



217 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
781-891-6270, ext. 102

[www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org)    [office@afamaction.org](mailto:office@afamaction.org)  
Electronic Newsletter

June 2010

**Message from the Chairman:**

Where do I begin? We've had a very busy period since our last newsletter. In January AFAM's Adult Services Committee released its paper, "Awash in Autism," on the state of adult services in Massachusetts. Thanks go to Chris Hubbard and her committee for their hard work! Amy Weinstock and the Insurance Committee are working diligently to push our insurance initiative, ARICA, through the legislative process. We are hopeful the bill will pass in this legislative session! AFAM's Autism Awareness Day program at the Massachusetts State House in April was an important event in informing and educating legislators and their staff on our priorities and initiatives. I want to thank Lisa Marie Kearney and Ann Guay, co-chairs of our Government Affairs Committee and their committee members for their hard work in making the day's program a success. We are very fortunate to have the involvement of these volunteers who have made AFAM's initial work so successful—but frankly we need more help as our work has just begun. Please call our office (781-891-6270, ext. 102) and ask about volunteer opportunities.

Now the bad news! Make no mistake; the proposed budget cuts by the Governor, House and Senate for fiscal 2010 – 2011 will have a profoundly adverse affect on every individual impacted by an Autism Spectrum Disorder, both children and adults. Please understand how dire this situation is and how important your involvement is in making sure the autism community is protected! The State Senate has now passed a budget that would make severe cuts in much-needed services. That budget now goes to conference, to iron out differences with the House-approved budget. This is a crucial time for all of us to act, as it is our last chance to influence the final version. I'm asking you to please check our website ([www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org)), as well as The Arc of Massachusetts's website ([www.arcmass.org](http://www.arcmass.org)) for alerts and updates. Your calls to the Governor and Legislature have real impact on the process and are

critically important! Please participate -- we need you to make calls when asked and help influence the outcome of this budget debate.

Michael J. Borr, Chairman  
AFAM Executive Committee

### **Government Affairs Committee**

Thanks to everyone who helped make **Autism Spectrum Awareness Day** at the State House on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> such a success! It was wonderful to see so many families make the trip into Boston to come learn about our legislative priorities and go and meet with elected officials to press for more services for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The remarks by Chris and Kate Supple reminded us all how important passage of ARICA is for families of children with ASD. Special thanks to Paula Ebben from WBZ Channel 4 for agreeing to serve as our Emcee. Congratulations to our Legislators of the Year, Representative Marty Walz and Senator Fred Berry. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work and dedication.

On May 3, 2010, Governor Deval Patrick signed into law the Anti Bullying Bill. Included in the law is an amendment to the Autism IEP Act which requires that IEP Teams must address bullying of children with ASD as part of the IEP process. This measure will help to prevent children with ASD from being bullied at school. This was one of AFAM's legislative priorities. Many thanks to all of the parents and professionals who contacted their elected officials and helped push for its passage.

The budget process for Fiscal Year 2011 is ongoing. It is a very difficult year for the disability community, given the current state of the economy. We are pleased that there was level funding for the line item for the Division of Autism including the Children's Autism Medicaid Waiver Program. The House budget appropriated \$6.5 million for the DESE/DDS program which provides funding for children with severe disabilities requiring intensive supports to continue to live at home. The Senate budget appropriation was much less at \$2.4 million. Fortunately, a Senate budget amendment sponsored by Senator Walsh was passed and raised the Senate appropriation to \$4 million. Due to the different appropriations, the matter will now be decided in Conference Committee. Other budget priorities did not fare so well, including Day and Employment Services, the Turning 22 Program and Family Support. AFAM will continue to keep you updated on budget developments as work begins in the Conference Committee. It is still possible to make improvements to the line items. Please take a moment to read all of the AFAM Alerts and make calls to elected officials when asked to do so.

