

Testimony
Human Services Committee
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force
July 22, 2014

Representative Damschen and members of the Human Services Committee, I am JoAnne Hoesel, Department of Human Services (DHS), and am here today as chairperson of the ND Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force. I am here to provide you the status of the state plan on autism spectrum disorders.

I have distributed to you today copies of the [current autism task force plan](#). The plan is divided into three sections: 1) Infrastructure – building and strengthening the system, 2) Interventions – providing the services, and 3) Establishing outcomes and measuring results. Within these three sections, the task force has identified the vision, goals, objectives and specific action steps.

The task force meets quarterly and has an executive committee to assist with issues arising between meetings. At each meeting the task force receives reports from the agencies tasked with developing and implementing services and supports authorized by the legislature. The task force provides eight video conferencing sites for public involvement at each meeting. Public comment is requested after each agenda item. The task force provided recommendations on autism waiver slot prioritization as it transitioned to the new waiver, received reports on the voucher program implementation, receives information on the various training provided through the Department of Public Instruction and how the training funds appropriated last session are being expended, and receives updates on the registry development and autism website.

The plan before you has been significantly amended and will continue to evolve along with the system. An initial plan was developed in 2010 and used feedback from a survey issued that spring. The task force will replicate this survey in a couple of weeks. Minot State Center for Person with Disabilities will analyze and provide a report in late August 2014.

The task force encourages the committee members to use the link to the autism website where task force minutes and autism information is updated and available.

www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/

The Autism Conference is scheduled for October 20 – 22, 2014; and conference information is available on the web site noted above.

I am available for your questions. Thank you.