

GOALS OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES FOR GOVERNORS AUTISM STATE PLAN

Objective(s): *The Task Force is to examine early intervention services, family support services that would enable an individual with autism spectrum disorder to remain in the least restrictive home-based or community setting, programs transitioning an individual with autism spectrum disorder from a school-based setting to adult day programs and workforce development programs, the cost of providing services, and the nature and extent of federal resources that can be directed to the provision of services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The Task Force is to develop a state autism spectrum disorder plan and continue to review and periodically update or amend the plan to serve the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. The Task Force is to provide an annual report to the Governor and the Legislative Council regarding the status of the state autism spectrum disorder plan.*

CHILDREN: BIRTH THROUGH AGE 18

Goal 1: Assure that individuals with suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) receive an appropriate diagnosis as soon as possible.

Objective 1: One or more multidisciplinary diagnostic clinics will be available in each human service region.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Review the accessibility of ASD clinics in ND to include the location of clinics and the reported wait lists per location.	Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Health (DoH), public & private providers	July 2019	Continue to review quarterly at State Autism Task Force meetings. December 2018: Report from the field indicated access issues are present in all regions. Clinic locations for 2018 were in Belcourt, Minot, Jamestown, Grand Forks, Fargo, and Williston (http://www.ndhealth.gov/cshs/docs/clinic-schedule.pdf). There continues to be wait lists at all clinics affecting how quickly an individual can be scheduled to meet with the team. The updated field report included feedback that multidisciplinary teams are best practice.

Objective 2: All screening and evaluation data from these clinics on the number of people with ASD will be consistently submitted to the ASD data base.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Distribute survey data from ND doctors and nurses regarding prevalence of Autism, screening from birth to two.	DoH Database Administrator	1. October 1, 2018 2. December 1, 2018	Goal Met: Surveys sent to ND physicians and nurses in fall 2018.
2. Analyze and generate recommendations based on child/health screening results.	DoH	2 times annually	December 2018: Six of 18 respondents use the Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT), with others using Ages/Stages and Bright Futures.

Objective 3: Sufficient funding to support development and ongoing operations of multidisciplinary clinics will be compiled and shared with the Governor and Legislative Council.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. The State Autism Task Force will review the number of people referred, evaluations completed, and the number of people waiting for diagnosis in each region.	State Autism Task Force and ASD Services	Quarterly through July 2019	December 2018: Factors that are affecting the number of individual referrals, completed evaluations, and waiting lists include the following: lack of workforce impacting all levels, lack of sufficient funding available to clinics for multidisciplinary teams, and the scarcity of diagnostic clinics in

			the Williston, Dickinson, Devils Lake and Bismarck regions.
2. The State Autism Task Force will solicit information in the letters from 1.2 as to tools clinics are using to make diagnoses, the composition of the clinic's multidisciplinary teams and further training desired by the clinic.	State Autism Task Force	December 2019	December 2018: Females are underdiagnosed with ASD overall. Further training recommendations from ASD Conference to be reviewed.
3. The State Autism Task Force will review the data from the Autism database.	DoH Database Administrator	Annual Report at February State Autism Task Force Meetings	December 2018: Pending 2019 report.
4. The State Autism Task Force will make recommendations to the legislature and Governor as to the funding levels needed to achieve objectives.	State Autism Task Force agenda item	October 2018	Goal Met: A letter identifying the recommendations on behalf of the State Autism Taskforce was submitted to the Governor's office on November 19, 2018.
5. The State Autism Task Force will investigate how clinics are currently funded and other possible funding sources.	State Autism Task Force	December 2018	Goal Met: December 2018: Information gathered indicated funding sources for the following clinics: Grand Forks: Altru—donations from "Spin for Kids" Jamestown: Anne Carlsen Center - Medicaid, insurance*, and Department of Health Special Health Services Division Fargo - Medicaid and insurance*

Minot- grant from the Great Plains Interdisciplinary Autism Clinic (GPIC) *Insurance pays less than 50 percent of clinic costs.
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Goal 2: The Task Force will review and provide recommendations on the current centralized location(s) for information on ASD.

Objective 1: The Task Force will receive analytics from DHS on website usage.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Review analytics from DHS website usage.	DHS	Quarterly Meetings of the State Autism Task Force	December 2018: Team recommendations include the following: the website needs an overhaul to be user friendly, and to request a report of the analytics data for the Autism services web page.

