



Autism Society of
North Dakota



Red River Valley
ASPERGER NETWORK

JoAnne Hoesel, Director
Division Mental Health & Substance Abuse
Developmental Disabilities Division
Department of Human Services
701-328-8924 Telephone
701-328-8969 Fax

Dear Director Hoesel,

We write to you today on behalf of two of the oldest and most respected not-for-profit autism groups in North Dakota: The Autism Society of North Dakota and the Red River Valley Asperger Network. Our two organizations are excited that the Department of Human Services has been charged with forming a much needed autism task force for our state. We thank you for undertaking such a vital mission and hope we can help. Having been closely involved with our local community as well as the state activities relating to autism, we feel we are in a unique position to recommend individuals for Governor Hoeven's task force on autism in our state.

Over the years, the Red River Valley Asperger Network and Autism ND have jointly shared the mission of raising awareness about ASD throughout our state. Several of our respective board members are often asked to speak publicly on the subject of ASD and are considered to be experts. Our groups' outreach efforts include facilitating ongoing support groups for families impacted by ASD, organizing resource fairs connecting families with state and local resources for ASD, co-organizing ASD conferences, and speaking at public events statewide. Both groups are driven solely by the efforts of volunteers who are passionate about improving the lives of those impacted by ASD. They include parents, professionals in the field of healthcare and adults with the ASD identification.

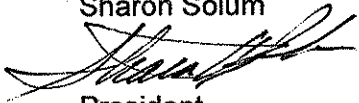
1) Foremost, our groups would like to nominate Dr. Barbara Stanton as the "psychologist with expertise in the area of ASD" for the governor's task force on autism. We have had the privilege of working with Dr. Stanton over the years. Dr. Stanton is a therapist at South East Human Service Center. She is regarded as the expert on ASD by parents and professionals, not just in our region, but is often asked to consult and speak publicly about Autism Spectrum Disorders all over the region. She not only supports families with young children and adults impacted by ASD, but also supports schools and pediatricians, taking referrals and collaborating with other professionals in the fields of education and mental health. Last year she received the Advocate of the Year Award by the Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee and is distinguished in her field.

2) Our second nomination is for the "parent of a child with ASD." Our groups would like to nominate Kristen Wallman. Having a child on the autism spectrum has required Wallman to become an organizer, activist/advocate, educator, support person to other parents, student, and researcher. She has worked with professionals and other parents to promote the ideas of neurodiversity. She has organized workshops and has presented to hundreds of individuals about the issues of Autism Spectrum Disorders. She was one of the co-founders of the Red River Valley Asperger Network. Kristen Wallman also has strong computer skills and has assisted with the RRVAN website. She is very comfortable speaking publicly and working as a team to support the needs of children and their families.

Kris Wallman is President-elect of the Red River Valley Asperger Network and Vice-President of the Autism Society of North Dakota. These groups are 501©3 non-profit organization which have the mission of educating our community about autism spectrum disorders. She is also on the Steering and Executive Committees for the Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee. Ms. Wallman holds an MA in Sociology of Education from San Francisco State University and a BA in American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Along with her husband, Marc, Kris is currently home educating their two children on the Autism Spectrum.

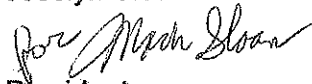
It is our sincere hope that you will consider the nominations we, and our members, put forth. Thank you again for your efforts in this important endeavor.

Sharon Solum



President
Red River Valley Asperger Network

Jocelyn Sloan



President
Autism Society of North Dakota

Barbara Kay Stanton

Education:

University of Massachusetts Amherst: Amherst, MA September 2002
Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology

North Dakota State University: Fargo, ND May 1990
M.S. in Child Development and Family Sciences (Marital and Family Therapy)

North Dakota State University: Fargo, ND May 1980
B.S. in Psychology and Sociology

Relevant Employment Experience:

Southeast Human Service Center: Fargo, ND August 2000 – present
Advanced Clinical Specialist II

