

Southern States

Google Alerts for April 2021, News for Autism Month.

Researched by Ronda Fletcher Marchant Smart

Sorry, Google didn't send me anything from some news stations, and not everything from the news station that they did send. I just did the Google Alerts that were sent for the month of April 2021.

Montgomery, AL

Anna McConnel, the state coordinator says, it's important to understand this.

As Anna is saying it is important to understand this. The national expert responsible for this understanding, NIHM (the National Institute of Mental Health), says we don't have the understanding yet. Anna is quite right in saying it is important to have the understanding. They are working to get this at this time. **Davis, Bethany.** (2021, April 9). *Autism Awareness month promotes acceptance.* WSFA12 News. <https://www.wsfa.com/2021/04/09/autism-awareness-month-promotes-acceptance/>

Birmingham, AL (nearby)

Police patch fundraiser for this.

Many states are funding resource centers set up to provide something for the public. What are they providing? They will be ready to provide the understanding of this once the NIMH has come to understand it, to immediately release it to the public.

There's still the problem of lacking that understanding and going on this old DSM category material which is not correct. They said to go ahead and use it but with the statement that a generation would be harmed using the bad information until they can get a correct understanding in place. That was a 2013 statement at the time the DSM and DSM category of Autism was thrown out, not being able to replicate in clinical trials the symptoms and category. The DSM is using or thinking the idea of dimensions, degrees of a dimension of something where any two persons are not alike.

People are not grouped accurately in the old category of "autism", the symptoms grouping are not correct, the symptoms being given out. Pressure was put on the government for something, so they said to go ahead and use it, but it was wrong. Providing these symptoms and a diagnosis from the symptoms is inaccurate. They are choosing not to go with this diagnosis system model. So, I would not rush into having my child tested with the bad system. **Howell, Nathan.** (2021, April 29). *HPD donates proceeds of Autism Awareness patches to United Ability.* Shelby county Reporter. <https://www.shelbycountyreporter.com/2021/04/29/hpd-donates-proceeds-of-autism-awareness-patches-to-united-ability/>

Atlanta, Georgia

They have vandalism because people think they are associated with Autism Speaks, maybe. It's not known. Someone is not happy with the movement. A jeep was vandalized in Texas, the same time. **Chupack, Matthew.** (2021, April 29). *Autism Awareness Display Vandalized on Emory Quad.* The Emory Wheel. <https://emorywheel.com/autism-awareness-display-vandalized-on-emory-quad/>

Chris was placed in the category. He has an Olympic medal for rowing. He has different traits that worked with the rowing group. (2021, April 28). *Olympian Chris Morgan marks World Autism Awareness Month with a Unique Olympics Unleashed Visit.* Around the Rings. http://aroundtherings.com/site/A__103285/Title__Olympian-Chris-Morgan-marks-World-Autism-Awareness-Month-with-a-Unique-Olympics-Unleashed-Visit/292/Articles

New York City, NY

This study was in JAMA Pediatrics April 19, 2021. **Haelle, Tara.** (2021, April 20). *Study Finds No Link Between Epidural and Autism* WEBMD. <https://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/news/20210420/study-finds-no-link-between-epidural-and-autism>

Acadiana, Louisiana

Jayven Encarnacion with ABA, was promoting Touchstone ABA. **Briggs, Akemi** (2021, April 13). *Autism Awareness month: Parenting Tips Surrounding Autism.* News 15 Fox 15 NBC. <https://www.kadn.com/content/news/Autism-Awareness-Month-Parenting-Tips-Surrounding-Autism-574194351.html>

New Orleans, Louisiana

The Nursing Practitioner program is supporting the month. Communication Senior, Maroon Gracie Wise, said this “isn’t a disease, and it needs to stop being treated as such.” She is quite on target, I believe. She explains about her skill in grammar and writing that make her different.

This is 100% correct, it is not a disease. They are choosing rather to look at a norm population instead of diagnosing people and that everyone has a degree of the dimension or that they are looking at the degree everyone has of the dimension. **Champagne, Baley.** (2021, April 25). *Faculty call on*

Loyola to promote autism awareness. The Maroon, Loyola **University New Orleans**. <https://loyolamaroon.com/10031870/news/faculty-call-on-loyola-to-promote-autism-awareness/>

Lafayette, Louisiana

There was a bicycle ride to honor the month. Riders wore bright colors and glow necklaces to light up the city sponsored by the Opelousas Police Chief and the daughter of Judge Thierry. (2021, April 24). *Opelousas rides for Autism Awareness*. KATC 3 ABC News, Acadiana's NewsChannel. <https://www.katc.com/news/st-landry-parish/opelousas-rides-for-autism-awareness>

St. Louis, MO

The goal of this month is to ignite change, the article said.