Objective 2: The Task Force will monitor the timeliness of the information on the website.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Provide updates/links for information to be included on DHS website.	State Autism Task Force	Quarterly	December 2018: Quarterly update to be provided at the February 2019 meeting.

Objective 3: Develop a statewide-centralized resource center with experienced personnel to support parents/families with youth on the spectrum: establishing an up to date one stop shop.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Invite Pathfinders, Family Voices, and Federation of Families to join the sub-committee.	Autism sub-committee (gaps for children)	Quarterly through August 2019	December 2018: Family Voices is part of the State Autism Taskforce. Need to invite Pathfinders and Federation of Families. Review at February 2019 meeting.

Goal 3: To establish a model identifying training and education opportunities currently available that addresses the needs of diverse stakeholders.

Objective 1: The Task Force will support and disseminate information from a centralized source-DHS website.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Disseminate training and education opportunities through website.	DHS	Ongoing through 2019	December 2018: Plan to review at February 2019 meeting. Consider reconfiguring the Life Span Respite Care grant through Aging Services to include children's issues.

Objective 2: Identify training needs among stakeholders (parents, educators, health care providers, first responders, and child care providers) for planning purposes.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Determine if training gaps exist and encourage development of resources to address those gaps.	State Autism Task Force	Quarterly through July 2019	December 2018: Consider repeat of survey from North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. Review ASD Conference recommendations at February 2019 meeting.

Objective 3: Identify existing training models for stakeholders that can be widely replicated throughout the state.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Compile current training models.	DHS, DPI, and DoH	February 2019	December 2018: Review at February 2019 meeting. Train the trainer, parent coaches, peer support, community cafes, etc.

Objective 4: Determine if training gaps exist and encourage development of resources to address those gaps.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Review current data and work with the research community to design and conduct surveys of diverse stakeholders to identify training needs.	ND ASD Conference planning committee report to State Autism Task Force	February 2019	December 2018: Review evaluations of 2018 ASD Conference at February 2019 meeting. Discuss next steps based on information presented. State Autism Task Force survey workgroup will also present a draft survey at the February 2019 meeting.
2. Share the results of the surveys on the DHS Autism website.	State Autism Task Force & DHS	April 2019	December 2018: Pending draft survey to be presented at the February 2019 meeting. The survey will be distributed electronically once it has been approved by the task force.
3. The State Autism Task Force will consider different systems for recognizing the training needs and contributions of stakeholders in supporting people with ASD.	Refer to the sub-committees for children and adults	April 2019	December 2018: Inquire with Jennifer Flores. Discussion with stakeholders.

<p>4. a) Birth to 5: Provide training and mentoring in research-based practices for multi-disciplinary personnel serving children on the spectrum.</p> <p>b) K-12: Provide training and mentoring in research-based practices for multi-disciplinary personnel serving children on the spectrum.</p> <p>c) Parent/families: Identify a statewide cadre of coaches trained in research-based practices for children on the spectrum across all age levels.</p> <p>d) Develop additional home school and community-based support for middle and high school youth on the spectrum in social emotional skills (independent living, post-secondary options (especially in rural areas)).</p>	<p>a) Autism sub-committee (gaps for children)</p> <p>b) Autism sub-committee (gaps for children)</p> <p>c) Autism sub-committee (gaps for children)</p> <p>d) Autism sub-committee (gaps for children) and presentations from ASD Conference</p>	<p>a) October 2018</p> <p>b) October 2018</p> <p>c) October 2018</p> <p>d) June 2019</p>	<p>December 2018: Plan to update following the review of information presented at the February 2019 meeting. Past and current ASD Conference evaluations to be reviewed for training needs.</p>
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<p>e) Monitor and implement efforts to reduce out of state/out of home placements for youth.</p> <p>f) Monitor both in and out of state facilities will identify destination upon admission, provide continued involvement with local stakeholders during treatment and implementation of transition/discharge plan prior to youth's return to ND.</p>	<p>e) DHS, DPI</p> <p>f) DHS, DPI</p>	<p>e) Twice annually, December 31, 2018 & June 30, 2019.</p> <p>f) Twice annually, December 31, 2018 & June 30, 2019.</p>	<p>Provide update on out of state placements.</p> <p>6/30/18 = 18 youth 9/30/18 = 17 youth 12/31/18 = 17 youth</p> <p>Inquire with Kelli Ulberg and/or Tami Conrad at Behavioral Health.</p>
<p>5. Share success stories with stakeholders to increase awareness of positive outcomes for youth with Autism at appropriate public events.</p>	<p>All State Autism Task Force members</p>	<p>Ongoing during quarterly meetings through 2019</p>	<p>December 2018: Review at February 2019 meeting.</p>

ADULTS: Age 18 and up (including transition age as well)

Goal 1: Identify the needs and service gaps for adults with Autism.

