lovaas and Verbal Behavior. The Lovaas-based approach uses ABA to teach language skills based on the premise that receptive language should be developed prior to expressive language. The Verbal Behavior approach focuses on teaching specific components of expressive language (mands, tacts, intraverbals among others) first.

Fluency Training, <http://www.autismteachingtools.com/page/bbbbfz/bbbbfz>

A brief overview of fluency concepts, as well as fluency charts and examples of how to use them.

Precision Teaching, <http://psych.athabascau.ca/html/387/OpenModules/Lindsley/introa1.shtml>

A brief overview of fluency concepts, as well as fluency charts and examples of how to use them.

Incidental Teaching, <http://www.spiesforparents.cpd.usu.edu/Modules/Module%203%20-%20Incidental%20Teaching/Introduction.htm>

Basic overview and explanation of incidental teaching and provides examples. Positive behavior supports.

DIR– Floortime, <http://www.floortime.org/faqs.php?faqid=3>

The DIR (Developmental, Individual-Difference, Relationship-Based)/Floortime approach provides a comprehensive framework for understanding and treating children challenged by Autism Spectrum and related disorders. It focuses on helping children master the building blocks of relating, communicating and thinking, rather than on symptoms alone.

TEACCH, <http://www.teacch.com/>

Social Stories, <http://www.thegraycenter.org/socialstories.cfm>

A Social Story™ describes a situation, skill, or concept in terms of relevant social cues, perspectives, and common responses in a specifically defined style and format. The goal of a Social Story™ is to share accurate social information in a patient and reassuring manner that is easily understood by its audience. Half of all Social Stories™ developed should affirm something that an individual does well.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), <http://www.pecs.com/>

PECS is an augmentative communication system developed to help individuals quickly acquire a functional means of communication. PECS is appropriate for individuals who do not use speech or who may speak with limited effectiveness, e.g., those who have articulation or motor planning difficulties, limited communicative partners, lack of initiative in communication, etc.

American Sign Language (ASL), <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/>

Sensory Integration Therapies, <http://216.194.201.208/terrytown/sensoryintegration.org/>

## **Interventions/Other**

Gluten/Casein free diet, <http://www.gfcfdiet.com>

Complementary approaches, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ComplementaryApproaches>

Discusses art, music, and animal therapies.

## **Interventions/Other (continued)**

Biomedical and dietary approaches, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=BiomedicalDietaryApproaches>

### **Kids**

Just for Kids Autism Fact Sheet, <http://www.njcosac.org/cosacautism>  
Article explaining Autism to kids in simple language with pictures.

### **Law**

Education Law Center, [www.elc-pa.org](http://www.elc-pa.org)  
Non-profit legal advocacy and educational organization dedicated to ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's children have access to a quality public education.

Pennsylvania Health Law Project, [www.phlp.org](http://www.phlp.org)  
Toll-free help line, 1-800-274-3258

Angela Uliana-Murphy ESQ  
Pen Argyl, PA 18072, 610-863-8502

Moira Bridget Smith ESQ  
Kingston, PA 18704, 570-332-3720

### **Medical Professionals**

American Academy of Pediatrics, <http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/autism.cfm>

First Signs, <http://www.firstsigns.org>  
Educates parents, healthcare providers, early childhood educators, and other professionals in order to ensure the best developmental outcome for every child. Goals are to improve screening and referral practices and to lower the age at which young children are identified with Autism and other developmental disorders. The First Signs website provides vital resources that cover a range of issues including healthy development, concerns about a child, screening and referral processes, and treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

AAP-The Pediatrician's Role in the Diagnosis and Management of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Children, <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;107/5/e85>

Centers for Disease Control-Autism Information, <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/>

Autism toolkit for physicians, <http://www.northshorelij.com/body.cfm?id=4726&oTopID=4725&PLinkID=2849>  
Helpful informational topics for health care practitioners including special considerations for seeing patients with Autism, screening tools, research, and more.