They put Caleb into therapy at 18 months. He was seeing speech and occupational therapists. They got a diagnosis which gave them funding to pay for the therapy. He had daily meltdowns, they said. They have been disappointed with his achievements. This is the scenario of the problem. There are people with higher levels of social skill and communication. It's surprising he is capable is the response from the not lower skilled mother, because he is so incapable at social skills. He is now a senior at the high school. When the parent says they have a different bond and are special, they deserve to be loved and cherished. This is such an exact duplicate of the scenario of the problem. I'm glad they included his picture. I think the article was very well written. It shows the problem. **Haas, Sarah**. (2021, April 27). *Autism month holds meaning for local family*. Daily Journal Online. https://dailyjournalonline.com/news/local/autism-month-holds-meaning-for-local-family/article_69bcf635-9aba-545f-9138-897c9c25850e.html

Batman was bowling Saturday, a fundraiser for this. His son was placed in the category. **Mohundro, Mike**. (2021, April 10). *Heroes For Kids bowl for autism awareness*. KFVS12. <https://www.kfvs12.com/2021/04/11/heroes-kids-bowl-autism-awareness/>

Branson, Missouri

Victoria France has organized a fundraiser walk. She has a son placed in this. **Bryan, Madison**. (2021, April 30). *Walk-A-Thon for Autism Awareness coming to the Branson RecPlex*. Branson Tri Lakes News. https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_c2cc330a-a9d3-11eb-9c28-5b0e2747f7a9.html

Des Moines, Iowa

It looks like they needed to get an exemption before the flight. They got on the one flight but were refused the connecting flight. (2021, May 4). *Family claims flight home denied after son with autism couldn't wear mask*. WBTW3 On Your Side. <https://www.wbtv.com/2021/05/04/family-claims-flight-home-denied-after-son-with-autism-couldnt-wear-mask/>

Hancock County, Mississippi

Students created a poster and received awards. Special Ed teachers talk about students accepting others. **Reid, Sabria**. (2021, April 26) *Inaugural Biloxi Public School Autism Awareness Month poster contest*. Fox the CW WXXV25 Gulfport. <https://www.wxxv25.com/2021/04/26/inaugural-biloxi-public-school-autism-awareness-month-poster-contest/>

The Junior Auxiliary is supporting this. Alyece Smith, organizer of Spectrum Social, says, “we are learning more and more about it, we don't know enough about it”, which is accurate.

I think she is right on target. Usually when saying you are promoting awareness; it is because you know something. The truth, the exact truth, is that they don't know, or understand this “dimension” as the NIMH is calling it, rather than the category or “autism” labeling. We are aware there is a problem. There is a problem with some children being bizarre in their behaving. Why? We don't know. Is it from an epidural? No. Is it from vaccination? No. Jordan, Janae. (2021, April 26). *Spectrum Social in honor of Autism Awareness Month*. Fox the CW WXXV25 Gulfport. <https://www.wxxv25.com/2021/04/26/spectrum-social-honor-autism-awareness-month/>

Jackson, Mississippi

Every child is different, and every child develops at his or her own pace, Canopy Children's Solution says. This is correct. NIMH is saying this is more of a dimension, degrees, and in norm population, not the clinical diagnosis model. **Poe, Carmen**. (2021, April 30). *Miss. non-profit raises awareness about Autism, coping during the pandemic*. WLOX. <https://www.wlox.com/2021/04/30/miss-non-profit-raises-awareness-about-autism-coping-during-pandemic/>

Boston

People are not accepted into society who do not have the same social skills. This month is to support people who do not have the same social skills. Isabel talked about her brother, the out-of-pocket expenses, the schools, therapists that made things worse. They did ABA on him in their basement.

She says there is a unique dimension with some people, and a “debilitating” condition possible. I believe this is accurate. A gift and possible crisis. This is well written.

Why are some people talented with degrees of the dimension and others behaving in bizarre ways with degrees of the dimension?

