

ASD Taskforce Meeting September 11, 2017

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

Taskforce member present -via Polycom: John Watkins, Tom Carver, Maryann Jaeger, Carol Johnson, Tom Carver, Nancy Ulrich-Crotty

Guests (present & via Polycom): Kathy Barchenger, Kim Hruby, Heather Steffl, Nicole Watkins, and Lorena Poppe, Paula Hinton, Kelsey Kittleson, Susan Gerenz

September 11th meeting was called to order.

Review of minutes – Taskforce members reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on June 5, 2017. Modifications were made to the minutes and then approved by the taskforce members.

Motion to approve the minutes: Connie Lillejord

Second: Gerry Teevens

Vote: 11 yay/ 0 nays

Updates:

Autism Services: given by Kathy Barchenger

Voucher:

- Voucher purchases have to be tied to the autism diagnosis.
- Voucher has 53 spots; once the spots are filled, there will be a waitlist for the voucher.

Waiver:

- The approval for an increase for a total of 59 slots on the waiver and age was increased through age 9 was approved on July 31, 2017.
- The waiver amendment increasing the age through 12 was out for public comment until September 7, 2017. It has been submitted to CMS for approval.
- Respite, assistive technology and service management are the services that are being provided in the waiver.
 - Currently, one service per month is mandatory to stay on the waiver. Once the amendment is approved it will be one service per quarter.
- Letters were sent out to the families on the waiver waitlist about ABA being available in the Medicaid State Plan. The letter asked if they wished to remain on the waitlist, or be removed from the waitlist.
 - 12 families sent back stating that they have moved out of state and are no longer eligible

- 8 families wished to be removed from the waiver waitlist
 - 11 families have asked to remain on the waiver waitlist
- Vinelands (level of care) will be done through the state office once the waiver amendment is approved.
- The Vineland packet will be sent out to the families so they can complete the questionnaire.
 - Pierson now has online screening; the state office will put in the results from the questionnaire and will get the score back via online.
- Kathy will help families walk through it and with questions they have.
- Kathy will also look at the Vineland score from the previous year, so if the family scored something wrong, she will call and talk to them and walk them through the statement(s)

Department of Health: given by Kodi Pinks

- 424 individuals have been reported to the database.
- Realignment of the Department of Health, as of 10-1-2017.
 - Will be transitioned from 6 divisions to 5 divisions. Children’s Special Health Services will now be called Special Health Services.
- State Health Officer asked Kodi what general coverage from the private sector for autism treatment should cover. Kodi asked the taskforce.
 - It was stated through discussion that not limiting therapies to just ABA; wanting the private sector to cover more therapies.
 - Families should be guided as to what therapy would work for the child.
 - Possibly not looking at therapy, but what is the need of the child (if child would benefit from one therapy over a different therapy, it would be covered.)
 - The question of age limits was also asked. They said the dream would be no age limit, but also not enough has been explored for adults with ASD.

DPI updates: Provided by Gerry Teevens

- DPI Special Education put on 1st annual Special Education for 280 Special Education Teacher and Directors.
 - It was well attended. The evaluations from the institute indicated the teachers wish this to be offered each summer.
- A Secondary Transition Interagency Conference will be held on November 8th and 9th at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.
 - Registration is open until October 23, 2017.
- ND DPI will be hosting a Fall Educators Conference on October 11-13, 2017, held at the Bismarck Event Center/
 - A Dropout Prevention conference will also be held the day prior to the Fall Educators Conference.
 - Registration for each of these conferences is available on the ND DPI website.

Anne Carlsen: update given by Member Connie Lillejord-

- Providing autism diagnostic clinic 2 times a month
 - One of the physicians is out for 6 weeks, so they will be two clinics short
 - The clinic still has a 3 month wait list
- Belcourt Special Education Unit called and asked Anne Carlsen Center to do the “Make and Take” Training- Sensory, communication, literacy and visual supports.
 - Belcourt will have 40 teachers-Kindergarten, First and Second grade and 50 teachers-third, fourth and fifth grade attending the training.
 - The training is November 6-9,2017

Family Voices: Update provided by Vicki Peterson

- Learning Collaborative phone calls-different topics for families are covered
 - There are about 55 families that have been a part of this call and roughly 50% of those families have a child with autism.
- Still helping to emotionally support families.
- There has been a 7 year old child diagnosed as a savant. He needs to be in school but it is challenging on how to figure out how to educate him
- Vicki also met with families to talk about gaps in [Adult services](#) in service and what is missing. Some of the topics that have been brought up are:
 - Support for an adult (adult respite care), secondary education, adult healthcare (pediatric to adult), What is offered in ND for higher education, Adults with ASD-public transportation, affordability, guardianship (why did you or why didn't you?) and housing
 - Vicki is going to start collecting data- the preliminary was held to see where the areas are. She is looking at possibly collecting data from surveys

Melanie Phillips:

- Received a letter of resignation from Dr. Joseph Engler for the taskforce position he held.
 - Melanie made the Governor's office aware of the letter of resignation
- The open positions for the taskforce are: Behavior Specialist, adult self-advocate, rural member of a tribal entity and Psychologist (Dr. Engler's position)
 - Vicki Peterson stated that the Governor's office has reached out to her in regards to the adult self-advocate. Vicki stated that she made her recommendation and the adult self-advocate is reapplying for the position on the taskforce.

Other:

- Melanie Phillips, Senator Joan Heckaman, Vicki Peterson and Teresa Larson have been meeting and discussing the ASD State Plan. They make up the executive committee.
 - Melanie has asked that the taskforce form subcommittees to find the gaps for services.
 - There were sub groups made and they are as follows:

- Overall plan: executive committee (Melanie Phillips, Teresa Larson, Senator Heckaman and Vicki Peterson)
- Children: Gerry Teevens, Connie Lillejord. Carol Johnson, Tom Carver and Kodi Pinks
- Adults: Vicki Peterson, Gerry Teevens, Nancy Ulrich-Crotty, John Watkins, Kodi Pinks
- Supporting Families: Vicki Peterson, Carol Johnson, Tom Carver and Connie Lillejord
- Transitions: all of the members from children, adults and families

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Connie Lillejord

Second: Every member in favor

Finalized: Melanie Phillips

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meetings:

- November 20, 2017

Transcribed on: October 2, 2017