



VANDERBILT KENNEDY CENTER

Research Update

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1. Adolescents and Adults with Autism Study (PI: Mailick)

- 406 families of adolescents and adults with ASD
 - Funded by NIA (R01 AG08768, PI: Mailick) and Autism Speaks (PI: Taylor, PI: Mailick)
- Data collected 7 times over 12 years (mostly from mothers)
- Wide age range -- 10 to 52 years of age at Time 1
 - 62% adolescents age 10-21
 - 38% adults age 22-52

Key Findings

- Leaving high school disrupts behavioral and relationship improvements for youth with ASD
- **Obtaining** a vocational or PSE position is difficult.
Maintaining it is an even greater challenge
- Certain subgroups of individuals with ASD are at increased risk
 - Those **without** an intellectual disability
 - Women
- Vocation/PSE may serve as a catalyst for behavioral improvement

2. Transitioning to Adulthood with Autism Study

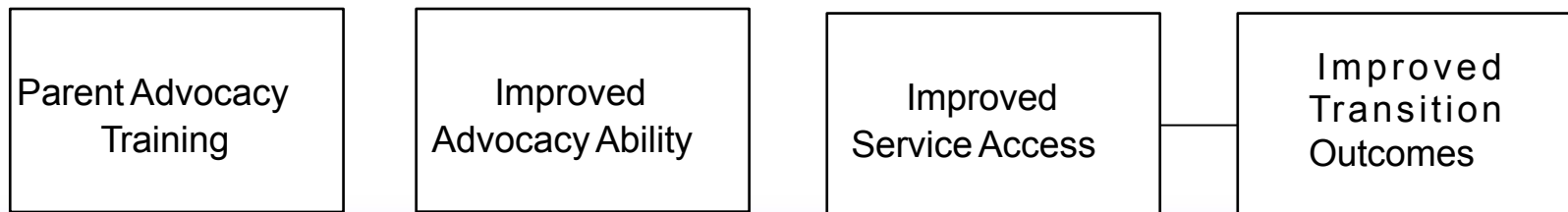
- 40 youth with ASD (and their families) who were exiting high school in the next 12 months
 - Funded by NIMH (K01 MH 92598, PI: Taylor)
- 2 data collection points
 - Time 1: last year of high school
 - Time 2: within 12 months after high school exit
- How do stress response profiles, behavioral profiles, and environmental resources change as youth transition out of high school?
 - How do these factors influence post-transition outcomes?

Key Findings (to date)

- Existing publications have focused on the first wave of data
 - Examined service receipt and unmet service needs
 - Described the bullying experiences and post-school expectations of these youth
- Current analyses are examining changes in social participation, behaviors, and service profiles after exit. We are also looking at the factors that predict disengagement from vocation/PSE
- Families at Wave 1 had little to no information about what services/supports might be available after high school exit

3. Parent Advocacy Training

- We are developing and testing a parent advocacy training to promote transition outcomes for youth with ASD
 - 12-week program teaching parents about the services and support available to their family after high school, and the most effective ways to access them.
- Funded by NIMH (R34 MH104428, PI: Taylor)



Study Design

- Phase 1
 - Adapt existing curriculum
 - Pre-pilot the program with families of youth who recently left high school
 - Families reported increased knowledge, advocacy skills, and connectedness
- Phase 2
 - Randomly assigned 45 participants to treatment (Fall 2015) or wait-list control (Spring 2017) groups
 - Does participating in the program lead to differences in services and community integration 6-months and 12-months post-program?