Alexander, Isabel. (2021, April 9). *Autism: awareness, acceptance, and the places in between*. STAT. <https://www.statnews.com/2021/04/09/autism-awareness-acceptance-and-the-places-in-between/>

Charlotte, NC

Molly talks about Colby Price. He is 5. At 18 months he was placed in the category. His mom saw another friend with a son and watched for the signs she was told would happen. He has two older sisters. She took him into a center to have him tested at 15 months. She knew he was going to have it as her friend’s son did. She began his sessions with a therapist in her home. He has been through continual therapists. He was not intellectually less than others but had lower social skill behaviors. He has seen a speech and occupational therapist, ABA therapy, a therapist in another city, a speech therapist, and an early childhood teacher at the elementary.

My best friend was from Charlotte. We had different abilities. I learned to sew in the 4th grade. I made all my clothes. My friend and I made a dress together in the 7th grade. We made matching pink dresses. We had a sewing class together. She was my best friend. We were both very smart. We had different abilities, however. We had different dimensions of talents. Although I had been sewing continually since the 4th grade, in the 7th grade my friend got A’s on her sewing class tasks and had never made anything. I was a designer. She was more obsessive compulsive. Every seam was perfectly straight. We had different dimensions of a trait which is how the National Institute of Mental Health is talking about this idea of what is being called autism. In looking at all the research they are not seeing this as a valid category or disability, they are choosing it to be more of a degree of a dimension and in norm populations, rather than a sickness clinical diagnosis model.

My friend, Denise, had a different personality makeup. The dimensions or degrees of the dimension were different than mine. I believe we have the same dimensions, just different degrees. Although I had more experience with sewing and got a job in a fabric shop advising women on their projects, she was much more exact in her straight seams and so got A’s on all her sewing tasks.

My ex made the most perfect cabinet drops the building inspector had ever seen. Were they necessary? No. It took months for him to perfect them. It’s nice to have perfectly straight seams, in fact we demand it, but people have different degrees of a dimension like in sewing and perfect cabinet

drops. What we are calling autism is the same. It's to do with the NIMH says, a dimension, a normal population dimension. Why are some children bizarre? We're looking at that. **Grantham, Molly**. (2021, April 13). #MollysKids. *Autism Acceptance Month: Colby Price*. 3 WBTV On Your Side. <https://www.wbtv.com/2021/04/14/mollyskids-autism-acceptance-month-colby-price/>

Wilmington, NC

Autism, what is being called autism, may not be a disability; it is considered as a dimension of degree. What is being called autism may not be a disability, in fact, they are not looking in that way at it.

People have lower social skills. Grelynn Bradley talks about people in this being very capable, she has a son placed in this category. She talks about using the resources for people in this. I think this article is well done.

Boyd, Rachel. (2021, April 8). *Building a Successful Life with Autism*. Spectrum News 1. <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2021/04/08/building-a-successful-life-with-autism>

North Carolina

They are not sure about Autism or the spectrum, as yet.

The CDC is saying 1 in 39 have this dimension to their person in North Carolina. **The Governor** signed an order to support people with this. He is supporting careers and employment supporting people into early careers and employers to develop programs to support them, placing individuals in internships. 90-percent of those interns are not full-time employees.

Some people with this are behaving in ways that are less competent socially and are not being employed. The governor is supporting employing those people rather than having a group of people not employed, needing the state to provide for them. Are they disabled who have lower social skills? (2021, April 6). *STATE: Cooper proclaims April World Autism Month, encourages more employment opportunities for people with autism*. The Stanly News & Press. <https://www.thesnponline.com/2021/04/06/state-cooper-proclaims-april-world-autism-month-encourages-more-employment-opportunities-for-people-with-autism/>

Anderson, SC

Gerald, a student, has art skills, he has lower social skill. His work is on display at the Anderson Art Center. **Wilson, Asia.** (2021, May 1). *Anderson School District Five celebrates talented student for Autism Awareness Month.* 7 NEWS WSPA.com. <https://www.wspa.com/news/top-stories/anderson-school-district-five-celebrates-talented-student-for-autism-awareness-month/>

Columbia, SC

Children with less social skill are not being tested that well because of wearing masks. The testing involves reading facial expressions, says University of South Carolina. **Parnell, Miranda.** (2021, April 13). *Identifying Autism: University of South Carolina expert speaks on how COVID-19 is impacting early diagnosis.* WIS News 10. <https://www.wistv.com/2021/04/13/identifying-autism-uofsc-expert-speaks-how-covid-is-impacting-early-diagnosis/>