National Institute of Mental Health, <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/healthinformation/autismmenu.cfm>  
Information on Autism from the National Institute of Mental Health.

## **Mental Health Association**

Luzerne/Wyoming, Lackawanna, Susquehanna Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs: Case Management Services: Targeted and Administrative Case Management and Resource Coordination;  
Luzerne/Wyoming County, 570-825-9441  
Lackawanna County, 570-346-5741  
Susquehanna County, 570-346-5741

## **Occupational Therapy /Sensory Integration Treatment**

Allied Services  
475 Morgan Highway, Scranton, PA 18508, 570-348-1459

Danielle Banks, OTR/L  
Memorial Hospital, Outpatient Therapy Clinic, 570-268-2209

How OT can help - [www.autism.ca/occther.htm](http://www.autism.ca/occther.htm)

OT/Sensory Integration - SI Network [www.sinetwork.org](http://www.sinetwork.org)  
Wyoming Valley Children's Association, 71 North Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701, 570-829-2453

## **Optometrists**

Dr. Betsy Hancock, FCOVD, <http://www.visualdifference.net>  
Board Certified in Vision Therapy (FCOVD)  
21 East 5th Street, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, 570-784-2131; Fax: 570-389-7670  
Nearby cities: Danville, Berwick, Wilkes-Barre  
E-mail: Dr. Betsy Hancock, FCOVD at [thevisualdifference@yahoo.com](mailto:thevisualdifference@yahoo.com)

## **Parent Training Information**

Parent Education Network, [pen@parentednet.com](mailto:pen@parentednet.com); [www.parentednet.org](http://www.parentednet.org)  
333 East 7th Avenue, York, PA 17404, 717-845-9722; 1-800-522-5827

Parents Union for Public Schools, [ParentsU@aol.com](mailto:ParentsU@aol.com)  
Linda White, 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1124, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 215-546-1166; Fax: 215-731-1688

## **PEAL CENTER**

Pennsylvania's Parents Training and Information Center serving Western and Central PA. Organization provides disability information, information about special education process and parent's rights, Parent Advisors are available to provide information and resources to assist the family with problem-solving strategies and direct them to other community resources, trainings in Understanding IEP's, IDEA'04, Building Continuity, etc.

Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center  
1119 Penn Avenue, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, 412-422-1040; 1-866-950-1040  
Debra Efkeman, [defkeman@pealcenter.org](mailto:defkeman@pealcenter.org)

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), <http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us>  
6340 Flank Drive, Suite 600, Harrisburg, PA 17112, 717-541-4960; 1-800-360-7282  
Janet Armstrong, [jarmstrong@pattan.k12.pa.us](mailto:jarmstrong@pattan.k12.pa.us)

## **Pediatricians**

Drs. Scott Myers and Thomas Challman  
Geisinger Medical Center, 100 N Academy Avenue, Danville, PA 17822

## **Pediatric/Adolescent Psychiatry**

CHOP Department of Psychiatry <http://www.chop.edu/consumer/jsp/division/service.jsp?id=27690>  
Offers outpatient and emergency services; provides comprehensive evaluation and treatment of children and adolescents with psychiatric conditions and behavioral or emotional difficulties. Specialty clinics include the Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders program, the Mood and Anxiety Disorders clinic, and the Pediatric Psychopharmacology program.

## **Psychologists and Psychiatrists**

Paul Termini, MD  
562 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704, 570-552-3760; Fax: 570-552-3765

## **Recreation**

Equi-Librium Inc., [www.equi-librium.org](http://www.equi-librium.org)  
Therapeutic Horse Back Riding Equine-assisted services  
PO Box 305, Sciota, PA 18354, 570-992-7722; E-mail: [equi-librium@itscomp.com](mailto:equi-librium@itscomp.com)

Pocono Equestrian Center  
Therapeutic Horse Back Riding  
Scranton, PA 18504, 570-348-9795

## **Residential/Group Home**

Devereux Foundation Pocono Center  
Newfoundland, PA 18445, 570-676-4118

## **Respite Services**

Luzerne-Wyoming Counties MH/MR Program  
111 North Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 200, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, 570-825-9441

## **Safety**

Safety in the home, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livingsafety>  
Resources and ideas for assuring the home is a safe environment for the child and family.

