

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 09 – 07**

### **ESTABLISHING OREGON COMMISSION ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**

Oregon, like many states across the nation, has experienced a rapid increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (“ASD”). Across Oregon, families, communities, schools, and social service agencies are struggling to address the diverse and complex needs of individuals diagnosed with ASD. Services to individuals with ASD are fragmented and inconsistent around the State and there is no coordinated effort for increasing the capacity of agencies and communities to support individuals with ASD.

Successful ASD treatment and support requires a more thoughtful, coordinated approach to funding, service development and delivery. To move Oregon forward, we must develop a means to provide accurate, current information to families and professionals regarding ASD interventions, services, supports, and expected outcomes. We must ensure that Oregon takes full advantage of the wealth of knowledge available about ASD and best practices for treating and supporting individuals with ASD. We must work to obtain the maximum benefit from the limited federal, state, and local resources available for individuals with ASD and their families.

This Order creates the Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder to engage stakeholders, to identify priorities, to promote the efficient use of limited resources, and to create and facilitate the implementation of a long term strategic plan.

#### **NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:**

1. The Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder (“Commission”) is established.
2. The purpose of the Commission shall be to:
  - a. Develop and monitor implementation of a ten-year strategic plan, incorporating biennial benchmarks for the state of Oregon to address the growing number of individuals with autism who require services from one or more programs or agencies;
  - b. Provide leadership and serve as a forum to establish priorities, create performance measures, facilitate collaboration, ensure support, and monitor outcomes;

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 09 – 07**

**PAGE TWO**

- c. Engage key stakeholders to develop, promote, and implement state plan goals and outcomes;
- d. Advise the Governor and Agency directors on plan implementations that require executive or agency approval and do not require legislative action;
- e. Provide regular updates to the status of plan goals and outcomes to the Governor's Office; and
- f. If legislative action is needed, develop legislative concepts in anticipation of the next legislative session.

3. The Commission shall submit its ten-year strategic plan to the Governor no later than May 1, 2010. The strategic plan shall:

- a. Propose implementation and outcomes to respond to the issues described in the September 2008 ASD Preliminary Findings and Recommendations, authored by the Legislative Assembly's Autism Spectrum Disorder Workgroup;
- b. Clarify the array and structure of necessary services and supports that enable persons with ASD to function to their individual potentials across their lifespan;
- c. Make recommendations to increase coordination and collaboration of supports to individuals experiencing ASD and identify policies, capacity, and strategies including interagency agreements and braiding of funding;
- d. Define strategies for accessing and promoting ASD best practice standards and research based information to the professional community and the public;
- e. Estimate and make recommendations regarding the long-term funding and the sources of funding needed to provide the necessary services and supports and to accomplish the coordination of services as described in the strategic plan;
- f. Incorporate biennial benchmarks for improving service and support to individuals with ASD; and
- g. Propose legislation needed to implement the strategic plan.

4. The Commission shall consist of thirteen members who are knowledgeable about ASD or about systems that serve people with ASD. All members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. The Commission shall include:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 09 – 07**  
**PAGE THREE**

- a. One member who is an individual diagnosed with autism and shall serve as a self-advocate, appointed by the Governor;
- b. One member who is a parent of a child with autism, appointed by the Governor;
- c. One member who is a parent of an adult child with autism, appointed by the Governor;
- d. One member who represents autism or disability advocacy organizations, appointed by the Governor;
- e. One member who represents the medical community in Oregon, appointed by the Governor;
- f. One member who represents the Department of Education, appointed by the Governor;
- g. One member who represents the Department of Human Services, appointed by the Governor;
- h. One member who represents Higher Education, appointed by the Governor;
- i. One member of the Oregon Senate, appointed by the Senate President;
- j. One member of the Oregon House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- k. One member representing a local education organization, appointed by the Governor;
- l. One member representing insurance carriers, appointed by the Governor; and
- m. One public member, appointed by the Governor.

5. The Governor will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission from the members of the Commission. The Chair shall establish an agenda for the Commission and provide leadership and direction. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the direction of the Chair or the Governor.

6. The Chair may appoint and approve the creation of subcommittees of the Commission. The Chair may, on behalf of the Governor, request participation of other persons with specialized expertise in ASD or serving ASD populations to further the Commission's work. During the first three months of operation, the Commission shall create subcommittees to address the following topics: Autism Diagnosis and Assessment, Educational Endorsement and Competency Based Assessment for Certification of Educational ASD Specialists, Reorganization of ASD Educational Services, and Interagency Transition Services.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 09 – 07**  
**PAGE FOUR**

Each subcommittee shall submit initial reports to the Commission within four months of the initial meeting of the subcommittee.

7. A quorum for Commission meetings shall consist of a majority of the appointed members. The Commission shall strive to operate by consensus; however, the Commission may approve measures and make recommendations based on an affirmative vote of a majority of members.

8. The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their activities as members of the Commission. To facilitate meaningful participation by parents of individuals with ASD and the designated self-advocate, those members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in attending Commission business, pursuant to ORS 292.495(2), and subject to availability of funds. No other members shall be eligible for reimbursement of expenses.

9. Staff support to the Commission shall be divided evenly between the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education. If the Commission requires assistance of any other state agency, then such agency shall provide assistance to the Commission upon request.

10. This Order expires on July 1, 2011.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 25th day of March, 2009.

---

Theodore R. Kulongoski  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

---

Kate Brown  
SECRETARY OF STATE