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Elizabeth Benevides

Elizabeth (Beth) Benevides is associate director for autism programs at the Hussman Foundation, and associate director of outreach at the Hussman Institute for Autism. A longtime advocate for individuals and families affected by developmental disabilities, she is highly connected to the autism and disability community at the local and state level.

Beth served as the longtime president of the Howard County Autism Society, an award-winning chapter of the Autism Society of America, and currently serves on several statewide workgroups devoted to programs, education, civil rights, and policy affecting those with developmental disabilities.

Beth is chair of the Community Advisory Council of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities, and family consultant for the Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders Training Administration at Kennedy Krieger Institute. She is an appointed member of the Maryland Department of Disabilities' steering committee for the Ethan Saylor Alliance for Self-Advocates, which is focused on law enforcement training and effective community inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is appointed member of the Autism Workgroup of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; a parent representative on the Maryland State Department of Education's Alternate Assessment Workgroup; a member of the Maryland Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities; and co-chair of the Howard County Transition Council for Youth with Disabilities.

In Howard County, Beth chairs or serves on several workgroups within the Howard County Public Schools Department of Special Education. She is a member of Leadership Howard County, Class of 2014, and was named the Howard County Volunteer of the Year in 2014.

Beth holds a B.A. from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. A resident of Howard County since 1992, Beth's children attend Marriotts Ridge High School. Her son was diagnosed with autism at age 2 and is the passion behind her work.