Safety ID cards to print, <http://www.leanonus.org/pages/11/index.htm>  
ID cards to print and put relevant information that would assist first responders and police should there ever be emergent situation requiring law enforcement.

Police and Autism, <http://policeandautism.cjb.net/avoiding.html>  
Information on how parent and law enforcement can work together to provide a quick response in the event that a child elopes or runs from the caregivers.

## **Safety (continued)**

Medic Alert, <http://www.medicalert.org/Home/HomeEmblemCatalogs.aspx>

Provides comprehensive Kid Smart services that can safeguard and identify your child in an emergency. With a single phone call, emergency response personnel can access medical history and records, protecting your child against potentially adverse treatments or medication conflicts.

Child Locator (GPS watches for kids), <http://childlocator.com/>

Child friendly watches that serve as a GPS system.

Safety Harnesses, <http://www.the-baby-boutique.com/tottether.html> and <http://www.the-baby-boutique.com/harnessbuddy.html>

Harnesses that help protect your child from danger by allowing close access of your child, but still allowing for exploration.

## **Sensory Issues**

Neuro-Sensory Center of Eastern Pennsylvania

Kingston, PA 18704, 570-763-0054

## **Sibling Issues**

Autism Society article on sibling issues, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livin gsiblings>

Discusses some strategies on addressing the needs of the siblings of children who have Autism.

Sibshops, <http://www.thearc.org/siblingsupport/sibshops-about#>

Support groups for siblings of children with special needs. Provides a listing by state of available groups. Website also has a listserv for siblings as well as a pen-pal program

Sibshop Tri-County Human Services, [www.siblingsupport.org](http://www.siblingsupport.org)

Dunmore, PA, Contact: Margie Cosgrove, 570-282-1732

## **Spanish/Español**

El Autismo, hoja informativa de NICHCY, [www.nichcy.org/pubs/spanish/fs1stxt.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/spanish/fs1stxt.htm)

Visite la Asociación Nuevo Horizonte, [www.autismo.com](http://www.autismo.com) Encuentre información de autismo en inglés y español, videos, libros, enlaces a otras organizaciones, estadísticas y un ¡chat!

NINDS es el Instituto Nacional de Desórdenes Neurológicos y Derrames Cerebrales, [www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/spanish/autismo.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/spanish/autismo.htm)

Materiales de la educación especial en Español, [www.elc-pa.org/pubs/spanishpubs.html](http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/spanishpubs.html)

AutismOnline, [www.autisonline.org/languages/spanish.htm](http://www.autisonline.org/languages/spanish.htm).

AutismOnline conecta a padres de niños que han sido diagnosticados recientemente y a profesionales que trabajan con estos niños a recursos, grupos de apoyo e información sobre investigaciones. Los recursos en español se encuentran disponibles en: [www.autisonline.org/bookspan.htm](http://www.autisonline.org/bookspan.htm)

## **Speech Therapy**

John Heinz Institute of Rehabilitative Medicine  
150 Mundy Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18436, 570-826-3800

Allied Services  
475 Morgan Highway, Scranton, PA 18508, 570-348-1459

## **State Departments/Agencies/Programs and Other Resources**

(CAP) Pennsylvania Client Assistance Program

Advocacy program helps people who are seeking services from the OVR, Blindness, Visual Services, Centers for Independent Living, and other programs funded under federal law. Provides information and advice about rehab programs and legal rights/responsibilities and helps resolve problems that may arise while seeking services from rehab programs. There is no charge.

