Here we are in a brand new year! This is a perfect time to reflect on the previous year while anticipating great things to come. At the Autism Society of Wisconsin, we’re so thankful for the amazing support we received from people like you in the past year. Because of your support, we’ve got some fantastic plans coming together for 2015.

If you haven’t heard, Temple Grandin will be a keynote at our state conference this year! This will be the third time I’ve been lucky enough to hear Dr. Grandin and I learn something new every time. If you’ve never heard Dr. Grandin (or even if you have) you won’t want to miss her keynote on Friday morning.

Thursday’s preconference workshop will be Literacy for All! Strategies to Support Emerging Readers on the Autism Spectrum. Participants will learn the basics for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to read by providing comprehensive instruction, using evidence-based practices. This is going to be another great workshop full of practical strategies for working with students with autism that you don’t want to miss. We’ve just added the breakout session descriptions on our conference page so be sure to check it out!

In addition to our conference, we’ll continue to offer information and referral services through our toll-free hotline, free resources like our Next Step Guide, and other educational opportunities through our webinar series. If you haven’t already, join our email list to receive monthly email updates. Please go to the website to see details for much more beyond this! www.asw4autism.org

Michele Matz
President
A Brief Legal Primer: What to do if someone with ASD becomes involved in the criminal justice system

By Ellen Henak, Henak Law Office, S.C.

Unfortunately, people with ASD are at greater risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system than many other people. Although people with autism can become involved with the system for all of the same reasons that people without autism might (and are more often victims than criminals), autistic characteristics, such as slower auditory processing of commands, more intense flight reactions, stimming, and sensory issues, can baffle police and create a greater risk of arrest.

In Wisconsin, once a person is over seventeen (and, for some crimes, earlier), he or she will be treated as an adult in the system. While there is a role for families and friends, that role is limited. As the person goes through the system, their best advocates will be those who are prepared.

Tips for Preparing:

1. **Keep several documents readily available, including:**
   - A fact sheet consisting of key information particular to the person (see https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8zFRKgA_DqYQURsT0pnWk92Y1U/edit) and one page concerning autism in general.
   - Diagnostic reports documenting the diagnosis; if possible, contact information for a professional who knows the person with ASD and is good at giving explanations to the general population.

2. **Wear a medical ID stating he or she has ASD.** This ID can speak for the person if the person cannot do so and can provide some quick documentation.

3. **Visit the police and, if possible, arrange “practice sessions” on interacting with police.** Such a visit will both allow the police to meet the person with ASD and gain some understanding and also will let the person know what to expect if they interact with police.

4. **Role play the basic rules for police interaction:**
   - Stay where you are—do not run unless the officer says to run;
   - Stay calm—take a deep breath if necessary and do not argue.
   - Keep hands out of your pockets when you speak to an officer. (If driving a car, hands on the steering wheel.)
   - Do not reach for the badge, gun, or flashlight.
   - Follow directions.
   - Be still for a patdown.
   - Disclose your ASD and tell about your ID (if possible.).
   - If asked and possible, give your name, address, and birthdate.
   - If possible, say, “I want a lawyer.”

5. **If your local law enforcement has a special needs registry, get the person with ASD on it.**

6. **Know that if you call the police, they will come and will make their own judgment about what is appropriate.**

Advocacy

There are two types of advocacy that may be useful. The first is with law enforcement, including jail personnel. The second is with defense counsel. The steps to take with each are different.

**Jail and Law Enforcement**

Although law enforcement and jail personnel generally want to help, understand that their first priority is their own safety. If you can appeal to their need for safety, you will be more effective. Because they have more power than you in the situation, you need to ask rather than demand. Suggested steps to take with jail and law enforcement:

1. **Provide your two-sided information sheet both to the police and to jail personnel.** Let them know it will help keep both them and the person with ASD safe.
2. **Ask that the person with ASD be put in segregation if arrested until an evaluation of the person’s situation.**
(3) Ask if there is a bail schedule and, if so, ask where you can get that schedule and how to pay.

(4) Ask when and where the initial appearance will be. Note that it generally is held within 24 hours, but is not held on weekends in most counties. Plan to be at the initial appearance.