Ann Guay, Co-Chair  
Government Affairs Committee

## **Insurance Committee**

H 3809, An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism (ARICA) is still in the Financial Services Committee. In Mid-March, the committee issued an extension for its ruling, as the Mandated Benefits Review by the Department of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP), was still pending.

DHCFP issued its report which is generally favorable, noting substantial evidence of treatment efficacy, potential cost savings to the Commonwealth, and relatively modest impacts on insurance premiums. The full report can be accessed here:

[http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dhcfp/r/pubs/10/mb\\_autism.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eeohhs2/docs/dhcfp/r/pubs/10/mb_autism.pdf)

On a national level, twenty states have passed similar legislation and it is expected that several more bills will pass before the end of the current legislative sessions. We are hoping that Massachusetts will be one of these states. Many thanks to everyone who came to the State House on Autism Awareness Day and visited with their legislators. It's this advocacy that keeps the awareness of the critical need for insurance to cover medically necessary treatment for autism in the minds (and hopefully hearts) of legislators. I also want to thank the hardworking members of the insurance committee for all their tireless work on so many fronts. And a special thank you to Chris and Kate Supple who spoke so eloquently on Autism Awareness Day about their personal experiences, the critical need, and the "myths" surrounding ARICA.

One particularly poignant observation of the Supples' was that, based on current prevalence rates, 700 children born in Massachusetts this year will be diagnosed with autism – yes SEVEN HUNDRED!!! The average lifetime cost of supporting an individual with autism, published in a Harvard journal, and cited in the DHCFP report, is \$3.2MM. The math is simple, but the number is staggering! It's the reason 20 states have passed legislation, and the reason Massachusetts can't afford NOT to pass ARICA this session.

Please stay posted for updates and alerts. We are anticipating a final push prior to the end of the legislative session and will need everyone's voices heard!

Amy Weinstock, Chair  
Insurance Policy Committee

## **AFAM supporters "jazz it up" at fundraiser**

On Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Executive Committee Members and supporters of AFAM enjoyed a great performance at Showcase Live in Foxboro, MA with The Jazz Masters starring Karrin Allyson and Jay Geils. AFAM sold tickets to the show and held a silent auction that included Red Sox tickets, an Au Bon Pain basket, a foursome at Pinehills Golf Course and several other great items.

Proceeds from the event totaled close to \$2,000 and will help support AFAM's mission. AFAM would like to thank the following for their donation to the auction: Showcase Live, Au Bon Pain, Pinehills Golf Course, The Main Course, The Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation, Christine Delany and Alan Saks of Dorchester Tire Service.

Thanks to AFAM's Development Committee for planning this great event: Marcy Wenning (Chair), Michael Borr, Lisa Borges, Sue Linehan, Laura Osborne and Christine Delany.

### **Save the Date for another great AFAM event!**

For your summer pleasure, on **Sunday, August 8** AFAM has planned a fabulous club date at the **C-Note at Nantasket Beach (Hull)**, from 2 to 9 p.m., with a terrific group of bands. Thanks to the generosity of the bands and club owner, Charlie Fruzzetti, this event will raise funds to support AFAM's ongoing advocacy. Back by popular request is HRT, the band that performed at the AFAM fundraiser at the Hard Rock Café in 2008, plus three other top bands: JPlace, State of Mind and Brassteroids. Tickets (\$20 per person) will be available in a few weeks – watch your email and the AFAM website ([www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org)) for details.

**Photos wanted for the AFAM Website.** Do you have photos of your child or adult family member with ASD that you'd be willing to share with those who visit AFAM's website? If so, please send them (in jpeg format) to our webmaster at [Jeanne@jeannewilliamson.com](mailto:Jeanne@jeannewilliamson.com) Please put "for AFAM website" in the subject line.

**How Can You Help?** People often ask us how they can support AFAM's work. The most important way, of course, is to let your legislators on Beacon Hill know about the needs of families who face the challenge of caring for the needs of children and adults with ASD. Inform them about AFAM's legislative and budget priorities. Most important, contact them by phone, mail or email when you receive AFAM's legislative alerts.

