

Meeting: ASD Task Force		Location: PolyCom Sites & Bismarck	
		Date: December 10, 2014	
Facilitator:	JoAnne Hoesel, Chairperson	Minutes:	JoAnne Hoesel
Task Force Members Present	Kim Hruby, Dr. Tom Carver, Tom Gaffaney, Nancy Ulrich-Crotty, Connie Lillejord, Teresa Larsen, John Porter, JoAnne Hoesel, Carol Johnson, Mary Ann Jaeger, Senator Joan Heckaman		
State staff/university staff present	Trisha Page, State Autism Coordinator Paula Hinton, Autism Staff Officer Amanda Carlson, DD Division Kodi Pinks, Department of Health Lynn Dodge, Department of Public Instruction Lori Garnes & Hilory Liccini, Minot State University		
<p>Introductions were made. Mary Jaeger, Insurance Rep Minutes- new member appointed by Governor office. Sept meeting minutes. Changes by Dec 17th – will post to website as draft. Approve at next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Department of Health</u> <p>Kodi Pinks – expert panel held Oct 23rd. 2 main areas of concern. 1) Language in law – qualified reporter is too restricted. - 2) over all masters should be able to 3) physical exam – Drafting new language – met with Senator Heckaman - legislative council will draft – Took out doctoral level – attachment – Physical exam – Question on whether there has been conversation with the original people behind the language – DOH indicated that many of them were on the expert panel so input was received. There is an understanding for the need for the change. DOH says that 15-17 budget level is the same as current biennium... DOH doesn't want the physical information sent to DOH but rather where information was gathered and is part of the diagnostic process. Kodi to send JoAnne copy and JoAnne will distribute.</p> <p>Public comment: 1) Comment: is there a way to make sure that certain areas such as hearing were included in the physical? This would eliminate missed diagnosis or misdiagnosis. 2) Comment: ESPDT is not a current requirement – EPSDT requires medical background. 3) Comment: will expert panel get a copy of the bill too? 4) Comment: This required physical is an added cost for parents.</p> <p>DOH: Writing administrative rules is in process. If the bill is approved, they will need to be changed if new language goes through – Things are on hold until the legislative session's action is known.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Department of Human Services-Update</u> <p>Budget – Information was provided on what is included in the DHS executive budget related to autism services. Attachment. There was a question on whether it would be better to start the waiver age at 3 versus birth since it is used very little for children between the ages of birth through 3. Senator Heckaman recommended that the task force look at the big steps that are represented in the Governor's executive budget. She indicated that this is a big deal and these services are being prioritized by him. She indicated that sometimes when you ask for too much you lose all. Another comment offered that what was included in the Governor's budget is beyond what was expected. There was discussion on Senator Heckaman including something in a bill for family support. Discussion was held on increasing the poverty level from 200- 300 % poverty in the voucher. It was shared that there is a group meeting to work on the definition of family support. The Coalition meets next week and this topic will be discussed there. There was a recommendation that a brochure be designed for the Voucher as families are unsure what to do when a voucher is approved. Public Comment: Agencies are receiving request s for information on voucher. There is a need for a case manager for the voucher program. Families have trouble completing the form.</p> <p>Paula Hinton was introduced. She is the staff officer to the State's Autism Coordinator. She started this week. There is a</p>			

long list of things to do.

- **DHS Update Waiver:**

Waiver lists – 33 applications – waiver turned over Nov 1st – In process of adding 11 people who had vacated the waiver. So there are 22 on list. Keep in mind that some may not qualify for the waiver. A couple additional EDT teams were recently added. They will be ready to evaluate children by February 2015. There are a total of 4 teams for the waiver with two being new. The new teams are: 1) Red Door – Fargo 2) Hav-It -Harvey – They are partnering with a couple other agencies to complete their team.

Question on budget and whether there will be funds left over. It is not anticipated that there will be much as the waiver is full.

Public Comment: Why do waiver slots only turn over once per year? Is it possible to turn over– continual? Response: continual enrollment would require 5 slots to be left vacant at all times for budgeting purposes as per CMS. It is felt it more beneficial to use the annual renewal and run a full waiver. If it becomes more beneficial the other way – best for families– would it be considered? – Response: It is extremely difficult to budget and manage. It is a percent of waiver had to be left open.