(5) Be polite. Rudeness is unlikely to get you anywhere.

**Defense Counsel**

An arrested person with ASD, even more so than many others, needs legal counsel. Be aware that defense lawyers must safeguard client confidentiality. Although they may not be able to give information to friends and family, they can listen. Remember that they are often very, very busy.

(1) Arrange for private counsel or contact the local office of the Wisconsin State Public Defender’s Office (http://wispd.org/index.php/12-contact-us/18-spd-office-locator). Be aware that the Public Defender’s Officer usually will not provide case-specific information to family and friends. Note that, ideally, you also want an attorney with familiarity with ASD.

In choosing a lawyer:
Be wary of promises about outcome.
Insist on courtesy and respect.
Note the ability to answer your questions and give explanations.
Get referrals or ask others about the attorney’s reputation.
Insist on clarity about fees.
Determine their experience, including with autism.

(2) If an attorney is appointed, determine what attorney is assigned either through the person with ASD or through the court website, which is known as CCAP (https://wcca.wicourts.gov/index). Cases can take a few days to show on CCAP. If you cannot get this information, please call me and I will try to help you out.

(3) Provide the attorney with the information sheet and ask him or her to read it.

(4) Provide the attorney with the diagnostic reports and contact information from your file.

(5) Offer to speak with the attorney to answer any questions. Note that many attorneys do better with email than with telephone calls. Trial counsel often is slow to respond to calls as counsel often is out of the office most of the day.

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**Annual Meeting and Call for Nominations**

Nominations are being accepted for open 2015 ASW Board of Director positions. Any ASW member in good standing may nominate candidates by mailing a letter to the Nominating Committee c/o the ASW office, postmarked no later than the second Friday of February. The organization is particularly interested in candidates with backgrounds in finance, fundraising and/or marketing. Newly elected directors serve three years, beginning with the ASW spring quarterly meeting on May 1st, 2015.

The nomination must include the following information:

a. Name, address, e-mail address and/or telephone number of the nominee.
b. A statement that the person being nominated has agreed to be a candidate.
c. Reasons why he/she considers the person to be a good candidate.
d. A second, in writing, by at least two other ASW members in good standing. (Included with the letter of nomination).

The Annual Meeting will take place at 4:45 pm on May 1st at the Annual Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Members will be asked to vote on proposed changes to the ASW Bylaws in addition to the slate of Board of Directors candidates. Election ballots will be available at the annual meeting. For information on the Absentee Ballots, contact the ASW office no later than 45 days before the annual meeting.
2015 Autism Society of Wisconsin Conference  
Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells

Literacy for All! Strategies to Support Emerging Readers on the Autism Spectrum  
Preconference Workshop, April 30

Presented by: Lynn Stansberry Brusnahan, Julie Arens, Barbara Christensen, Rosemary Gardner, Mary McMullen, & Jessi Lowney
Participants will learn the basics for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) to read by providing comprehensive instruction, using evidence-based practices. Case studies will be presented along with demonstrations of how to teach working with words, guided reading, writing, and self-selected reading. As a result of this workshop, participants will be able to state the core challenges students with ASD experience that impact literacy and their ability to access curriculum and standards; learn how to write meaningful standards-based IEP goals and objectives with examples that take into account student challenges; and employ effective literacy strategies for struggling and emerging readers with autism.

Temple Grandin—How People with Autism Think & Feel  
Friday Keynote

In this special presentation, backed by personal experience and evidence-based research, Dr. Temple Grandin will provide a look into the mind of an individual with autism.  
• Learn how Dr. Grandin’s thought process resembles an internet image search - and how she has put that gift into action.  
• Hear Dr. Grandin’s message for educators, policy makers and corporations: producing successful business results and public policy requires different kinds of minds working together.
• Take away practical tips for parenting, teaching and learning from the individuals with autism in your life.

