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LOIS WOLK

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 415  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4189  
FAX (916) 327-8867

LOUIS A. VISMARA, MD  
POLICY CONSULTANT

MARK A. TEEMER, JR.  
ASSISTANT

WWW.SENATE.CA.GOV/AUTISM

California Legislature  
Senate Select Committee  
on  
Autism & Related Disorders



**Informational Hearing:  
Technology & Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

*"Adapting 'Digital Age' Innovations to Expand Access & to Improve Services  
for Individuals with ASD."*

**February 22, 2012** (10AM-12:30PM)

The State Capitol Building, Room 3191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AGENDA**

1. **Welcoming Comments: Senator Steinberg & Committee Members (10:00-10:10AM)**
2. **The Autism Epidemic in California: Overview, Gaps & Challenges (10:10-10:45)**
  - a) **Autism "101": An Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**  
**David Amaral, Ph.D., Director of Research, The MIND Institute;**  
**Robin Hansen, M.D., Director of Clinical Research, The MIND Institute**
    - i. *Defining the disorder. What do we mean by ASD?*
    - ii. *Brief overview of brain science and research advances related to ASD.*
    - iii. *What are the possible causes of autism?*
    - iv. *Is there an "autism epidemic" or are we doing a better job in the detection of ASD?*
    - v. *A brief overview of the "autism workup."*
  - b) **The Impact of Autism on California's Families**  
**Rick Rollens, Autism Parent Advocate; Co-founder, The MIND Institute**
    - i. *Overview of the emotional issues and challenges associated with the diagnosis of ASD.*
    - ii. *Obstacles in accessing and navigating complex systems of care.*
    - iii. *Multidisciplinary & complex evaluations associated with the evaluation of ASD.*
    - iv. *Difficulties in managing the different interventions required for the treatment of ASD.*
  - c) **California's Supports for Autism: Leading the Nation but Facing Future Challenges**  
**Terri Delgado, Director, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**
    - i. *Overview of DDS and the Regional Center system.*
    - ii. *Services & responsibilities of the Regional Center system.*



- iii. *Impact of the autism epidemic on the Regional Center system.*
- iv. *Budget cuts & fiscal challenges facing the Regional Center system.*

d) **Questions & Discussion**

**3. Current Applications of Technology in Healthcare & Autism (10:45-11:30AM)**

a) **Telehealth “101”: Current Applications & Practices**

**Tom Nesbitt, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Vice Chancellor, Strategic Technologies and Alliances, UC Davis**

- i. *Brief review of the background and history of telehealth.*
- ii. *How is telehealth being currently utilized in health care?*
- iii. *What are the results and outcomes of telehealth systems?*
- iv. *How are patients & providers responding to telehealth services?*

b) **Telehealth & Autism: Recent Advances to Improve the Access & Delivery of Services (Panel)**

**Jenise Shin-Lee, Director, Capitol Autism Services; Doreen Granpeesheh, Executive Director, Center for Autism and Related Disorders; Patty Schetter, Autism Education Initiatives, The MIND Institute; Juan Perez, Family Participant in Telehealth Services**

- i. *A review of the basic forms of technology that are applicable to autism-related services.*
- ii. *How are providers using technology to improve autism-related services?*
- iii. *What are the most frequent uses of telehealth services for individuals with ASD?*
- iv. *How will telehealth improve outcomes and access to services for ASD?*
- v. *How can telehealth enhance professional development for ASD service providers?*
- vi. *How can telehealth improve parent education and training for ASD?*
- vii. *How do families and consumers respond to telehealth services for ASD?*

c) **Questions & Discussion**

**4) Public Policy, Legislation, & Future Implementation Strategies (11:30-12:00PM)**

a) **The Role of Telehealth in the Rapidly Changing Health Care Environment**

**Mario Gutierrez, Director, Center for Connected Health; Jenny Kattlove, Director, Strategic Health Initiatives, The Children’s Partnership**

- i. *Overview of Center for Connected Health*
- ii. *The future applications and public policy of telehealth*
- iii. *The potential impact of federal waivers and federal funding sources.*
- iv. *Possible public-private partnerships*
- v. *A review of current telehealth legislation.*

b) **Questions & Discussion**

**5) Public Comments (12:00PM-12:15PM)**

**6) Closing Comments by Senate Committee Members (12:15PM-12:30PM)**

**7) Adjournment (12:30 PM)**