Knoxville, TN

During this month, Chuck E. Cheese will do a program for children in this. **Harris, Alivia.** (2021, April 10). *Chuck E. Cheese brings back 'Sensory Sensitive Sundays' for kids with autism, special needs.* CBS8 WVLT Knoxville, TN. <https://www.wvlt.tv/2021/04/10/chuck-e-cheese-brings-back-sensory-sensitive-sundays-for-kids-with-autism-special-needs/>

El Paso, TX

EHN is a treatment center in El Paso, TX. Dr. Alvarado is a new psychologist. Alyssa talks to Dr. Alvarado. **Meisner, Alyssa.** (2021, April 12). *Emergence Health Network Celebrates Autism Awareness Month.* CBS4News. <https://cbs4local.com/news/local/autism-awareness-month-04-12-2021> (2021, April 24).

Tallahassee, FL

The gift shop held a spin art fundraiser for this. The owner is giving a free art class for people with this. **Cho, Micah.** (2021, April 12). *Obsessions Gift Shop holds fundraiser for Autism Awareness Month.* ABC 27 WTXL Tallahassee. <https://www.wtxl.com/news/local-news/obsessions-gift-shop-holds-fundraiser-for-autism-awareness-month>

Orlando, FL

Florida is surrounded by water. Kids need safety skills. Kids are attracted to water. They need to be taught to swim. She suggests alarms on doors. The Winter Park Swim School is donating ten 3-month scholarships for swimming lessons. **Soto, Justin.** (2021, April 21). *Winter Park swim school aims to curb drownings for kids with autism.* Spectrum News 13. <https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/autism/2021/04/21/winter-park-swim-school-aims-to-curb-drownings-for-kids-with-autism>

Miami, FL

There is a fund-raising walk. Rising Tide Car Wash employs people that have been placed in this category, the owner has a son placed. The firefighters are having a bike ride fund raiser. The Miami children's Museum is distributing kits for children with activities in this. Coral Gables Police Department had an SUV designed with messages, the officer driving has a brother in this. These are good activities Nicole talks about. **Lopez-Alvar, Nicole.** (2021, April 8). *How to mark Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in South Florida.* Local 10.com. <https://www.local10.com/news/local/2021/04/08/how-to-celebrate-autism-awareness-and-acceptance-month-in-south-florida/>

Palm Beach, FL

Boynton Beach Arts & Cultural Center had a show supporting Autism Month. (2021. April 7). Arts & Autism. Palm Beach Illustrated. <https://www.palmbeachillustrated.com/event/arts-autism/2021-04-07/>

South Florida

Children may enjoy music, Dawn R. Mitchell White, of the **University of South Florida**, says. She talks about her 3 teenage sons she involved in music from an early age, and who have been placed in high functioning or smart kids who are not as socially skilled. She is a music teacher and works with kids K-12 with learning and other disabilities. She talks about children who have talent and who may also be not as socially skilled. The CBS video about Rex Lewis-Clark, a 13-year-old with repetitive behaviors, who has piano skill, shows this. The Lew-Clark boy was born with blindness issues and water on the brain, physical problems.

She suggests singing to improve language skills.

My son was having trouble talking. He was behind in talking by 1 ½ at age 5. He had 4 adults in the home that responded immediately to his expressions and gestures. I held him back a grade, his birthday was close to the line. Someone from the University came to work with him. She used M&M's. He was not speaking at all. The first day he was saying words. The second day he was saying sentences. He was actually gifted in speaking, he just had not chosen to do that. It was not necessary. He was ahead of other kids, the class leader, confident, funny, capable. The other moms wanted to meet me, the mother of this boy in the class that was so impressive. He had not chosen to speak. I never considered him to be defective, I thought it might be the problem what was found to be the problem.

CBS has another child video of a 4-year old who was not talking but started to sing.