Individuals with ASD and their Families Across the Lifespan  
Saturday Keynote

Presented by: Leann Smith, Associate Scientist, Waisman Center
Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics University of Wisconsin–Madison Waisman Center
Currently 1 in 68 children meet criteria for a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Importantly, ASD is a lifelong condition and family members continue to be active contributors to their children’s lives not only during the childhood years, but also during adolescence and adulthood. This presentation will discuss what we know from research about change across the lifespan for individuals with ASD, with a special focus on the transition to adulthood, as well as the impact of having a child with ASD on the family.
Breakout Session Highlights & Special Events

- Don’t Worry, Be “Appy” v. 3.0
- Accommodations & Modifications to Assignments and Tests
- Shaping Echolalia Into Meaningful Communication
- How to Survive Mealtimes with a Picky Eater
- Helping Para-educators to Support Students on the Autism Spectrum
- Preventing Sleep Problems and Developing Healthy Sleep Habits in Children with Autism
- Transitioning Opportunities and Challenges—Moving on After High School
- Let’s Consider the Senses: Positive Supports for ALL Kids!
- Police, Courts, Criminal Justice, and Autism: Avoiding Disaster
- And much MORE!

Special Events Highlights:

Spectrum Social Hour
Pizza Party
Essay Contest Award Ceremony
Talent Show & Dance
Bucket Raffle

The full conference program, general conference information, and registration forms are available online at:

http://www.asw4autism.org/conferences_workshops.html
In case you missed it, the webinar from Daniel Parker, WDPI, Autism and the IEP: Matching Services and Supports with the Needs of Students with Autism in November, it has been archived and is available at your convenience on our website http://www.asw4autism.org/webinars.html. Details about our next webinar are below.

**Looking Outside**
Presented by: Leigh Ann Moore, Growing Opportunities & Resources, LLC
February 10th, 1-2 PM

Transition happens all throughout our lives. One such transition occurs when deciding where and how one wants to live. There are many questions to ask and decisions to be made when transitioning to community supportive living such as, who do you want to live with, where, what kind of living environment, and how will this happen? This presentation will provide you will some ideas about community supportive living and highlight how one individual achieves living independently. To register visit:
http://www.asw4autism.org/webinars.html
In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, which is every April, the Autism Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring its 10th Annual Autism Awareness Essay Contest. The contest is being held to recognize positive friendships between students with autism and their peers.

Research has shown that inclusion of children with special needs in the classroom can be beneficial for all children. All children can benefit from inclusion by more opportunities for meaningful friendships and increased acceptance of individual differences. The Autism Awareness Essay Contest is an opportunity to hear from the students about their experiences and how these friendships have influenced their lives.

We are looking for essays that show true friendships between students with autism and their peers. Essay winners in the past have included stories about how their friendship started, what the friends like to do together, why students appreciate their friends with autism, and more. We also encourage individuals with autism to participate and share the friendships they’ve gained as a result of inclusion.

Deadline to submit essays is March 20, 2015. For more information visit http://www.asw4autism.org/essay_contest.html
This April, the Autism Society of Wisconsin is asking schools across Wisconsin to join our new Change for Autism campaign. Join our efforts to educate students about autism while simultaneously raising money for the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

How can you get involved?

- Contact the Autism Society of Wisconsin to let us know your school plans to participate.
- Share facts about autism throughout the month of April (provided by the Autism Society of Wisconsin).
- Collect containers (like empty milk jugs) for each classroom to hold change.
- Spread the word and start collecting spare change throughout the month of April.
- At the end of April, count your change and report your totals back to the Autism Society of Wisconsin.

The school that raises the most money will win a pizza party for the top 3 classrooms! All participating schools will be entered in a drawing to win two free registrations to any Autism Society of Wisconsin conference.

Name of School ________________________________________________________________
Address of School ______________________________________________________________
Number of Students _____________________________________________________________
Number of Classrooms __________________________________________________________
Contact Person _________________________________________________________________
Phone ________________________   Email ___________________________

Please send completed forms to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952
Fax: 920-558-4611
Email: kcooper@asw4autism.org

Collect spare change from: April 1 - 30, 2015
AUTISM AWARENESS NIGHT

Saturday, April 4
Puck drops at 7:05pm

$1 hot dogs
$1 soda

Groups of 15 or more receive $2 off per adult ticket and $5 off per child ticket (14 & under)

$1 from each paid ticket to benefit the Autism Society of Wisconsin.

