

THE HELP GROUP SUMMIT
October 20, 2006

***"Young Children with Special Needs:
Innovative Approaches to Services,
Programs & Systems of Care"***

by
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"Young Children with Special Needs: Innovative Services, Programs & Systems of Care"

■ **Personal Perspectives:**

- Parent of 4 children:
Mark 13 years old ~ autism
- Interventional Cardiologist
- Co-Founder MIND Institute
- First 5 Ca State (Prop 10) Commission
- Policy Consultant California Senate

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Mark's Background:



UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute

- Born April 19, 1993.
- Uncomplicated first year.
- DSM IV Autism @ 18 mos. Age.
- Extensive Medical Evaluations
- Neuro-Psychiatric Testing
- Hospitalizations (evaluations & treatments).
- ABA 50 hours/week
- Pivotal Response Therapy
- Diet & nutritional supplements
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Dental Hygiene & Treatments
- Educational Interventions & Programs.

THE MIND INSTITUTE
Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders

HISTORY:

- 1997, 4 Dads & UCD
- 1998, \$3.5 M private endowment
- 1998, \$3.7 M State appropriation
- 2000, Legislature \$34 M
- 2006, MIND > \$76 M State funding
- MIND: academic offices, clinics, research labs

LEGISLATIVE APPROACH:

- Problem: "autism epidemic.
- MIND: "Unique & provide answers"
- Economic benefits & savings
- Support of key legislators & staff.
- Resources available



FIRST 5 CALIFORNIA STATE COMMISSION
Statewide Evaluations: "Accountability, Improvement & Diversity"

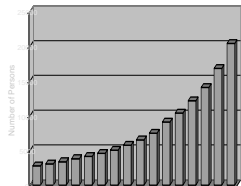
- **Annual Reports:** participant & service data; key indicators; systems change
- **Policy Briefs & Fact Sheets:** parental & early education; health; diversity; disabilities & special needs
- **Prop 10 Evaluation Data System:** programs; participants; outcomes
- **Geographic Information System:** risk factors; resources; community information
- **Kindergarten Entry Profiles:** impact of programs & services; MDRDP; stakeholder input

<http://www.ccfc.ca.gov/stateinfo.htm>



The Increasing Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders
1:166 children have some form of autism

DDS Caseload 1987-2002



First 5 CA-UCLA Study (2006)

- CHIS survey > 73,000 interviews > 12,000 families of young children
- Autism rates increased 250% in only four years (2001-2005)
- 2005 Survey, Autism rates nearly 1% in children 3-11 yrs (n=>36,000)



First 5 CA Special Needs Project:
\$30 M Investment over 5 Years
"to help every child succeed & optimize their potential"

Goals & Objectives:

- Early identification & intervention for children from diverse backgrounds with disabilities, &/or behavioral/mental health concerns, and other special needs.
- Improve access & utilization of existing & new services
- Effective strategies & best practices
- Evaluation results for evidence-based practices



First 5 CA Special Needs Project

Strategic Planning & Implementation:

- ❖ Statewide Coordination & Training
- ❖ Infant, Preschool & Family Mental Health Program
- ❖ Demonstration Sites
 - El Dorado
 - Los Angeles
 - Mendocino
 - Merced
 - Monterey
 - Orange
 - Riverside
 - San Diego
 - San Francisco
 - Sonoma
- ❖ Evaluation: Statewide School Readiness Program



First 5 CA Special Needs Project

Results to Date:

- ❖ Protocols, Infrastructure & "Child Study Teams"
 - Embedded in First 5 CA School Readiness Programs
 - Collaboration with community agencies
 - Developmental & health screening tools
- ❖ Comprehensive screenings > 2,400 children & families
 - 79% Latino; 69% are 3 years or younger
 - Participation > 97%
 - Risk Factors for developmental delays 21% (n=503)
 - Further Assessment 17% (n=441)
 - Many children ~ communication delays & behavioral concerns



The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism

Senate Concurrent Resolution #51:

- Sponsored by The Help Group. Bipartisan support:
Chair: Darrell Steinberg; Vice Chair: Dr. Barbara Firestone
- Identify & close gaps in existing systems related to:
 - Early identification & intervention of ASD.
 - Education & continuous treatment of children, adolescents, transitional youth & adults with ASD.
 - The "aging out" of children who comprise the current autism epidemic.

Report to Gov. & Legislature by Sept. 30, 2007.

Sen. Perata: "The Commission provides an opportunity for the legislature to link the science, knowledge and best practices of autism to public policy."

Speaker Núñez: "this will be a real-time effort with real results."

Personal Perspectives - Lessons Learned:

- "If at first you don't succeed, avoid skydiving."
General Arthur McAuliff
- "Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!"
Margaret Mead
- "There is no limit to what a person can do or where they can go, if they don't mind who gets the credit."
Ronald Reagan
- "Don't squat with your spurs on."
■ "Always drink upstream from the herd."
■ "Never miss a good chance to shut up!!"
Will Rogers

"on behalf of all our children"

THANKS!!!

