Representatives from the following organizations have agreed to review and consult on the plans and work of the national medical home autism initiative. Collaboration is ongoing and partners may change as focus or direction changes within the work of this initiative or the work of the partner organizations.

- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- Autism Society of America
- Boston University Autism Research Center (STAART Program)
- Division for Early Childhood (DEC) - Council for Exceptional Children
- Division of Specialized Care for Children, University of Illinois Chicago
- Family Voices
- Lawton & Rhea Chiles Center of the University of South Florida
- Medical Home Initiative, Dept. Health and Human Services/Health Resource & Service Administration, Maternal Child Health Bureau
- National Center for Cultural Competence – Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development
- National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs at the American Academy of Pediatrics
- National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
- National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ)
- Social and Scientific Systems
- American Academy of Pediatrics, Wisconsin & Illinois Chapter
- Autism Society of Wisconsin
- Early Childhood / Special Education Division, Wisconsin Department of Instruction
- Family Voices of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Children with Special Health Care Needs Program, Division of Public Health, Dept. of Health and Family Services
- Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network
- Wisconsin Department of Instruction
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative, Department of Health and Family Services
- Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program, Division of Disability and Elder Service, Dept. of Health and Family Services
- Wisconsin Head Start State Collaboration Project
- Wisconsin Initiative for Infant Mental Health
- Wisconsin Surveillance of Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities System – UW Madison
“A MEDICAL HOME is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing comprehensive primary care to individuals and their family. A medical home is defined, by the American Academy of Pediatrics, as primary care that is accessible, continuous, comprehensive, family-centered, coordinated, compassionate, and culturally effective. In a medical home, a pediatric clinician works in partnership with the family/patient to assure that all of the medical and non-medical needs of the patient are met. Through this partnership, the primary care provider can help the family/patient access and coordinate specialty care, educational service, out-of-home care, family support and other public and private community services that are important to the overall health of the child/youth and family.”

“AUTISM is a brain disorder that affects a person’s ability to communicate, to reason, and to interact with others. It is a spectrum disorder that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees of severity and it is often found in combination with other disabilities. The terms “autism” (from the Greek “autos” for “self”) and “autism spectrum disorder” are often used interchangeably and refer to three of five disorder known as Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD). The three “Autism Spectrum Disorders” (ASD) are” Autistic Disorder, Asperger’s Disorder and PDD-NOS (not otherwise specified). The other PDDs, which are less common, are Child Disintegrative Disorder and Rett’s Disorder.”

The National Medical Home Autism Initiative is a project of the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin - Madison. NMHAI is funded as a cooperative agreement with the Division of Services for Children with Special Health Care Needs (DSCHSCN) in the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB), Health Resource and Service Administration (HRSA), US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The project provides support and assistance to MCHB in its work with the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC) to review current medical care delivery models to develop and promulgate professional guidelines for ASD service providers. The “priority” for this national project is to develop strategies to improve the capacity of

1Definition from AAP Medical Home website www.medicalhomeinfo.org
2Definition from Autism Society of America brochure www.autism-society.org
3Recognized prevalence taken from CDC www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/asd_common.htm and AAP Autism A.L.A.R.M

The National Medical Home Autism Initiative (NMHAI) works to identify and integrate children diagnosed with ASD into their communities. With estimated prevalence rates of 1 in 166 children diagnosed with ASD, these conditions are among the most common of the developmental disorders. Parents of children with ASD frequently struggle to obtain a timely and accurate diagnosis, and to gain entry into appropriate intervention programs. Similarly, child health professionals often feel challenged in meeting the needs of children with ASD and their families. NMHAI seeks to explore how the medical home model can be most effectively used to enhance comprehensive care for children with ASD.

Emphasis is given to improving the quality and capacity of primary health care practices to provide comprehensive, coordinated care to children with ASD and their families in partnership with specialty care, early intervention, education, family organizations and other community services, supports and resources. This is accomplished through technical assistance and resource activities and collaboration with other medical home, family, and public awareness initiatives that are specifically addressing Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Issue briefs and key reports will be developed and published by the NMHAI staff over the course of the initiative. The issue briefs will highlight the key functions of the medical home as directly related to ASD. Reports will provide an overview of the work and findings of the medical home “partners.” Questions and technical assistance requests should be directed to NMHAI project coordinator Christine Breunig at 1-800-532-3321 or to the Waisman Resource Center at 1-800-532-3321.

Visit our website www.waisman.wisc.edu/nmhai to find additional resources and learn more about this project.