- Provide therapeutic services to children, adolescents, and families
- Provide intensive case management services
- Supervise master's and doctoral level interns
- Supervise adult and child therapy clinical staff
- Facilitate a group for parents of children with Asperger's Syndrome
- Provide training to community groups and professionals on children's mental health issues, especially Autism Spectrum Disorders

Programs developed at Southeast Human Service Center:

- Support group for those who have a family member/friend with Asperger's Syndrome (through this group the Red River Valley Asperger Network was formed. We currently operate a website and recently incorporated; are waiting for 501-C-3 status) Primary mission is education and support.
- Support groups for adults on the autism spectrum
- Internship program for Master's level therapists
- SPARCS parent group
- School outreach (therapy and consultation)
- Internship program

Accent on Care Counseling (private practice) : Fargo, ND August 2005 – present

- Provide therapeutic services to children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families
- Provide intensive case management services
- Provide EAP therapy services

North Dakota State University: Fargo, ND

January 2001 – January 2002

Associate Professor

- Developed curriculum and taught graduate and undergraduate courses in the Child Development and Family Sciences Department
- Provided clinical supervision to graduate level students in the Marital and Family Therapy Program

UMass Medical Center: Griswold Center, Palmer, MA September 1992 – August 2000

Therapist

- Provided therapeutic services to children, adolescents, adults, couples, and families, also facilitated therapy groups
- Developed clinical protocol for working with persons who had experienced domestic violence; classified as a Domestic Violence Specialist by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Programs developed through UMass Medical Center:

- Therapy programs for women/families experiencing violence
- Developed screening and trained emergency department staff regarding interviewing/identifying victims of violence (part of a CDC grant)

Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH September 1992- August 2000

Associate Professor

- Developed curriculum and taught graduate courses in the Marital and Family Therapy Department and the Psychology Department
- Provided clinical supervision to graduate level students in the Marital and Family Therapy Program

YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead, Fargo, ND

May 1981 – August 1991

Associate Director, Program Director, Shelter Director

- Developed programming and provided direct services to shelter residents
- Public Education
- Fundraising including grant writing
- Hired and supervised shelter staff

Programs developed through the YWCA:

- Transitional housing
- Healthcare for Homeless Women - co-founder (now through Fargo-Cass Public Health)
- Phone – Friend (call line for children now through the United Way)
- School supply drive (now through the United Way)
- Shelter program for runaway adolescents

Therapy Subspecialties:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Family violence (primary/secondary victims and offenders)
- Transgender individuals
- Borderline personality disorders

Volunteer experiences:

- Red River Valley Asperger Network, Board of Directors, volunteer: 2007 to present
- Rape and Abuse Crisis Center: volunteer: 1979 – 1991
- Fargo Youth Commission: volunteer, Board of Directors (President): 1984 – 1990
- ND Coalition for Homeless People: co-founder, Board of Directors (President): 1989 – 1991
- National Coalition for the Homeless: Board of Directors 1988 – 1992
- Fargo-Moorhead Humane Society: 1976 – 1991
- Domestic Violence Treatment Team: through NDSU 1987 - 1990

Professional Affiliations:

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor – North Dakota

Clinical Member American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

In the past 8 years, Dr. Stanton has provided services to nearly 400 children, adolescents and adults on the autism spectrum primarily High Functioning Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder NOS, Asperger's Syndrome, and Non-verbal Learning Disabilities. She has done primary assessments, provided individual, couple and family therapy, facilitates a weekly and monthly group for parents and caregivers of individuals with ASDs, facilitates 2 weekly groups for adults with ASDs, has written intervention plans, advocated for individuals with schools and employers, and consulted with many professionals from schools to law enforcement. She has worked with individuals and families across the state of North Dakota and has a good understanding of the unique differences between service provision in urban and rural areas.

She is committed to educating other professionals and the community about autism spectrum disorders. She has done presentations/trainings on many topics including autism interventions from a law enforcement perspective, early childhood assessment and interventions, working with students with ASDs in elementary and secondary schools, working with individuals with ASDs in a college/university setting, employment issues for individuals with ASDs, and she recently presented at the ND Clinical Forum on differential diagnoses and Asperger's Syndrome. The groups she has provided training and consultation to include physicians/medical staff, mental health professionals, teachers, early childhood educators, social services staff, law enforcement, juvenile justice workers including probation officers, trackers and detention staff, general community members among others.