Steve Pennington, Statewide Director Center for Disability Law & Policy  
1617 JFK Boulevard, Suite 800, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-557-7112 (V/TTY), 1-888-745-CDLP; Harrisburg Office: 717-364-1733  
info@equalemployment.org

Department of Public Welfare – Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omhsas/dpwmh.asp](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omhsas/dpwmh.asp)

Health & Welfare Building, Room 502, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-787-6443

Department of Public Welfare – Office of Mental Retardation, [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/dpwmr.asp](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omr/dpwmr.asp)  
Health & Welfare Building Room 512, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-787-3700

Pennsylvania Consumer Protection and Advocacy

1414 North Cameron Street, Suite C, Harrisburg, PA 17103, 1-800-692-7443, 1-877-375-7139 (TDD)  
ppa@ppainc.org

Programs for Children and Youth who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Debra Maltese, Director, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
1110 Labor & Industry Building, 7th and Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-783-4912 (V/TTY), 1-800-233-3008 (V/TTY)

Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs

C. Gail Stock, Director, Division of Special Health Care Programs  
Department of Health, Room 724, PO Box 90, Harrisburg, PA 17108, 717-783-5436

Programs for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities: Birth through 2 years

Jacqueline Epstein, Chief, Children's Services Division  
Office of Mental Retardation, Department of Public Welfare  
PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-783-8302

Programs for Children with Disabilities: Ages 3 through 5

Richard Price, Chief, Division of Early Intervention  
Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education  
333 Market Street, 7th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126, 717-783-6879

## **State Departments/Agencies/Programs and Other Resources (continued)**

### **Protection and Advocacy Agency**

Kevin Casey, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Protection & Advocacy, Inc.  
1414 N. Cameron Street, Suite C, Harrisburg, PA 17103, 717-236-8110; 1-800-692-7443 (V/TTY)

### **State Agency for the Visually Impaired**

Douglass C. Boone, Director, Blindness & Visual Services, Dept. of Public Welfare  
PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-787-6176; 1-800-622-2842

### **State Coordinator of Vocational Education for Students with Disabilities**

Marjorie Lowe Blaze, Supervisor, Special Populations Section, Department of Education  
Bureau of Vocational-Technical Education, 333 Market Street, 6th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126  
717-787-5293

### **State Department of Education: Special Education**

Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education  
333 Market Street, 7th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126, 717-783-2311

### **State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

Graham Mulholland, Executive Director, DD Planning Council  
568 Forum Building, Commonwealth Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 717-787-6057

### **State Education Agency Rural Representative**

Thomas Winters, Division Chief, Advisory Service, Department of Education  
333 Market Street, 6th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126, 717-787-8022

### **State Mental Health Agency**

Charles Curie, Deputy Secretary for Mental Health  
Office of Mental Health, Department of Public Welfare  
Health & Welfare Building, Room 502, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-787-6443

### **State Mental Health Representative for Children and Youth**

Anita K. Thiemann, Director, Bureau of Children's Services  
Office of Mental Health Department of Public Welfare, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-772-2351

### **State Mental Retardation Program**

Nancy R. Thaler, Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation  
Department of Public Welfare  
Health & Welfare Building, Room 512, PO Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105, 717-787-3700  
E-mail: PADPWNT@aol.com

### **State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency**

Gil Selders, Executive Director  
Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Labor & Industry  
1300 Labor & Industry Building, Seventh and Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120, 717-787-5244

### **WIC (Women-Infants-Children) Supplemental Nutrition Program**

You are eligible if your child receives Medical Assistance regardless of your income.  
1-800-942-9467

## **Summer Programs/Camps**

Summit Camp (Asperger's Disorder)

18 East 41st Street, Suite 402, New York, NY 10017, 1-800-323-9908 or 212, 689-3880  
info@summitcamp.com

The Graham Academy

Luzerne, PA 18709, 570-283-0641

Camp Keystone

Gouldsboro, PA 18424, 570-207-3210

## **Support Groups Local**

Parents Loving Children Through Autism (PLCTA)

1243 Wyoming Ave (3rd floor), Scranton, PA 18509, 1-570-341-3388, ParentsLCTAutism@aol.com

Supporting Autism and Families Everywhere (SAFE), [www.autismsafe.org](http://www.autismsafe.org)

Support group for those who have children with borderline personality issues

237 Old River Road, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, 1-570-822-7259, safeoffice@autismsafe.org

## **Support Groups or Forums – Online**

[www.autismlink.com/chat.shtml](http://www.autismlink.com/chat.shtml)

Offers many new discussion boards regarding ASDs, parental and marital stresses, biomedical, traditional therapies, Autism in girls, and boards for every state including Pennsylvania.