I've found with people considered to be in the category being called autistic, that it's important to give them a "shadow of doubt" in what they do. **White, Dawn R. Mitchell.** (2021, April 9). 3 ways music educators can help students with autism develop their emotions. The Conversation US. <https://theconversation.com/3-ways-music-educators-can-help-students-with-autism-develop-their-emotions-157745>

Oklahoma

Tamara has some ideas for kids with special needs, teens and adults, play activities. Homemade slime, sensory item bottles. She has good ideas for bottles. She says Oklahoma City is having a Walk on Wheels event in November. Autism Speaks is having a fundraising walk on the 23rd. She talks about kindness and working with kids in a children's ministry program, taking steps to be kind to others around you. Very well-done article. **Gregor, Tamara.** (2021, April 22). *Column: Autism Awareness: Showing kindness through interactions.* The Duncan Banner Duncan, Oklahoma. https://www.duncanbanner.com/community/column-autism-awareness-showing-kindness-through-interactions/article_921a4076-a2ee-11eb-ac79-4b6d5dc9dbff.html

NIMH video, I put together

I have a video I put together in what is being said that I got by the past director 2002-2021 (20 years) of NIMH, what is being labeled as autism.

What I'm reading is they are not seeing autism as a disease, a sickness, but a combination of dimensions. No two persons are alike. They want to look at normal functioning and see degrees. He previously stated it is harmful to do the testing, the diagnosing, the system is not right. They need to build a new car. **Thomas Insel (2002 – 2015)** went to Google to look at new technology. **Bruce Cuthbert (2015-2016)** said they should not be using categories like ADHD, autism, but dimensions. We are not animals, he said. He talked about animal studies.

ABA is based on animal studies.

I was newly graduated from studying psychology and sociology and child and family developmental studies. I began to have children. I had one son who did not pick up on the bike, yet. He was distressed trying to learn to ride. My oldest son was the same way. He took the bike out he got for Christmas and brought it back. "This doesn't work", he said, as he threw it to the ground. My younger son was the same. I had a model on the bulletin board, a very large model of training using behavior modification or ABA. I had learned this. I began working with my son using ABA to ride the bike. I got the feeling, as a parent, that I was being disrespectful of my son (the same thing the husband of the woman starting Autism clinics all over Utah, said to me privately when I went to research the centers in Utah). It was Pavlovian dog studies that started our understanding of ABA. It was studies of rats and mice and dogs, like in the rats of Nimh, *the Secret of Nimh*.* I felt I was being disrespectful of my son in using ABA. I pulled the training papers from the wall.

This is what Bruce Cuthbert said. He said, we are not animals. I don't remember ever trying to teach my son to ride the bike, again. He did learn how to do it. I don't know when. He taught himself. Bruce Cuthbert says, we are not animals.

He said they were looking at the dimensions, how they function. He is interested in collecting huge amounts of data from all sources (including technology). He talked about the European foundation of Mental Health or Freud, that America is using, that much of the world does not see it that way. Freud is a sick model of behaving, everyone is sick. If you see a psychologist, they will find something wrong with you. NIMH is interested in observable models (not necessarily the testing), but where we observe the dimension. What are the dimensions we are looking for, he said? He doesn't like reductionism, reducing to simplicity. He wants to know the valid measures of the dimensions. We do not have it figured out, he said. He said we need to start over, and not use the DSM. It's not getting us where we need to go. They are hoping grants to researchers will bring something. He was looking for a new model that was not based on pathology (or sickness). It's harmful, they said (in 2013), the diagnostic, symptom model. Thomas Insel stated, it is "harmful to the individual, to the family, and to the community". That leaves them without a model to give the psychology majors pouring out of universities. It was stated in 2013, that in using the old system, a whole generation would be harmed. Pressure was put on them to have a system, so they said to go ahead and use the old one. They want a population health frame, instead of this diagnostic treatment model. It's more of a health focus.

(2016-2021) Joshua Gordon, the new director, is looking at researchers, saying we want to take all the data and see what it leads to, the understanding. He is looking for the understanding, saying he didn't think they would find it. At least with the tracking technology they may be able to prevent the suicides in the high-risk groups like the veterans. Smart, Ronda Fletcher Marchant. (2021, May 29). *Autism Month 2021*. Found at. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fv5gn33rEM26eb_TkEXcB-WGtXZGUe4e/view?usp=sharing

*In that story the rats became very smart, but there is a power, or the mother of the sick mouse had a power that saved her children with the magic amulet when the rats became evil in killing Nicodemus. This is a fiction story, but the secret power Mrs. Brisby had was what? She had a magical amulet that was activated by courage.) Courage could activate the amulet in lifting the block of concrete and saving the little children, the lower intelligent mouse could activate this by her courage. It's not always about higher level skill or intelligence, according to the movie. People have different dimensions, hers was her courage. I was told that, in my patriarchal blessing, to go forward in "courage" in the work I was doing.