



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

December 31, 2015

Michael Marshall
Secretary of Senate
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Carmine Boal
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Ms. Boal and Mr. Marshall:

Enclosed please find copies of reports to the General Assembly relative to the Mercy Autism Center pilot project.

The Department of Human Services respectfully submits this report on behalf of the Mercy Autism Center as required by 2015 Iowa Acts, Senate File 505, Division V, Section 13(5) c.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paige Thorson".

Paige Thorson
Policy Advisor

PT/av

Enclosure

cc: Terry E. Branstad, Governor

December 23, 2015

Enclosed please find the report on the Mercy Autism Center pilot project, to assure persons with autism are treated in the most effective way when coming to the hospital ER or on our Psych Unit. We are utilizing the collaborative model, which has served us well in the last 5 years working with community services, schools and medical personnel.

A grant of \$21,405.00 is being used to:

1. Train staff in the healthcare and education settings to be trainers for other staff in order to provide the Autism friendly hospital

These objectives were brought forth in 2015 by the Mercy Service Club Autism Center with collaboration of the following Service providers:

Dubuque Community School District—Rozy Warder, Director Special Education

Mercy ER- Angela Lauer, Director

Mercy Psychiatric Service – Joyce Mc Dermott, Interim Director

Progress to date:

Mercy Service Club Autism Center has initiated meetings with the collaborative group of teachers, ER nurses and Psych nurses with the objectives of planning for education needs and developing communication systems needed to assure more productive interactions with children with Autism when they become patients. Initial meetings have occurred and participants have observed interactions in each environment.

2. Provide tool box and office staff training for primary care providers within a 6 county radius

Objective is to have tools readily available to these providers thus helping to make each interaction more productive.

Progress to date:

Discussions have taken place but no actual product at this time.

3. Education session to train public on how to prepare for a visit to the ER or primary care physician. Include information about the tool boxes that have been made available in these areas.

Progress to date:

Planned for April 2016

Sincerely,

Bobbi Schell, Director Mercy Service Club Autism Center
250 Mercy Drive
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
563-589-8180