

**Washington State Autism Diagnostic Teams  
Survey of Service Models**

*Sponsored by the Washington State Combating Autism Advisory Council*

**Background**

**Name of Center/Clinic:** University of Washington Autism Center

**Location:** UW Seattle Campus and Cherry Parkes Building in Tacoma

**Director:** Wendy Stone

**Intake Contact:** Ali Giunta or Kara Haney

**Phone:** 206-221-6806 (Seattle) or 1-877-408-8922

**Email:** uwautism@u.washington.edu

**Website:** <http://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/>

**Clinic brochure:** <http://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/pdf/2005ACBrochure.pdf>

**Liaison for your clinic for survey:** Wendy Stone

**Email:** stonew@uw.edu

**Phone:**

**Survey updated:** March 2011

**Schedule & Capacity**

**What days and times does your clinic meet?** We operate Monday – Friday 9:00 – 5:00

**How many diagnostic evaluation slots do you have per clinic day?** It varies, but between 2 - 10

**What is the age range of clients you accept for diagnostic evaluations?**

The Autism Center provides services for infants, children, adolescents, and adults who are thought to have an autism spectrum disorder. In addition to psychological evaluations, the assessments address medical conditions related to autism and provide recommendations for treatment, intervention, and educational planning. Follow-up consultation to assist with the implementation of IEP goals and teaching strategies is also available.

**What is the typical age of clients you evaluate?** 2-18 years of age (although we see individuals from infancy to adulthood)

**What geographic region do you serve (where do your families come from)?**

- Most kids from King County, with some from Pierce (Tacoma satellite office), and some from Snohomish. We do get referrals from more rural parts of the state, as well as other states in the region (Oregon, Alaska)

**Do you have a waiting list?** Yes

**If yes, how long is the wait for families to obtain an appointment?**

- About 6 months for diagnosis, though may take up to 9 months. 3 months maximum wait to get in for other services (e.g. Speech/language, OT. etc).
- The Center will refer families to 0-3, individual schools/school districts and other community services while they wait if appropriate.

**Do they already have a diagnosis? If so, from whom?**

- Some are new to the UW Autism Center, others in for reevaluation after a number of years. At some times, we do 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion reevaluations, and those referrals come from many other clinical service providers in the area
- We see children with an educational diagnosis of autism and not a formal diagnosis of autism – but that is rare. More likely that child is going through a transition and families want an updated evaluation with recommendations

**Can a family get on a waiting list if they are currently applying for Medicaid, or do they have to wait until they have received Medicaid?** They can get on the waitlist if they are applying for Medicaid.

**Personnel**

**List the disciplines represented on your diagnostic team:**

- Educators
- Psychologists
- Psychiatrist
- Behavior analysts
- Speech-language pathologists
- Occupational therapist
- Developmental behavioral pediatrician

**How long has your diagnostic team been in effect?** Since beginning of the UW Autism Center

**Are you able to offer bilingual administration of evaluation tools?**

- **Do you use an interpreter?** Yes
- **Do you have bilingual professional conducting assessments?** No

**Clinic Protocol**

**Intake**

**Briefly describe your intake process.**

Families or PCPs can contact the parent resource coordinator or the intake coordinator. During the interview, we gather necessary background and demographic information and attempt to schedule the family within the same day of the call. Intake paperwork is sent to the family and they can send it in or bring it to their first appointment.

**Do you conduct a screening prior to child's appointment in the clinic?** No

**Do you require a primary care provider referral to the clinic?** No

**Who typically makes referrals to your center?**

- Primary health care providers- except for rare exceptions, require that referral comes from PCP (not parent referrals)
- Public health nurse, CHN coordinator, FRC
- School personnel
- Family: Typically self-refer. Autism Center has a central intake number with a live person. We get an average of 7000 calls a year (not all calling to get appointments- some may be from other states asking for referrals or moving to Seattle and wanting info)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you prefer to receive records from families and providers?**

**(Check as many as apply)**

- Families bring the reports to the initial meeting.
- Families collect and send reports to clinic in advance
- School/ medical personnel fax reports to clinic in advance.

