



# **Restraint & Seclusion Symposium**

## PRESENTERS

### **Timothy A. Adams, Esq.**

received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Irvine and his Juris Doctorate degree from Pepperdine University School of Law. He has served as an adjunct professor and Associate Director of the Special Education Advocacy Clinic, Pepperdine University School of Law. He is actively involved in educating parents through presentations to disability rights organizations and parent support groups including speaking at Autism One (2005-2009), the National Autism Association (2005 and 2007-2009) and the National Epilepsy Foundation Annual Conference (2001). He has been interviewed and quoted in publications including the *Daily Journal* (2001), the *Orange County Register* and the nationally published magazine *Parenting* (March 2003); He is Adams & Associates' Principal and Chief Executive Officer.

### **Lynne Arnold, MA**

is a coordinator for Talk About Curing Autism (TACA) of Visalia, CA. Through conference presentations and mentoring, she helps parents to understand their child's rights to appropriate interventions and education. Lynne is the editor of *Autism: Asserting Your Child's Rights to a Special Education*, by David Sherman. She has presented at Autism One (2005-2009), the National Autism Association Conference (2005 and 2007-2009), Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT), Autism Society of America and for other autism groups.

### **Maria M. Cammarate, Esq.**

is a mother of three children, the oldest of whom is on the autism spectrum. She is the president and director of Reveresco Learning Services in South Florida. This organization serves the unique role of providing applied behavior analysis services and social skills classes along with special education advocacy training for parents of children with autism and related disabilities. Throughout the year, Maria holds complimentary training workshops for families about a variety of special education topics under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state laws. Her past experience includes serving as Corporate Counsel for an international franchise company and working as an advocate for a nonprofit organization that provides free special education advocacy services for disabled children. Maria also works with Families Against Restraint and Seclusion (FARS) to advocate for state and federal legislation and help promote proven behavior interventions in public schools. This work has been among her most rewarding and helped lead to the creation of Reveresco Learning Services. Maria received her JD from Ohio Northern University College of Law.

### **Wendy Fournier**

is the president and a founding board member of the National Autism Association. After several years in the promotional products industry, Wendy founded a home-based web development company that allowed her to have a career in web design and be a full-time Mom. When her youngest daughter was diagnosed with autism, doctors gave her little hope. She began to research treatment options via the internet, where she discovered that there is indeed a great deal of hope - autism is treatable. Wendy is committed to changing the perspective of autism from what was once considered a mysterious mental illness to a biologically definable and treatable medical disorder. She attends and speaks at conferences throughout the US. She works closely with non-profit organizations on a state and national level and runs a support group for parents of children on the spectrum. Wendy currently serves on the RI State Commission to study the education of children with autism, as a consumer reviewer for the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program for Autism Research through the U.S. Department of Defense, and is a founding board member of the Gottschall Autism Center. Wendy and her husband Paul live in Rhode Island with their three children.

### **Lori McIlwain**

is the co-founder and chairperson of the board of the National Autism Association. Lori began her career in radio and television and has focused primarily on conceptual development, commercial copywriting, and media strategies on the agency side. She has an extensive and diverse background in advertising, marketing, public relations, and consumer behavior working with national, regional and local accounts. Her fight for a cure began right after her only son, Connor, was diagnosed with autism. Her husband Christian is also very pro-active in the autism fight and is committed to finding a cure.

### **Phyllis Musumeci**

is a national parent advocate. In 2005, Phyllis pulled her son, Christian, out of the 8th grade because he was having a breakdown. Christian has autism, and, although Christian could speak, he could not communicate his pain. Further, due to a lack of transparency in the school system, it took one year for Phyllis to learn that her son had been subjected to almost daily restraint and isolation for nearly two years in his school. After learning of these practices, she founded Families Against Restraint and Seclusion (FARS) in 2007. FARS is one of the only organizations families may contact to report such abuses and receive support. It has received several hundred reports of restraint and seclusion in schools from families across the country and has tracked countless news stories nationwide. FARS has formed alliances with different disability rights organizations to help pass federal and state legislation and is a member of the national organization APRAIS. Phyllis has been invited to several federal press conferences and hearings on the issue of restraint and seclusion in public schools. She co-wrote current Florida House Bill 81, "Use, Prevention, and Reduction of Seclusion and Restraint on Students with Disabilities in Public School."