- **Department of Human Services –update Voucher:**

There are 25 applications so far – currently 6 that are receiving services and items have been purchased. More youth ages 12 – 15 using the funding. Examples of requests were provided. There was a question on the impact of raising the poverty level. It is would be higher than other DHS programs. In some situations families have missed being eligible by 100 – 500 dollars.

The time it takes from application to income verification is generally 2 -3 weeks.

Consideration in voucher requests are tied to the intent of the program and how it is tied to the autism condition – also parental responsibility –

The intent is that requests are disability-related and tied to disability-related needs. There was a question on whether there had been requests for behavioral supports? Response is that there have been no formal requests but there is an awareness of families voicing this to be included.

- **Department of Human Services –update Training & Website**

The fall conference was a smashing success. Kathy Pratt has already agreed for keynote for 2015.

- Discussion held on use of remaining funds. Ideas brought forward.
 - Physician training
 - DPI – TEACH
 - Ross Green – agreed to work with several schools for \$4,000 each consultation time – at least four schools. Structure a program so kids are successful in school – collaborative problem solving model.
 - Autism awareness regional – Brenda Smith Miles – do a simulcast – greet the community – agencies and advocacy groups give people a place to come for resources – vendor fair – opportunity for education
 - First responder training – need to go to them versus have them come to a conference

The task force and public in attendance indicated that they would defer to the Autism Coordinator's best judgment and wondered if the training included opportunities for parents. Comments were that they liked the TEACH training. There was a comment that there continues to be gaps for services for kids that are more severe and non-verbal. There is little expertise in this area. It was decided that multiple teams accessing Ross Greene training. There was a motion with a second to offer grants to schools up to \$4000 for 8 schools with at least one on reservation for a total of 9. There must also include parents in this training.

There was discussion on physician training and it the group recommended to continue the SAND model. Varied existing conferences were discussed where it possible to add an autism segment.

It was recommended that at the next conference - nonverbal training to bring that expertise into the state -

- **CMS autism service letter**

The CMS letter was shared with the Task Force. Volunteers were requested to help shape the Department's response. Volunteers are to email Trisha page and use the subject line: CMS state plan.

- **Department of Public Instruction update:**

Working on the guidelines. The guidelines are up on the website under laws and regulations. They will be forwarded to the task force. There is a mandate from Feds a new requirement state systemic improvement plan. DPI has decided to work on increasing the graduation rate for children with emotional and behavioral challenges. They will focus on effective instruction and effective supports – conference planning on transition – looking for direction on summer training – new task force for assisted technology guidelines – provided training for alternative assessment – all regional coordinator positions are filled.

- **ND Autism Spectrum Advocacy Coalition Report:**

A meeting will be held Dec 17th – The group is busy looking at legislative initiatives. They invited Courtney Kolbie to have conversation on doctors asking about autism legislation. They will meet with her as well. Because there was such activity last session – the group is really pulling themselves together so additions to the group will be slow. Folks are welcome. It is not a secret – but coming together nicely – thanks to Senator Heckaman –
Public Comment: Wait time for waiver. Questions on the time it takes after approval for the waiver and when they get services. It was clarified that the system is being built and agencies are hiring staff which sometimes takes longer than hoped. There was also a comment on the need to support families who are not getting services such as parent support.

- **Autism Survey**

The survey was done in 2010 and replicated in the fall of 2014.
Asked the same questions except for the list of EBP as the list had changed since 2010.
Summary of all of the results – 187 survey 2010 2014 – 110
About same number of types of people completed the survey. About 1/3 is from parent
15-16 education; 5% private providers; None with ASD either time
Remarkably similar results – 3.5 scores averaged – neither agree or disagree
Summarize key comments

- Autism plan work – will pick this up after the session.

Announcements:

Pathfinders – April – Parent Involvement Conference – 9 – 11th Bismarck – parent stipends – first come – first serve –

Next meeting week of May 4th –Monday

Plan is to have a task force conference call during session if things are not going well during the session.