**Is there other information or tests that are helpful to have before the clinic appointment?**

Previous evaluations, school evaluation and IEP (or IFSP), relevant medical records

**Diagnostic Evaluation**

**What assessment tools do you use in your clinic?**

Tool	Discipline Administering
ADOS	Psychologist
Vineland	Psychologist
IQ measures	Psychologist
B & O	OT
Short Sensory Profile	OT/Psychologist
CELF	SLP
PLS	SLP
CSBS	SLP

- In addition to multi-disciplinary evaluation, will also do discipline specific evaluations. If a family already has pieces of the evaluation done, we won't redo those pieces.
- You can get an autism diagnosis at the UW Autism Center or from another agency.
- In addition to diagnosis, also offer a host of intervention services including: ABA, OT, SLP. If child is older, might also see a psychologist for anxiety issues, emotional issues, social interventions etc. Hower Kwon will also see for ongoing medication management.
- Also do parent training- for example 6-12 sessions with parents and child to deal with particular issues. Could be learning how to facilitate play, language, potty training
- Try to have families be able to get all the services they want.

**How long does the multidisciplinary assessment process take?**

- (Diagnosis/Assessment usually happens over more than one day. It gives them more than one chance to see the child.) 5-6 sessions over multiple days

**Does your diagnosis process include a medical evaluation?**

- Yes. In addition to psychological diagnoses, the assessments address medical conditions related to autism. Have medical consultation (Dr. Sam Zinner, and child neurologist, Dr. Kyle Steinman)

**How do you share evaluation results with the family?**

- Feedback with psychologist for diagnostic impressions. Also meet with developmental pediatrician for feedback on medical issues
- Other written materials for families: Don't have a standard set to give out, and varies by clinician. Typical handouts include definition of autism or particular type of intervention. Would like to have a packet to give out, but would need to be by age.

**How do you share evaluation results with the primary health care provider?**

- Reports are sent to PCP

**How do you share evaluation results with the child's early intervention or program?**

Reports are sent to the child's early intervention program case manager.

**Follow-up**

**If a diagnosis of ASD is confirmed, what referrals and resources do you give to families?**

Several local, regional, and statewide resources based on individual needs. Typically, we provide general resources and then specific resources based on recommendations.

**If a diagnosis of ASD is not confirmed, but there are developmental delays of a different etiology, what referrals or resources do you offer the family?**

We would attempt to identify the nature and etiology of the developmental delays. Birth to Three, school district services, medical services, and intervention services as appropriate

**Do you follow-up again with families after the diagnostic process?**

Yes- Families are welcome to return at any point for a reevaluation if concerns arise or refinement of treatment recommendations is needed.

**If yes:**

Type of follow-up

Who does this  
psychology

How long after the clinic visit  
usually 1-2 years

**Outcomes**

**Approximately what percentage of the clients referred to rule-in/rule-out autism receives an ASD diagnosis?**

About 60%

**If ASD is ruled out, what other diagnoses are given?**

Developmental Delay/Intellectual Disability, Social Anxiety, ADHD, Learning Disability, Other Anxiety Disorder, Tic Disorders

## Funding

**How is your clinic funded?** Endowment, state funds, revenue

**Which disciplines on your team bill for the diagnostic visit?** Psychology, developmental peds

**How are the evaluations paid for:**

- Private insurance
- Medicaid (if no, skip the next 2 Medicaid questions)
- Families pay some of fees out of pocket (whatever copays their insurance requires but no separate system for families coming to Autism clinic)
- Families pay all of fees out of pocket
- Other:

**If a family doesn't have insurance, do you offer a sliding fee?**

We offer reduced rates for services for families that qualify using our Family Support Fund (FSF).

**What general sources help financially subsidize your clinic?**

- Fund Raisers/Guild
- Institutional support
- Government contracts
- Medicaid reimbursement
- Private insurance
- Private grants
- Other: (endowment)

## Challenges

**At this time, what are the key challenges your multidisciplinary diagnostic team faces?**

Funding