## **Support Groups or Forums – Online (National)**

[groups.yahoo.com/group/children\\_with\\_autism](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/children_with_autism)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/autism\\_in\\_girls](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/autism_in_girls)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/autism-aspergers](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/autism-aspergers)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/parenting\\_Autism](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/parenting_Autism)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/AspergersSupport](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AspergersSupport)

[groups.yahoo.com/group/P2ParentsChat](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/P2ParentsChat)

[www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/messageboards.html](http://www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/messageboards.html)

## **Support Groups or Forums – Online (National) - Related Disorders and Treatment Approaches**

[groups.yahoo.com/group/abmd](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/abmd)

Autism Biomedical Discussion, for parents and professionals to discuss research and biomedical treatments for Autism.

## **Support Groups or Forums – Online (National) - Related Disorders and Treatment Approaches (continued)**

[groups.yahoo.com/group/DTT-NET](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DTT-NET)

Parents and professionals discuss behavioral interventions for Autism such as Applied Behavioral Analysis, Verbal Behavior, Natural Environment Training, Discrete Trial Training.

[groups.yahoo.com/group/GFCFKids](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GFCFKids)

For parents considering or are already implementing a gluten-free, casein-free diet for their children.

[groups.yahoo.com/group/IEP\\_guide](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IEP_guide)

For families with children with special needs (not Autism-specific). Discusses IEPs, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), a "504 plan" (based on section 504 under IDEA), NCLB (No Child Left Behind), and general educational advocacy.

[groups.yahoo.com/group/NewRecoveredKids](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NewRecoveredKids)

For parents of children who have recovered or are on the road to recovery from the symptoms of Autism.

[groups.yahoo.com/group/sensoryintegrationgroup](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sensoryintegrationgroup)

Provides information, education, and support to families who have children affected by Sensory Integration Disorder (or Dysfunction), or sensory issues related to Autism.

[groups.yahoo.com/group/VerbalBehavior](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/VerbalBehavior)

Parents and professionals discuss Verbal Behavior, an approach taught within an ABA program based on the book by B. F. Skinner.

## **Support Resources**

ASCEND PA (Asperger's Syndrome Coalition for Education, Networking, and Development), [www.ascendgroup.org](http://www.ascendgroup.org)

ASCEND Group Inc., the Asperger and Autism Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 2001. It was launched by parents of children with Asperger Syndrome (AS) as a means to create a community of people who are concerned about the many ways that AS and other Autism Spectrum Disorders affect children and adults and their families in the home, at school and in every area of their lives. In 2003, it was expanded to serve families of adults, as well. ASCEND refers adults on the Autism spectrum to regional and national resources.

AUTISM AND OTHER NEUROBIOLOGICAL DISORDERS ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Autism\\_and\\_Other\\_Neurobiological\\_Disorders/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/Autism_and_Other_Neurobiological_Disorders/)

AUTISMLINK SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT GROUP

Learn how to advocate for your children in their school setting, information, speakers, support. Children will be at the Center for Creative Play at no cost. TSS provided free of charge.

Contact: Cindy Waeltermann, [Info@autismlink.com](mailto:Info@autismlink.com)

Pennsylvania Parents and Caregivers Resource Network

Statewide cross-disability group that supports parents and caregivers. Helps families to form local groups and network with other parents.