Another way is by providing financial support for AFAM's work. Since we no longer collect annual dues, all donations to AFAM are voluntary. You may even want to consider making a contribution in honor of someone (on their birthday or anniversary or in celebration of a milestone in someone's life) or by memorializing someone who has passed away. Whatever you choose to do, be assured that your donation will be gratefully received and will be put to good use.

We also need occasional volunteer assistance with mailings, events and translation from English to other languages (especially Spanish and Haitian Creole). If you would like to help, please contact Judy at 781-891-6270, ext. 102.

## News and Announcements

**The Flutie Foundation** is partnering with AccesSportAmerica to bring summer fun in its 2010 Water Sports Program. Sessions will be held at the Mass. Hospital School in Canton and, back by popular demand, a couple of Saturday sessions will be offered at Spaulding Rehab in Boston. Visit their website ([www.flutiefoundation.org](http://www.flutiefoundation.org)) for more information and to download the registration form. Registration will be done on a first come, first served basis and will fill up very quickly!

**Community Resources for People with Autism** will be the beneficiary of a **TRI-POKER RUN** on Saturday, June 5 presented by the Knights of Columbus Indian Orchard. This fun-filled, exciting event is for motorcycles, cars and trucks. Registration is from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.; the ride begins at 11:00 a.m. There will be live music by "Visions & Bexhell," a raffle and a pig roast. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple (Dinner only is \$10). For information and tickets, contact the Knights of Columbus at 413-543-3472.

The **Autism Support Center** will hold its **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoor Family Adventure** on Saturday, June 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Paul Center (39 Concord Road, Chelmsford). This fun event for the whole family includes camp-style activities such as swimming, balloon and bubble artists,, refreshments and live music provided by the Squeezebox Stompers. Note that you must RSVP by calling or e-mailing the Center(phone 978-777-9135; email [asc@ne-arc.org](mailto:asc@ne-arc.org)) to request a registration form and directions to the Paul Center. This event is made possible by generous funding from DDS's Autism Division. Lunch (hot dogs, burgers, salads, corn, chicken fingers and watermelon) provided by New Moon Catering. Rain Date is Sunday, June 13.

**The Lurie Family Autism LADDERS Lecture Series** will present a **Legal Panel on Guardianship Process** on Wednesday, June 16 in the Paul D. Merritt Center at the Charles River Center (59 E. Militia Heights Rd., Needham) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Attorneys Denise Harvey and Barbara D. Jackins. You must pre-register by contacting Julie O'Brien (phone 781-860-1726; email: [jobrien20@partners.org](mailto:jobrien20@partners.org)). For directions, visit [www.crarc.org](http://www.crarc.org)

**The 11th Annual Doug Flutie, Jr. Celebrity Golf Classic** will take place on June 21 and 22. The fun begins on the evening of June 21st with a pre-tournament party at the Hard Rock Cafe in Boston. Come see Doug Flutie and the Flutie Brother's Band rock the house with your classic rock favorites! Tickets for this event are \$75 each and include food stations, appetizers and select beverages. On the 22nd, the party moves to Pinehills Golf Club for the golf tournament. Foursomes for the golf tournament start at \$4,000 and include golf for four people with a celebrity team member, gift bags, tickets to the pre-tournament party, company name listed in the event's program book, lunch the day of the golf, cocktails & buffet dinner. For more information about

sponsorship, tickets sales, etc, please contact Kerri Blume at [kerri@flutiefoundation.org](mailto:kerri@flutiefoundation.org)

