



January 26, 2009

### **Act Early Regional Summit Project**

Mark Sloan  
628 6<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Alice ND 58031

Dear Mark:

In an effort to enhance the identification, assessment, service coordination and provision of services for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and related developmental disabilities, I am delighted to invite you to participate in a regional summit for the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. This one and a half day meeting is an exciting opportunity to come together with key stakeholders like you to share, discuss and learn from each other about the early identification, assessment, and provision of health and education related services for young children with ASD and related developmental disabilities. You have been selected to join other stakeholders in your state team due to your leadership and knowledge in this area. During the Summit, the team from your state will engage in sharing best practices, opportunities, and challenges with peers from other states in the region. Summit participants will also hear how their colleagues from neighboring states are addressing challenges that they face in developing effective systems of care.

The North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities will help to coordinate the state team from North Dakota. The Region 8 *Act Early Summit* will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on March 5-6, 2009 at the Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel. Summit activities will include a networking reception and two meals. A tentative agenda for the Summit is included on the next page. This event is jointly sponsored by the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) of the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) at Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Please see the attached invitation letter from Dr. Ed Trevathan, Director of NCBDDD, and Dr. Peter Van Dyck, Director of MCHB.

NCBDDD and HRSA have asked the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) to help facilitate regional meetings through its networks of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Programs. The ND Center for Persons with

Disabilities is a member of AUCD's national network of university based centers that conduct research, education, and service in collaboration with people with disabilities and their families. More information about AUCD and its networks is available at [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org).

During the Summit, each state team will participate in facilitated discussions to develop a plan and actionable priorities that the team will address after the Summit to enhance and improve your states system to identify, assess and serve young children with ASD and related developmental disabilities. Materials from the summit will be compiled, summarized, and made available online through AUCD. Following the Summit, your state team will receive ongoing support toward its goals.

***At this time, we need your commitment to join the North Dakota state team and to attend the Summit. Please visit [www.aucd.org](http://www.aucd.org) to register and confirm your intention to participate by February 10, 2009.*** Information for making lodging reservations is also on the AUCD website. **Room reservations must be completed separately from conference registration by February 10, 2009.** Should you not be able to attend, it is vital that you contact me as soon as possible in order to select a substitute participant from your agency or field. Please contact me at [brent.askvig@minotstateu.edu](mailto:brent.askvig@minotstateu.edu) or 1-800-233-1737 for questions or more information.

Sincerely,

Brent A. Askvig, Ph.D.  
NDCPD Executive Director

# Preliminary Agenda

March 5-6, 2009

Salt Lake City, Utah

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## Day One

1. *Registration & Continental Breakfast*
2. Overview of the Summit
3. *Welcome*
  - a. Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
  - b. Association of University Centers on Disabilities
  - c. CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
  - d. HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau
4. The Learn the Signs. Act Early. Campaign
5. Keynote
6. Cross-state Breakout Discussions
7. Lunch: National Autism Initiatives Panel
  - a. National Professional Development Center
  - b. National Medical Home Autism Initiative
  - c. National Conference of State Legislatures
  - d. Federal Legislative Updates
8. State Team Presentations
9. State Team Reaction Discussion
10. Networking Reception

## Day Two

1. *Continental Breakfast*
2. State Plan Development
3. Working Lunch: State Outcomes Presentations
4. Participant Reflection Discussion
5. Closing Remarks