PO Box 4336, Harrisburg, PA 17111, 1-888-890-5665, 1-888-572-7368, 717-561-0098

[info@ppcrn.org](mailto:info@ppcrn.org)

## **Support Systems/Resources**

For Grandparents, <http://www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/grandparents.html>  
Answers common questions grandparents of children who have Autism may have.

### Religion and Autism

[http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Religion\\_and\\_Autism](http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Religion_and_Autism)

Provides a Christian and Jewish perspective on children with ASD and how the church can provide an inclusive environment.

<http://gbgm-umc.org/disc/autism.stm>

Information on Autism for religious educators.

Family Village, [www.familyvillage.wisc.edu](http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu)

A global community that integrates information, resources, and communication opportunities on the Internet for persons with cognitive and other disabilities, as well as for their families and those that provide them services and support.

Autism Spectrum Resource Center, <http://www.autismsrc.org>

Provides therapeutic services and educational resources to individuals within the Autism Spectrum and their families in an environment where they will find a sense of belonging with like-minded individuals. Promotes positive self-image, potential for growth, and unique contribution to the world.

Parents Involved Network (PIN), [www.pinofpa.org](http://www.pinofpa.org)

Assists parents or caregivers of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. PIN provides information, helps parents find services, and advocates with any of the public systems that serve children, including the mental health system, education, and other state and local child-serving agencies.

Special Kids Network, <http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/cwp/browse.asp?A=179&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&C=35825>

Information and referrals for children with special health care needs and their families.

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania, <http://www.parenttoparent.org>

Matches parents and family members of children and adults with disabilities or special needs, on a one-on-one basis, according to condition or concerns.

## **Teachers/Educators**

Adapted Books, <http://schools.nycenet.edu/D75/academics/literacy/adaptedbooks/catalog.htm>

Provides PECS and other visual materials to adapt books for children. Requires Adobe Acrobat reader and/or Boardmaker.

Autism Education Network, <http://www.autismeducation.net>

Improves public special education programs and influences public policy that affects individuals with Autism. Connects and empowers people in order to affect change. Provides free information about special education rights and programs. Outreach efforts include seminars about special education law and conferences regarding best practices in Autism treatment and methodologies

IDEA Regulations, <http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/art.htm>

## **Teachers/Educators (continued)**

[http://www.pde.state.pa.us/special\\_edu/cwp/view.asp?Q=111436&A=177](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/special_edu/cwp/view.asp?Q=111436&A=177)

PaTTAN, <http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/teachlead/Autism.aspx>

Information regarding current PA standards, teaching practices, effective assessments, and instruction. Training and workshop information for educators, as well as publications relevant to Autism Spectrum Disorders. Publications such as Introduction to Early Interventions, Provider's Guide to Early Intervention

PDE Special Education, [http://www.pde.state.pa.us/special\\_edu/site/default.asp?g=0&special\\_eduNav=|978|&k12Nav=|1141|](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/special_edu/site/default.asp?g=0&special_eduNav=|978|&k12Nav=|1141|)

Mission, role, and function of special education in PA schools are defined and addressed. Links to other reference materials on standard practices and procedures.

WrightsLaw, <http://www.wrightsLaw.com/>

Information for parents, educators, advocates about special education law and advocacy for children with disabilities. Includes articles, cases, and free resources on special education topics.

## **Transitioning**

Transitions for you and your child, <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/EarlyIntervention/003670022.htm>

Discusses how to plan for and manage the transitions that occur all the time in many different ways, such as changes in jobs or homes.

Living beyond high school, <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=livinghighschool>  
Discusses the importance of transition planning and considerations when a child is nearing graduation from high school.

Transition from Special Education to adult life, <http://www.transitionmap.org/>

A road map from school to the future for Pennsylvania students ages 14 to 21 with developmental delay and receiving special education services.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Centers**

Susan Aldrete, Executive Director, [saldrete@dli.state.pa.us](mailto:saldrete@dli.state.pa.us)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Labor and Industry

1300 Labor and Industry Building, Seventh and Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120

717-787-5244; 1-800-442-6351