Dr. Stanton keeps current by attending several workshops by national trainers and consistently reads the most recent research. She believes that autism spectrum disorders is a complicated neurological issue that must be viewed comprehensively by integrating an understanding of brain function, communication, sensory issues, psychology, education, family interactions, community, and environment in order to develop the best understanding of these complex individuals. Despite her education and extensive experience Dr. Stanton states clearly that she does not consider herself an expert. She feels that only those with ASDs and their families are the "true" experts. She is a firm believer in multidisciplinary collaboration that always includes the individual on the spectrum and/or their family.

In addition to her direct experience with individuals on the autism spectrum, Dr. Stanton also brings an understanding of research. For eight years she taught graduate level research courses at Antioch New England Graduate School. She is also a member of the training team for Person Centered Treatment Planning for the ND Department of Human Services so can address issues of autistic individuals from that perspective.

However, should there be a conflict of interest with her employment with the ND Department of Human Services; Dr. Stanton has said that she would be willing to serve as a representative from her private practice, Accent on Care, and use personal time for the task force duties.

Bio
Kristen Wallman
Kristen@rrvasperger.org
701.412.3842

Having a child on the autism spectrum has required me to become an organizer, activist/advocate, educator, support person to other parents, student, and researcher. I have worked with professionals and other parents to promote the ideas of neurodiversity. I have organized workshops and have presented to hundreds of individuals about the issues of Autism Spectrum Disorders. I am especially interested in the educational needs of exceptional children and have developed guidelines for educators. I was one of the co-founders of the Red River Valley Asperger Network. I also have strong computer skills and have assisted with the RRVAN website. I am very comfortable speaking publicly and working as a team to support the needs of children and their families.

I am President-elect of the Red River Valley Asperger Network and Vice President of the Autism Society of North Dakota. These groups are 501©3 non-profit organization which have the mission of educating our community about autism spectrum disorders. I am also on the Steering and Executive Committees for the Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee. I hold an MA in Sociology of Education from San Francisco State University and a BA in American Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. My areas of interest include parent-teacher collaboration and legislation and school reform issues as they pertain to students on the Autism Spectrum. I am currently home educating My two children with on the Autism Spectrum.

KRISTEN E. WALLMAN

Phone: 701.412.3842
Kristen@rrvasperger.org

EDUCATION PROFILE

M.A. 1998—2002 (Summa Cum Laude)
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Area of study: *Sociology of Education*
Thesis Topic: Knowledge, Culture, and Cognition in Reforms of K-12 Education.

B.A. 1996—1998 (Magna Cum Laude)
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, CA
Areas of Study: Double major in *American Studies* and *Comparative Religion*
Honors Thesis Topic: Religious Pluralism and Multiculturalism in America

A.A. 1992—1996
IRVINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, IRVINE, CA
Area of study: General Education, Social Science Emphasis

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND COMMITTEE WORK

Vice President and Member of the Autism Society of North Dakota, 2006-present.

- Co-organize annual Autism resource fair.
- Serve on panel discussions, speak at events, and staff tables at autism awareness events.
- Participate in strategic planning meetings.
- Advocate for families impacted by Asperger Syndrome at the state and local level.

Executive Committee Member, Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee,
Fargo/Moorhead, January 2008-present.

- Oversee grant for Children's Mental Health Initiative.
- Oversee grant for Juvenile Alcohol Prevention.
- Coordinate community events that support childhood wellbeing.

Steering Committee Member, Region V Children's Services Coordinating Committee,
Fargo/Moorhead, December, 2007-present.

- Work with children's service providers in southeast North Dakota to build partnerships and coordinate efforts between public and private agencies providing services to special needs children and their families.

Board of Directors, Nonprofit Group convened by the Red River Valley Asperger Network, 2006-Present

- Advocate for families impacted by Asperger Syndrome at the state and local level.
- Participate in strategic planning meetings.
- Regularly invited to speak on Asperger Syndrome.
- Co-facilitated family support group.