**The Asperger Association of New England** will hold its **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cape Code Summer Conference** on Thursday, July 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at The Cape Codder Resort and Spa. Theresa Bolick, Ph.D. will speak on “Supporting and Enhancing Socially Competent Behavior in Childer and Adolescents with Asperger Syndrome,” and Nick Dubin, Psy.D. will present on “Bullying and Asperger’s Syndrome.” Breakfast and lunch are included. For more information, contact AANE at 617-393-3824 or visit their website: [www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org)

Support the **Family Autism Center** while enjoying a great meal by having dinner at the Chateau Restaurant (Route 1, Norwood) on Thursday, July 29. The restaurant will donate 20% of your dinner bill to the South Norfolk County Arc’s social and recreation department, Family Support, and the Family Autism Center. To obtain your donation coupon, contact Nancy Lynch at 781-762-4001, ext. 308.

**Community Resources for People with Autism** will hold its first **Hole in One for Autism (4 Man Best Ball Tournament)** on Friday, August 6 at the Tekoa Country Club (459 Russell Road, Westfield). Registration begins and 11:30 a.m.; tee-off is at 1:00 p.m. Contests include Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, and Hole in One. Entry fee is \$100 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch, dinner, entertainment and silent auction. (Dinner only is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.) Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For details and to pre-register, contact Frank McNeil (phone 508-963-7253; email [fmcneil3@aol.com](mailto:fmcneil3@aol.com)).

**The Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire** will hold its **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Autism Summer Institute** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, NH from August 9-12. This year’s theme is “A New View of Students with ASD: Implications for Inclusive Education.” Registration information will be available in March. For information, contact the Institute (603-862-4320).

**Save the Date!** Beachcomber Fundraiser benefiting the **Family Autism Center’s** participation in the Rodman Ride for Kids: August 21. The money raised from this event will allow the Family Autism Center to continue to provide our families with an array of services including, family fund days, support groups, information and referral, and social and recreational programs. This is a 21 and older event with raffles, music, dancing and a cash bar. The Beachcomber is located at 797 Quincy Shore Drive in Quincy, MA.

**Support the Family Autism Center through the Rodman Ride for Kids!** The Rodman Ride for Kids -- an all-day cycling event with over 1,200 riders cycling a 24, 50 or 100-mile route through Southeastern Massachusetts -- will be held this year on Saturday, September 25, departing from ride headquarters on Route

One in Foxboro, about a mile from Gillette Stadium. Last year the event raised over \$7.2 million for 25 Massachusetts child-welfare agencies. This year the Family Autism Center has set a goal of raising \$50,000 through sponsorships. You can help by joining a Family Autism Center team or by making a donation. For more information on becoming a part of this event, contact Michele Kehling 781-762-4001, ext. 395.

**Save the Date – Community Autism Resources will hold its Hearts & Hands Walk for Autism and Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 25 from 9:30 to 1:30 p.m.** As always, it will be held at Bristol Community College in Fall River. The Hearts & Hands Walk for Autism and Family Fun Day is the MAIN fund raising event of the year for Community Autism Resources. It is an absolutely fantastic day full of fun and games for all ages, an amazing Autism Awareness Store, giant raffle, team and family photos, free sno-cones, popcorn, pizza and other snacks and of course the 2 mile Autism Awareness Walk. We will also pay tribute to our 2010 Volunteer of the year and our Sponsor of the Year. ALL OF THE MONEY RAISED helps Community Autism Resources continue to provide FREE services throughout our region!

This year we are especially encouraging school teams to get involved in the walk as this is a great way for them to work on adding wonderful Autism Spectrum books and DVDs to their schools' library. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 school teams who raise the most money, and EVERY SINGLE SCHOOL TEAM that registers and walks will receive a free book or DVD. We will also be listing every school's Firstgiving page on the Community Autism Resources website as a way to encourage people to support their community's schools or their alma mater. As always we also look forward to having lots individuals and family teams join us too! To register your school team or family for the walk, go to [www.community-autism-resources.org](http://www.community-autism-resources.org)

