

Community meetings planned to discuss finds of Autism Spectrum disorder focus groups.

The Department of Behavioral Health Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) is hosting five community meetings across the state to discuss the findings of regional task force groups focused on children from birth to age 8 with autism spectrum disorder. The first community meeting takes place May 2, 2014, in Elizabethtown. The full list of community meeting dates is [here](#).

In 2013, Kentucky's Division of Behavioral Health and the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Department of Public Health sought to identify challenges to early identification, diagnosis and intervention for children from birth to age 8 with an autism spectrum disorder.

Partnering with the Center for Systems Change, 14 regional forums were hosted to gather feedback from the community. At those forums, each region formed the beginnings of a task force, who then completed the regional assessment and planning tool. Those assessments have been gathered, summarized and are ready to report to Kentucky's leadership. We would like to share those results with you.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, and to hear about the findings for Kentucky as a whole as well as the region specific data. We will also be sharing the recommendations that Center for Systems Change made to help the state support regional efforts to meet the challenge of autism.

The Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs is proud to support the DBHDID and to serve as part of the Kentucky Advisory Committee on Autism Spectrum Disorder.