

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2019

Task Force members present: Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Holly Johnson, Vicki Peterson, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Gerry Teevens, Kristie Wolff

Task Force members present via polycom/phone: Senator Joan Heckaman, Heather Opland, Catherine Yeager

Absent: Dawn Hanson, Mary Ann Jaeger, Carol Johnson, Teresa Larsen, Connie Lillejord, Nancy Ulrich-Crotty

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Mary Anderson, Amy Armstrong, Kathy Barchenger, Kirsten Dvorak, Susan Gerenz, Christine Hogan, Jodi Hulm, Kaitlin Kurtz, Sarah Path, Lorena Poppe, Sandy Smith, Beth Bakke Stenehjem, Janel Stoneking, Scott Wagner

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Review of minutes- August 19, 2019 minutes were reviewed.

Vicki Peterson made the motion to approve the minutes.

Gerry Teevens seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

10 yay/0 nay: motion passed.

Career ready transition for students with ASD and intellectual disabilities: Vicki Peterson

PAES Program- Providing individuals knowledge and experience for career success.

Curriculum based lab-acquire jobs through the school; a career that the individual wants to do and is interested in.

PAES isn't adapted for persons with intellectual disabilities found to be profound/severe.

Project Discovery- adaptive programs for persons with intellectual disabilities (video modeling for example).

The program has a digital badge that can be taken with the individual, to job interviews, and it will list all their skills they know how to do.

Cost for a lab that is adaptive is \$31,000.

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee-Mary Anderson from ABLE, Inc

ABLE, Inc was formed in 1984. ABLE, Inc serves 100 individuals with intellectual disabilities in Southwest North Dakota.

Mary Anderson presented her PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion on ASD screenings and recent research- Dr. Catherine Yeager

Gave overview of MCHAT and findings of over diagnosing versus underdiagnosing.

ASD Waiver options for increasing number of slots or ages served

Legislative assembly increased the age of the children served from 11 years to 13 years. The new change will be effective January 1, 2020. As a result, no children will age off the waiver.

There was a discussion about increasing the slots of the autism waiver. There was also discussion about increasing the age as well as increasing the age. There was a point made that the department would need to consult with their legal team to see how the age increase can happen, if it is in Century Code, then the change would need to come from legislation.

Dr. Myra Quanrud made a motion to increase the slots and decide about increasing the age after legal was consulted.

Holly Johnson seconded the motion.

10 yay/0 nay; motion passed.

ASD Voucher administrative code changes

The administrative code changes will go into effect on April 1, 2020 rather than July 1, 2020.

Public Hearing for the administrative code changes will be December 12, 2019 from 2:30-4:00 CDT, Capitol Judicial Wing, 2nd floor, Room 212.

Current operations updates: 2019-2021 enrollment/expenditures dashboard

Started the dashboard over for the biennium. The department will continue to track the expenditures for the current biennium.

ABA expenditures have decreased; most of the children receiving ABA have primary insurance that covers ABA.

ABA workforce updates- Behavior Analyst licensing changes-Holly Johnson

As of November 1, 2019, there are:

35 BCBA's, 2 BCBA-D and 88 RBT.

6 BCBA's passed the certification exam in August 2019.

As of January 1, 2020, BCBA's will have a new licensing board. Their rules are still being finalized by the board and have not been released.

ND Autism Conference- April 29-30, 2020

Jennifer Flores is the opening and keynote speaker of the conference. She is planning on talking about the Task Force and what the Task Force is about and what they are doing.

Department of Human Services is going to be supporting family stipends and adults with autism stipends, and provider stipends (which is new this year).

The conference will be offering childcare onsite.

On the last day, Haley Moss will be speaking. She is a self-advocate and practicing lawyer in Florida. She will be presenting on girls and women on the spectrum and neurodiversity in the workplace.

ASD State Plan:

There was conversation on how to condense the state plan, to make sure there isn't duplication and how to better track the workgroup updates. It was agreed that the workgroups will meet in the interim and collapse down their sections on what should be worked on going forward.

Krista will distribute the draft annual report (due to the Governor and Legislative Council by December 31) to the Task Force for feedback.

Proposed 2020 meeting dates:

Discussion about the 2020 meeting dates. There were no alternatives for any dates that were proposed. The dates are February 24, May 18, August 24 and November 23 of 2020.

Other topics for discussion

Kodi Pinks- the autism database dashboard is automated on the Health Department's website, when a person is reported it automatically updates on the website.

Kodi has also been able to work with more facilities to automate their reporting process, so it is easier for them to report.

Adjourned: 4:17 p.m.

Next meeting: February 24, 2020; 1-4:45 CDT

Transcribed: 12/4/2019