Ticket prices are $17, $15, $13 & $9.
Tickets $1 more day of game.

For group rates contact
Greg at 405.1150 or Greg.Lynch@gamblershockey.com

GamblersHockey.com
March into Chili’s for Autism!

This March, the Autism Society of Wisconsin is participating in Chili’s Pepper Partner program. When you dine at any Chili’s restaurant in Wisconsin bring in one of our vouchers and 15% of your purchase will come back to the Autism Society of Wisconsin! We’ll be adding the voucher on our website very soon. Please consider eating out at Chili’s this March and helping us spread the word.

Giving Opportunities

Invest in the future of the Autism Society of Wisconsin!

Explore all the ways to give:

- **Employee/Matching Gifts** – Many employers encourage employees to give by matching employee gifts dollar-for-dollar. Check with your human resource department to find out more.
- **Honorary** – Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion with a gift honoring a spouse, friend, family member or other loved one.
- **Memorial** – Memorial gifts made to the Autism Society of Wisconsin are to celebrate and honor the life of a loved one.
- **Planned Giving** – Receive tax and other financial benefits while giving to the Autism Society. Plan a gift for the future by working with a financial advisor to set up an IRA Charitable Rollover, trust or bequest, or beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy.
- **Unrestricted Giving** – Give a cash donation that allows us to fund programs which need it most. Donations can be mailed to the ASW office or can be made online through our Network for Good site, accessed from our home page: www.asw4autism.org.

Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Dr.
Menasha, WI 54952

Please call our office for more information on any of these giving opportunities.
Date of Application_______________________

Name ________________________________________________________________________________

Street Address __________________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ______________________________________ Phone (       ) _______________________

Email ___________________________________________  □ ASW is going green! To receive a printed copy of the newsletter, please check here

The Autism Society of Wisconsin (ASW) shares membership with the local Autism Society affiliates listed below. By checking a local affiliate, you will join both the state and local affiliate and receive member benefits from both. To become a member of only the state chapter, leave this section blank. To become a member of the Autism Society of America, the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin and/or the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin and to find out more about their membership benefits, please contact them separately.

**Autism Society of the Fox Valley (ASFV)**
Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Fond du Lac and Waupaca Counties

**Autism Society of the Lakeshore (ASL)**
Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet, Kewaunee and Door Counties

**Autism Society of Northeast Wisconsin (ASNEW)**
Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Florence, Menomonie and Marinette Counties

**Autism Society of Central Wisconsin (ASCW)**
Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood Counties.

**Autism Society of Chippewa Valley (CVAS)**
Sawyer, Polk, Barron, Rusk, St. Croix, Dunn, Chippewa, Pierce, Pepin, Eau Claire, Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties.

Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin,
autismsouthcentral.org or autismsouthcentral@gmail.com


Membership Categories: Individual ($12) _____ Family ($15) _____ New Member _____ Renewing Member______

(Select one)  (Select one)

_____ Bill my Master Card/VISA Card #__________________________ Exp Date ___________

Authorized Signature __________________________________________

_____ Check enclosed, check #________________________

_____ Enclosed is a $10 contribution towards the cost of the newsletter—thank you!

Additional contribution (tax deductible).

_____ $25 _____ $50 _____ $100 _____ $ (Other)

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

**Autism Society of Wisconsin**
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI 54952
Fax (920) 558-4611

If you have questions, email ASW at asw@asw4autism.org or call 888-428-8476.
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1-888-4-AUTISM (WI only)
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI  54952

Return Service Requested

Help us fulfill our mission!

Support the Autism Society of Wisconsin by making a tax deductible gift! All donations are appreciated.

______$25  ______$_50  ______$75  ______$_100  ______$_200  ______$ Other

Donations may be sent to:
Autism Society of Wisconsin
1477 Kenwood Drive
Menasha, WI  54952

We also accept donations online. Click the Donate Now button on our homepage: www.asw4autism.org

Thank you for your support!

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ASW Board Meeting & Annual Meeting to be held on May 1, 2015.

Connecting Wisconsin:
Autism Society of Wisconsin Newsletter

www.asw4autism.org

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