

## ASD Taskforce Meeting June 5, 2017

**Taskforce members Present:** Melanie Phillips, Gerry Teevens, Kodi Pinks, Vicki Peterson, Connie Lillejord

**Taskforce member present -via Polycom:** Senator Heckaman, John Watkins, Tom Carver, Maryann Jaeger

**Guests** (present & via Polycom): Kathy Barchenger, Kim Hruby, Heather Steffl, Barb Stanton, and Nicole Watkins

**June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was called to order.**

**Review of minutes** – Taskforce members reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on March 6, 2017. *At the time of reviewing on June 5, 2017, no quorum was present to vote on the minutes. The minutes from March 6, 2017 are still outstanding.*

### Updates

#### **Autism Services:**

##### **Voucher:**

- Currently taking applications for the next voucher year- which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There are currently 4 completed applications. 2 have been approved. Will be sending approval letters this week.
- Have been receiving phone calls on what is needed to apply. The applications are available online. We will send paper copies if requested.
- The voucher was approved for 53 slots total, we can't go over the 53 slots, unless there is turn back for non-use, and there aren't any rollover funds.
- A news release was issued for applying for the voucher for the upcoming year.

##### **Waiver:**

- 12 slots through age 9 will be approved.
- Working on amendment to be approved for the additional 37 slots through age 11.
- When everything is approved, the waiver will be able to have 96 total slots, active children. When this happens, we may have a waitlist of 6 or less and possibly not even a waitlist.
- Moving forward with the state plan.

##### **Department of Health:**

- Autism advisory meeting- 9 people represented various boards and associations met.
  - They talked about the reasoning why the reporting in mandatory. The group went over the report form.

- Kodi is still looking into implementing the survey reporting method. It would be two pages; the initial page that the professional submits would be a page. This would be the safest way to report. There would never be identifiable information, the information is sent from the doctors' email.
- As of today, 370 people have been reported to the database. Reporting has slowed down just a bit.

**DPI updates: Provided by Gerry Teevens**

- 92 ND teachers signed up for the OCALI training. DPI partnered with DHS. The training was very well received.
- DPI Fall and spring leadership conference for Special Ed Directors and Coordinators-for professional adjustment. The Fall session is September 12-13,2017.
- Every Student Succeeds Act replaces the "No Child Left behind Law". Still working through the requirements and how to implement the changes.
- Special Ed Institute to provide training to newer special ed teacher and special ed personnel. 270 people are registered to attend.
- Secondary Transition Interagency Conference- will be held in Bismarck in November. Now taking requests to present and to be a vendor.

**Anne Carlsen:** update given by Member Connie Lillejord-

- 2 day workshops for Special Ed teachers. Completed so far- Bismarck, Mandan, Devils Lake, Harvey, and Dickinson. Grand Forks and Fargo will be completed by end of August. By the end of the year 150 teachers will have completed the workshops.
- Autism Clinic is about the same. Scheduling into July.
  - There has been some turnover with the diagnostic team.
  - Working on bringing new members to the team.
  - Autism has seen some turnover. Lorena Poppe, who directed the autism services for Anne Carlsen has left ACC. Trisha Page, is doing the dual role of autism services and behavioral health.
  - ACC is also having a new CEO start in July, Tim Eissinger.

**Dr. Carver**

- Still working locally to get providers to do autism screening. Dr. Carver mentioned that one provider has started screening regularly.

## **John Watkins**

- Communication to parents from providers and agencies about services available.
- Addressing the gaps of service, the transition age.

## **Senator Heckaman**

- Keep active on trying to get funding for autism services.
- Legislators need to be educated on where the gaps of service are for autism.
- Legislators need to hear from parents and providers.

## **Family Voices: Update provided by Vicki Peterson**

- Parent leadership summit (retreat), held in Edgeley North Dakota. Was paid for by a grant (Department of Health-*Children's Special Health Services*). The attendance is full every year. There is an application process.
- Caregiver Café- was held in Dickinson. Dickinson had a really good turnout, 29 people signed up in 3 days and 22 people ended up showing. A few were providers that showed (DDPM).
- Bismarck's caregiver café will be held June 24<sup>th</sup>, 27 people signed up.

## **Vocational Rehab: Presented by Cheryl Hess and Barb Burghart**

- Pre-employment transition services. WIOA "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014". Requires state VR to provide employment related service earlier to students and youth with disabilities.
- Serve students ages 14-21.
- Transition contracts all over the state. There are 5 required activities with those contracts: job exploration, self-advocacy, work based learning, counseling on post-secondary opportunities and workplace readiness training.
- 15% of federal allotment has to be spent on pre-employment transition.
- You don't need to have an IEP or 504 to be eligible for voc rehab. You have to have a documented disability, and a substantial impediment to obtaining a job.

## **Legislative Updates:**

- SB 2115- Adding 3 additional members to the taskforce were approved. The new members "spots" are adult advocate, tribal member and behavior specialist.

## **Collective Impact:**

- Creating an executive subcommittee to address what the gaps are and how to fill the gaps in service, what needs to be done so the gaps are fewer.
  - Motion for a 4 person executive work group: Senator Heckaman
    - Seconded: Vicki Peterson
    - Vote: 9 yay/ 0 nay; Motion Passed

- Melanie will send an email to the taskforce members asking for 3 members to participate in the group. She will give two weeks for a reply from the members.
- The executive group will start their work and bring their findings back to the group at the September meeting.
- Need to start strategizing on what needs to be done for the gaps of service.
- Start talking to all legislators. A lot of work yet to be completed before the next session starts.
  - Stakeholders need to feel comfortable with talking to legislators.

**Other:**

- Keeping the documentation that is sent to the Governor's office every year.
- Public comment- possible having parents who are unable to attend the meeting, write in their concerns and it can then be brought to the meeting and discussed.
  - Also stated that parents can be using the call in number if they are unable to attend the meeting in person or Polycom.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting: Connie Lillejord**

**Second: Gerry Teevens**

**Finalized: Melanie Phillips**

**Meeting adjourned.**

Next Meetings:

- September 11, 2017
- November 20, 2017

Transcribed on: June 27, 2017

Modifications per the Taskforce request made on: September 14, 2017- minutes are approved once modifications have been made.