Objective 1: Collect and compile data on adults with autism in ND to understand gaps, barriers and challenges.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Conduct a statewide Autism survey that includes adult consumers. Provide an analysis to State Autism Task Force.	1. DOH Autism Database Administrator will conduct the analysis. DHS, various stakeholders assist with distributing the survey throughout the state.	July 1, 2019	December 2018: Identified survey tool, refinement of questions to existing survey, and to add questions specifically related to adults with autism; draft survey will be presented at February 2019 meeting.
2. Implement focus groups statewide to get comprehensive information on what is working and where we need improvements for services in ND.	2. Family organizations Secure grant funding	October 1, 2019	December 2018: Grant options are currently being explored.

Objective 2: Secure enough funding to support services and programs to meet the unique needs of adults in ND with autism.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Using stakeholder input, identify and prioritize recommendations. Make recommendations to the legislature and Governor on the need of funding levels to achieve the objectives.	1. Adult subgroup of the State Autism Task Force 2. State Autism Task Force	2019-2021 ND Legislative Session	December 2018: State Autism Task Force will continue to compile, and share recommendations as received from stakeholder input.

Goal 2: Strengthen supports for transitions from adolescent to adult services.

Objective 1: Increase effective collaboration and coordination throughout transition years to include a few years after high school.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Securing funding for training and education for parents and youth on care coordination.	1. State Autism Task Force	Ongoing: Report to State Autism Task Force yearly recommend funding sources	December 2018: Funding has been secured for three Care Giver Café Trainings by Family Voices of ND.

Goal 3: Develop more opportunities for adults with ASD to be valued, contributing members of their communities based on their unique strengths, differences and challenges.

Objective 1: Support educational opportunities related to transitions and community participation.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Secure sessions at ND Autism Annual Conference focusing on transition and adults with autism.	1. State Autism Task Force subgroup/Adults and members of ND Autism Conference Planning Committee	2018 ND Autism State Conference 2020 ND Autism State Conference	Goal Met: December 2018: 2018 ND Autism Conference held three sessions directly impacting adults with ASD.
2. Receive feedback from ND Autism Conference Planning Committee	2. ND Autism Conference Planning Committee	Yearly	December 2018: Review at February 2019 meeting.
3. Provide support for the annual ND Autism Conference through membership on the conference planning committee and seeking funding for conference activities.	3. ND Autism Conference Planning Committee	Yearly	December 2018: ND Autism Conference 2018; parent stipends and adult stipend were provided by DHS and Protection & Advocacy. The conference keynote speaker fees were provided by DPI. ND Autism Conference Planning Committee has reported the next ND Autism Conference is planned for April 2020.

Objective 2: Create a comprehensive public awareness campaign that enables the public to better understand, engage, and support adults with autism and their families.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Conduct a public awareness campaign to help community understand the challenges facing adults with Autism through social media, public service announcements, television and school.	1. Lead Agencies: DHS, Vocational Rehabilitation, DPI, Family Organizations, P&A, DOH, ND State Autism Task Force, NDCPD, MindShift	Ongoing Report to ND State Autism Task Force Beginning 2019	December 2018: No progress.
2. Identify possible funding sources for awareness.	2. State Autism Task Force	Ongoing	December 2018: No progress.

Goal 4: Ensure adults living with autism will have measurable increase in job opportunities paired with ongoing training and support that enables them to be successful in the workplace.

Objective 1: Identify employment status of adults with autism spectrum disorders types of employment, numbers of how many employed, and rural vs. urban employment.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Track employment status of adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders by use of the general ND Autism Task Force survey and the Survey of Employment Services Offered by ND Community Rehabilitation Providers.	1. North Dakota Association of Community Providers (NDACP), Vocational Rehabilitation	July 1, 2019	December 2018: Vocational Rehabilitation provided updated reports during the October 2018 ASD Taskforce meeting.

Objective 2: Expand vocational skills training and career development and school programs to increase overall employment.

Action Step(s):

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	PROGRESS
1. Conduct an analysis of what programs (i.e. soft skills training) and tools (i.e. Got Transition) are currently occurring within the school systems.	1. NDACP, Vocational Rehabilitation	July 1, 2019	December 2018: No progress.