President-elect and Co-chair of Research and Public Policy Committee, Red River Valley Asperger Network, Fargo, ND, 2006-Present

- Represent Red River Valley Asperger Network to state and local agencies that set public policy relevant to children and families with Asperger Syndrome.

First Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Seminar Organizing Committee, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Spring-Summer 2008.

- Secured speakers for two-day seminar in collaboration with other committee members.
- Researched grant opportunities to provide parent scholarships with other committee members.
- Presented and sat on panel at conference.

INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

“Community Activism and Social Change,” Panel Discussion. NEW Leadership Development Institute, Tri-College University, Summer 2009.

“Advocating for Children on the Autism Spectrum.” Panelist for Protection and Advocacy of North Dakota, Fargo, ND, April, 2009

“The Experience of Parents of School-age Children with Special Needs.” Panelist, Concordia College, education course of Prof. Marilyn Guy, Moorhead, Minnesota, January 23, 2009.

Raising a Child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, Panel Discussion. First Annual Autism Spectrum Disorder Seminar, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Summer 2008

“Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Presented lecture at the 2008, North Dakota Conference for the Council for Exceptional Children, Minot, ND, February, 2008.

“The Experience of Parents of School-age Children with Special Needs.” Panelist, Concordia College, education course of Prof. Marilyn Guy, Moorhead, Minnesota, January 22, 2008.

“Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Presented lecture to Preschool Educators Association, Fargo, ND, November 19, 2007.

“Aspergers or I’m Just a Weird Kid.” Co-presented lecture to Fargo Public School’s special education teachers, September 24, 2007.

“The Experience of Parents of School-age Children with Special Needs.” Panelist, Concordia College, education course of Prof. Noell Reinhiller, Moorhead, Minnesota, September 15, 2007.

- “Future Revisions of the North Dakota Autism Guidelines.” Panelist in stakeholders’ roundtable with North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and Department of Human Services staff, September 6, 2007.
- “Helping Foster Children on the Autism Spectrum.” Panelist in post-presentation roundtable for PATH of North Dakota, Fargo, ND, April 21, 2007.
- “Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Co-presented lecture to teachers at Fargo Head Start, Fargo, ND, April 19, 2007.
- “Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Co-presented lecture, Minnesota State University Minnesota, Introduction to Special Education course of Prof. Lisa Overholt, April 3, 2007.
- “Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Co-presented lecture to teachers at Discovery School, Fargo, ND, February 16, 2007.
- “Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Co-presented lecture to teachers at Bennet Elementary School, Fargo, ND, January 17, 2007.
- “Hidden Disability, Hidden Treasure.” Co-presented lecture to teachers at Washington Elementary School, Fargo, ND, October 11, 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

INSTRUCTOR, San Francisco State University. Fall 2001.

- Taught “First Year Experience” course for freshman planning to major in the social sciences.
- Taught course material and activities introducing students to all areas of campus life at San Francisco State University including campus resources, instructional aid, academic advising, and academic standards and regulations.
- Course included an introduction to foundational approaches in the social sciences.

TEACHING ASSISTANT, University of California, Berkeley. Spring and Summer 1998, Fall 1999, Summer 2001.

- Teaching assistant for courses in Sociology of Religion and American Religious Pluralism.
- Tutored students.
- Graded papers and exams.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASST., Jesuit Community at the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, 1998—2001.

- Maintained database of US and international graduate student’s progress toward degree fulfillment.
- Facilitated travel, transportation, and accommodations for international faculty and students.
- Created and distributed school and community resource material for new and visiting faculty and students such as academic calendars and relocation information.

- Acted as liaison between Jesuit Community president and faculty and students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW Leadership Development Institute—a five-day residential program aimed at promoting public and community leadership among women of diverse backgrounds, Tri-College University, Summer 2008.

RTI That Makes Sense! Teaching Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders Using the Comprehensive Autism Planning System (CAPS)—two-day conference, University of North Dakota, Summer 2008.

ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE

TRAVEL ABROAD:

- Germany
- France
- England
- Switzerland
- Holland
- Mexico