

**IACC Full Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Hilton Washington DC/Rockville**

Live Feedback Comments

Name: Karla Shepard Rubinger

Organization: Non-NIH

City: Hicksville

State: New York

Subject: IACC Mtg.

Comment #1: Does TriCare focus on autism in adults at all?

Name: Rose Walker

Organization: Non-NIH

City: Stockbridge

State: Georgia

Subject: Tricare and ABA

Comment #2: Outstanding look at the science of ABA! There has to be a better way, 95% of autistics having undergone it as children find it abusive. I was amazed to hear that they do not accept the science of it. To see it critically looked at does my heart good, although it was a personal choice not to subject my son to it. He is 25 years old now...I think there are a lot of autistics in the armed services, and they don't use ABA on them. They just lay down the law. ABA is rather manipulative and leads to no long term gains, but puts caretakers/teachers at ease for a little bit. Sorry, trying to listen and comment.

Please Note: This is a comment, not a question for feedback.

Name: Sara Luterman

Organization: Non-NIH

City: Silver Spring

State: Maryland

Subject: Employment

Comment #3: I am concerned about the proliferation of small businesses that hire only autistic or otherwise developmentally disabled people, but whose management is entirely non-disabled. These businesses often offer unpaid internships to do things like pour coffee or wash cars. If these small businesses do provide minimum wage, they often provide hours so low that no meaningful income is made. Work is treated as habilitation and a social opportunity, not as serious employment. These businesses are not exciting new models. They are glorified sheltered workshops. As more and more states abolish 14c, I would like to see regulations that address these businesses. We often talk about the "dignity of work" in the autism policy sphere.

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I would like to assert that there is no such thing. Work, in and of itself, does not grant dignity. A living wage grants dignity. Autistic adults who may not have traditionally marketable skills like the ability to code deserve better. It often feels as though employers believe there are two kinds of autistic people: Those who are employable and those who are not. There are many more employable autistic people than many employers believe, when given the chance and adequate support. Integrated, supported employment programs like those at Microsoft and other major corporations should be expanded and encouraged. We need to stop looking backward and start looking forward towards normalizing disabled people in the same workplaces nondisabled people occupy. Disabled people want the same things everyone else want: Jobs that they can live on, social contact, and to be seen as normal. We need to approach autism policy with that in mind.

Please Note: This is a comment, not a question for feedback.