Walk Teams can set up their own fundraising pages. Just go to [www.firstgiving.com/communityautismresources](http://www.firstgiving.com/communityautismresources) and click on GET STARTED.. You can add photos including a Flickr photo album, your child or family's story, and even your own videos! To promote your page you can use Facebook, twitter or e-mail.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Bank Flutie 5k Race will be held on Sunday, October 3, 2010 at the MetroWest Medical Center , Natick, MA. Watch for details or contact the **Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism** (phone 1-866-3-AUTISM; email [info@flutiefoundation.org](mailto:info@flutiefoundation.org))

## **For additional announcements, please visit the websites of our Founding Organizations**

Autism Support Center  
6 Southside Road  
Danvers, MA 01923  
978-777-9135  
[asc@ne-arc.org](mailto:asc@ne-arc.org)

[www.ne-arc.org/autism](http://www.ne-arc.org/autism)

Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts  
71 Sterling Street  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
508-835-4278  
[Sloring@HMEA.org](mailto:Sloring@HMEA.org)

[www.arccm.org](http://www.arccm.org)

Community Autism Resources, Inc.  
33 James Reynolds Road, Unit C  
Swansea, MA 02777  
508-379-0371 or 1-800-588-9239  
[car@community-autism-resources.com](http://car@community-autism-resources.com)

[www.community-autism-resources.org](http://www.community-autism-resources.org)

Autism Society of America, Massachusetts Chapter  
47 Walnut Street  
Wellesley, MA 02481  
781-237-0272  
[asamasschapter@hotmail.com](mailto:asamasschapter@hotmail.com)

[www.geocities.com/asamasschapter](http://www.geocities.com/asamasschapter)

Community Resources for People with Autism  
116 Pleasant Street  
Easthampton, MA 01027  
413-529-2428  
[info@communityresourcesforautism.org](mailto:info@communityresourcesforautism.org)

[www.communityresourcesforautism.org](http://www.communityresourcesforautism.org)

Asperger's Association of New England  
85 Main Street, Suite 101  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-393-3824  
[info@aane.org](mailto:info@aane.org)

[www.aane.org](http://www.aane.org)

Family Autism Center  
789 Clapboardtree Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
[eroche@sncarc.org](mailto:eroche@sncarc.org)  
781-762-4001

[www.sncarc.org/FAC.htm](http://www.sncarc.org/FAC.htm)

TILL/BFA Autism Services  
20 Eastbrook Road, Suite 201  
Dedham, MA 02026  
781-302-4600  
[elizabeth.waters@tillinc.org](mailto:elizabeth.waters@tillinc.org)

[www.tillinc.autismservicesprovided.htm](http://www.tillinc.autismservicesprovided.htm)

Autism Alliance of MetroWest  
P. O. Box 2118  
Natick, MA 01760  
508-652-9900  
[Autismalliance@earthlink.net](mailto:Autismalliance@earthlink.net)

[www.autismalliance.org](http://www.autismalliance.org)

Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation  
615 Concord Street  
Framingham, MA 01702  
1-866-3-AUTISM  
[info@flutiefoundation.org](mailto:info@flutiefoundation.org)

[www.dougflutiejrfoundation.org](http://www.dougflutiejrfoundation.org)

The Arc of Massachusetts  
217 South Street  
Waltham, MA 02453  
781-891-6270, ext. 102  
[arcmass@arcmass.org](mailto:arcmass@arcmass.org)

[www.arcmass.org](http://www.arcmass.org)

Massachusetts Advocates for Children  
25 Kingston Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
617-357-8431  
[Jlandau@massadvocates.org](mailto:Jlandau@massadvocates.org)

[www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org)

Autism Speaks, Inc. - New England Chapter  
990 Washington Street, Suite 102 South  
Dedham, MA 02026  
781-461-8800 Toll-free 888-627-6227  
[Newengland@autismspeaks.org](mailto:Newengland@autismspeaks.org)

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

**Visit our website: [www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org)**