

BACKGROUND:

One of the top voted initiatives of the 2015 Philadelphia Autism Project's Final Report was the creation of a System Navigator role to assist individuals with autism and their families. In the past year, the Birth to Five Workgroup of the Philadelphia Autism Project (which includes family members, autism researchers, the School District of Philadelphia, Intellectual Disabilities Services, early intervention providers, Community Behavioral Health (CBH) Clinical Services, and others) met to discuss families' journeys in navigating the Birth to Five systems. Barriers identified in the group included long wait times for evaluations, challenges with access to information, access to diagnosis and services, and transition between systems.

To come together to address these issues, the Philadelphia Autism Project is hosting a *System Navigation Summit: From Cradle to Young Adulthood. What do families need?* This summit will be for families, providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to learn more about existing system of care models. This initiative is being supported by the Children with Special Health Care Needs mini grant from the Division of Maternal, Child and Family Health with additional support from a System of Care grant received by Valerie Oulds, from the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Services (DBHIDS). The System of Care Grant has the ultimate goal of establishing a family-run organization that will focus on roles for family peer specialists across service systems and the specific ways that family navigators can be a part of the service infrastructure. This System of Care Grant, with its focus on family navigators, is a natural partnership for the Birth to Five system models because their Family Navigators may specialize in Birth to Five systems.

The System Navigation Summit is one component of the Philadelphia Autism Project's information gathering process about Birth to Five systems. Information will also be gathered from focus groups and interviews with providers, community organizations, and parents/caregivers.

GOAL

The System Navigation Summit will be used as an opportunity to gather information and promote discussion to:

- Connect with leaders developing system support models throughout in and outside of Philadelphia
- Learn about existing system support models and how families and providers can use these models
- Share your experiences navigating the service system as a professional or family member
- Learn about and plan for a new family legacy organization

The Summit will have a morning panel session and an afternoon panel session.

Morning Panel Session

Learn about System Navigator and family support models in the Birth to Five-age system in and outside of Philadelphia, with the goal of exploring creating a Navigator service specifically for the Birth to Five System in Philadelphia.



Afternoon Panel Session

Learn about Family Peer Models, with the goal of exploring how family member peers can be a larger part of navigating systems. This would also serve as an opportunity to inform family members and others that this organization is coming to fruition.

Target Population for the Summit

Select audience of family members, policy makers, pediatricians and health centers, professionals who work in the Birth to Five systems.