# Table of Contents

## Sessions

1: Background & Basics .....	5
2: Behind Closed School Doors .....	13
3: Preventing Abuse at School .....	19
4: Functional Behavior Assessments & Behavior Intervention Plans .....	23

## Appendix

Resources .....	29
Survey .....	31



























## Where are we now?



March 3, 2010

**Houses Approves Bill to Protect Schoolchildren from Harmful Restraint and Seclusion  
GAO Found Hundreds of Cases of Students Being Abused Through Inappropriate Uses of Restraint and Seclusion .**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In response to a recent government investigation that found widespread allegations that children were being abused through misuses of restraint and seclusion in classrooms, the U.S. House of Representatives today approved bipartisan legislation to protect children from inappropriate uses of these practices in schools. The Keeping All Students Safe Act (H.R. 4247) passed by a vote of 262 to 153.

The House of Representatives, in particular Chairman George Miller (D-CA) and Rep. Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA), should be commended for taking action to end the abusive use of restraint and seclusion in schools.

Similar legislation (S.2860 - Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act) was proposed in the Senate late last year, but there is no date yet as to when that Senate may consider the bill. The Senate sponsor is Chris Dodd.

**Restraint and seclusion should never be viewed as treatment options but rather as treatment failures because they risk lives, escalate behaviors and inflict emotional and physical trauma.**

### RESTRAINT, SECLUSION AND AVERSIVE TREATMENT S

**This is NOT an isolated incident.**

**This is happening all over Florida.**

**Creating Florida Families Against Restraint and Seclusion.**

**<http://floridafamiliesagainstrestraint.blogspot.com>**

**This is NOT an isolated incident.**

**This is happening all over the United States.**

**Creating Families Against Restraint and Seclusion.**

**<http://familiesagainstrestraintandseclusion.blogspot.com>**

APRAIS **<http://aprais.tash.org/index.htm>**























# APPENDIX

## Resources

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“No Consent” letter to your school. [aprais.tash.org/parents.htm](http://aprais.tash.org/parents.htm).

Media Tool Kit from APRAIS [aprais.tash.org/toolkit.htm](http://aprais.tash.org/toolkit.htm)

Creating Families Against Restraint and Seclusion. [familiesagainstrestraintandseclusion.blogspot.com](http://familiesagainstrestraintandseclusion.blogspot.com)

### Miscellaneous Sites

[www.scdsb.on.ca/media/files/programs-and-services/specialeducation/FUNCTIONAL\\_ANALYSIS\\_INTERVIEW\\_FORM\\_A.pdf](http://www.scdsb.on.ca/media/files/programs-and-services/specialeducation/FUNCTIONAL_ANALYSIS_INTERVIEW_FORM_A.pdf)

[cecp.air.org/fba/default.asp](http://cecp.air.org/fba/default.asp)

[www.usu.edu/teachall/text/behavior/LRBIpdfs/Functional.pdf](http://www.usu.edu/teachall/text/behavior/LRBIpdfs/Functional.pdf)

[www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.fab.starin.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.fab.starin.htm)

[ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html](http://ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/504faq.html)

[www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.index.htm](http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/discipl.index.htm)

[www.samhsa.gov/matrix2/seclusion\\_matrix.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/matrix2/seclusion_matrix.aspx)

[www.specialeducationmuckraker.com/](http://www.specialeducationmuckraker.com/)

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

[www.napaba.org/napaba/showpage.asp?code=legalaid](http://www.napaba.org/napaba/showpage.asp?code=legalaid)

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



# Autism One

## Restraint & Seclusion Symposium

May 26, 2010

*R&S = Restraint & Seclusion*

**Did you attend the full session from 8 a.m.-noon** Yes No

**Please circle your identity:** Parent Professional Both

**If a parent, how old is your child?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Why did you come to this symposium?** (circle all that apply)

Experiencing problems with R&S

Suspect my child may be abused by staff at school

General information

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please rate how this symposium helped you to understand how to prevent R&S.** (circle ONE only)

Not at all helpful

Somewhat helpful

Moderately helpful

Very helpful

Extremely helpful

**Which session was the LEAST helpful for you?** (circle ONE only)

1. Background & Basics – Wendy Fournier & Lori McIlwain
2. Behind Closed School Doors – Phyllis Musumeci
3. Preventing Abuse at School – Tim Adams & Lynne Arnold
4. Functional Behavior Assessment & Behavior Intervention Plans – Maria Cammarata

**Which session was the MOST helpful for you?** (circle ONE only)

1. Background & Basics – Wendy Fournier & Lori McIlwain
2. Behind Closed School Doors – Phyllis Musumeci
3. Preventing Abuse at School – Tim Adams & Lynne Arnold
4. Functional Behavior Assessment & Behavior Intervention Plans – Maria Cammarata

**Is there a topic or other information that you hoped to learn that was not covered today?** Please describe:

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**Will you recommend this symposium to other parents?** Yes No Maybe

**Do you have any suggestions for this symposium?** Please describe here or on back of this sheet:

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