



Sunset Review Committee

Interagency Work Group on Autism Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

July 30, 2024

Chairman Wilkin, Vice Chair Hillyer and members of the Sunset Review Committee, my name is Kyle Moore, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the Interagency Work Group on Autism (IWGA).

Under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the IWGA was convened in January 2008. The IWGA is established in Ohio Revised Code 5123.0419 with the purpose “to improve the coordination of the state’s efforts to address the service needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorders and the families of those individuals.”

The IWGA meets monthly to review state policies, learn from current research and data, share learning, and identify opportunities to better communicate and coordinate policy impacting the lives of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families.

The IWGA is a multi-agency collaborative effort between the following:

- Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- OCALI
- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Foundational to this work is the voice of autistic Ohioans and their families. The IWGA seeks input from people with autism and their families through annual surveys, stakeholder engagement at meetings, and OCALI’s advisory board. In 2023, the IWGA added six public members, including Ohioans living with autism, family members, educators, and clinicians.



Autism prevalence rates have continued to rise, with recent CDC data indicating that approximately 1 in 36 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with ASD. This growing prevalence underscores the critical need for coordinated, cross-agency efforts to support people with ASD and their families effectively.

Today, the state's response to autism is coordinated in a concentrated effort to move policy to action. A hallmark of the IWGA's efforts is the creation of an innovative, free, online video training series, ASD Strategies in Action. ASD Strategies in Action is now being used by more than 10,000 people across Ohio, giving them practical ways to care for and support loved ones with ASD, from early childhood through young adulthood.

Members of the IWGA serve without compensation and DODD does not incur expenses related to their work. DODD is supportive of the IWGA which reflects the state's commitment to Ohioans with ASD to live their best life for their whole life. Cross-agency collaboration ensures comprehensive and cohesive support, leveraging each agency's strengths to create a robust support system for people with autism and their families. Therefore, DODD respectfully recommends continuing the important work of the IWGA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the Interagency Workgroup on Autism. I would be happy to answer any question you may have.