

AUTISM DIVISION OFFICES DISTRICT I

Charleston Autism Division Office

9995 Miles Jamison Road
Summerville, SC 29485
843-832-5561 (office)
843-832-5560 (fax)

Florence Autism Division Office

714 National Cemetery Road
Florence, SC 29506
843-664-2720 (office)
843-664-2735 (fax)

DISTRICT II

Columbia Autism Division Office

8301 Farrow Road
Columbia, SC 29203
803-935-5090 (office)
803-935-7135 (fax)

Spartanburg Autism Division Office

269 South Church Street, Suite 309
Spartanburg, SC 29306
864-594-4907 (office)
864-594-4923 (fax)

Autism Division Central Office

3440 Harden Street Extension
P O Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240
803-898-9609 (office)
803-898-9653 (fax)



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

THE AUTISM DIVISION

***“PROMOTING CHANGE AND
IMPROVING LIVES
ONE INDIVIDUAL AT A TIME”***

**INTAKE & REFERRAL
1-800-289-7012**

Department Of Disabilities And Special Needs

The SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN), as defined in the South Carolina Code of Law, serves persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury and conditions related to each of these four disabilities. DDSN is the state agency that plans, develops, coordinates and funds services for South Carolinians with severe, lifelong disabilities.

Autism Spectrum Disorder is defined as abnormal or impaired development of the brain that affects social interaction and communication, as well as markedly restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests and activities in early childhood development. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurobiological disorder which affects the way information is perceived and processed and results in impairments that alter an individual's ability to learn and think and respond to their environment in the same way as "age equivalent" peers.

Autism Division

The Autism Division is the branch of the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs that handles issues regarding individuals with Autism

Spectrum Disorder and the people who assist them on a regular basis. The three main service areas of the Autism Division are **Evaluation, Consultation, and Training**. The Autism Division also operates the Pervasive Development Disorder (PDD) Program. The Autism Division has offices located in Charleston, Columbia, Florence and Spartanburg.

Screening And Referral: Accessing Services

The DDSN Autism Division offers services to Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Those interested in applying for services should contact DDSN Screening and Referral at 1-800-289-7012.

Evaluation And Eligibility

The Autism Division evaluates referred individuals in accordance with the definition of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) outlined in the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). There are two assessment methods available-Record Review or Evaluation by the Carolina Autism Resource and Evaluation (CARE) Center.

The evaluation usually takes place at the Autism Division Regional Office by a team of evaluators. Together with the individual and their family, the evaluators will work to complete

a thorough battery of tests including structured, play-based and/or interview based assessments designed to determine language, social, emotional and behavioral strengths and weaknesses.

Training

Trainings offered to improve the lived of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Focus on strategies that work best for community presence and best practices for:

- Inclusion in all environments
- Effective treatment planning
- Use of appropriate teaching techniques
- Design and development of plans to address challenges

Offered to family members, professionals, and other individuals involved in the care of persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Trainings offered throughout the year in all regions, and by request

Continuing education credits and Medicaid training hours approved for many professionals

Training calendar available on-line at DDSN website: <http://www.ddsn.sc.gov/consumers/divisions/Pages/Autism.aspx>

Consultation

- Consultative services (school and home based) are offered to better support and create positive change for persons impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Consultative services concentrate on best practices for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder so that the individuals can have an effective and positive environment and be successful in life. These best practices might include, but not be limited to the following:
 - ✓ Functional Behavioral Assessments
 - ✓ Designing Age Appropriate and Functional Programming
 - ✓ Developing Positive Behavioral Supports
 - ✓ Functional Communication
 - ✓ Specific training tailored to meet the persons and staff needs
- Consultative services are accessible for parents, caregivers, teachers, service providers, and other agencies serving persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- A team approach is utilized whereas all involved with the person on a daily basis, meet with a consultant and determine which best practices are most appropriate and how

they will be provided after several observations. This is the most effective avenue for building a basis of support for the person with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

- Consultative services are tailored to meet the specific and unique learning attributes of a person impacted by Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- A request for consultative services form needs to be signed and submitted by the appropriate personal to initiate the consultative process (e.g., parents, caregivers, Director of Special Services, etc.). There may be a waiting period before a person can be observed.
- For more information about consultative services, please contact the Regional Administrator at the local Autism Division office in your region of the state. There is no charge for this service.

Red Flags

The following “red flags” may indicate your child is at risk for an Autism Spectrum Disorder. If your child exhibits any of the following, don’t delay in seeking assistance!

- ✓ Lack of appropriate eye gaze
- ✓ No joyful expressions—doesn’t smile when smiled at

- ✓ Doesn't share interest or enjoyment
- ✓ Prefers to play alone
- ✓ Seems to be in his/her “own world”
- ✓ Limited interest in other children
- ✓ Doesn't respond to his/her name
- ✓ Lack of showing gestures such as pointing
- ✓ Delayed or unusual language
- ✓ Unusual attachments to toys or objects
- ✓ Repetitive movements with objects
- ✓ Resists change in daily routine
- ✓ Repetitive movements or posturing of body, arms, hands, or fingers
- ✓ Has any loss or delay of any language or social skills at any age
- ✓ Repetitive or intense interests in objects, activities, or topics

