

April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month

Janice Huber

Dr. David Celiberti, the Executive Director of the *Association for Science in Autism Treatment* ([ASAT](#)) has written an article in ASAT's latest [newsletter](#) highlighting ways we can move beyond "awareness and acceptance." He describes action items and perspectives that broaden awareness of the obstacles individuals with autism often face in receiving effective, science-based treatment, receiving support across the lifespan, and combatting misinformation. I've summarized a few of Dr. Celiberti's points here but highly recommend reading his article.

Awareness and Acceptance:

- Must include information for telling the difference between scientifically sound treatments and other "therapies" or "cures" that do not have scientific support
- Must remind all of us that information on the internet may not be accurate and may be completely wrong
- Must highlight the responsibilities of the media to report solid, accurate information related to autism and treatments
- Must include information on the critical need for early intervention
- Must require accountability for all treatment providers to objectively measure outcomes
- Must include the fact that research matters; the large body of clinical peer-reviewed research in autism treatments should guide treatment efforts
- Should help us address and reduce the barriers that individuals with autism and their families face
- Should recognize that hundreds of thousands of children with autism will become adults with autism and our communities are not yet prepared to meet their needs

Dr. Celiberti concludes his article with this call to action "There is much more important work to be done to promote access to science-based treatment, to improve outcomes, to promote access, to ensure data-based decision-making, and to essentially keep science at the forefront of every conversation about autism treatment."

Celiberti, D. (2025). What autism awareness should be about. [Science in Autism Treatment](#), 22(4).

IN PERSON GROUP MEETINGS

[Houma and Thibodaux: Be on the lookout for a flyer for a Spring Family Event](#)

Baton Rouge School Readiness/Pre-K and SLA:
Saturday, April 26, 9:00-10:00am. Client services are available 9:00-Noon. Please RSVP when you receive the flyer.

[Lafayette: Saturday, April 26 at 9:00am](#)

[Hammond/Northshore: Tuesday, April 15 at 8:45am.](#)

JOIN US!

**Please note Touchstone will be closed
Friday, April 18 for the Good Friday
holiday and Monday, April 21 for a Staff
Development Day**

ONLINE GROUP MEETINGS

Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA- Virtual Group- Thursday, April 24 at 9:30am, 12 noon and 6:00pm.

Click [ZOOM LINK](#) or [here](#):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86885657742?pwd=7JXZlwiZaChi9b1ogmP0aVMBvWkdt0.1>

Dr. Carmen Broussard Online Series for all families:

April 10 at 9:00am *Transitions*

April 17 at 4:00pm *Siblings*

[ZOOM LINK](#) or [Scan the QR code to join!](#)



Caregiver Collaboration Support Team:

Houma/Thibodaux/NOLA- Paula White at pgwhite@tc-aba.com

Baton Rouge/Lafayette/Hammond- Mary Johnson at mjohnson@tcaba.com

Janice Huber at jhuber@tc-aba.com

Carmen Broussard at cbroussard@tc-aba.com

