

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes
November 23, 2020

Task Force members present via Teams/phone: Lacey Bergh, Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Senator Joan Heckaman, Carol Johnson, Holly Johnson, Teresa Larsen, Connie Lillejord, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Samantha Stewart, Gerry Teevens, Jamie Walker-Fuller, Kristie Wolff, Catherine Yeager

Absent: Dawn Hanson and Heather Opland

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Kathy Barchenger, Marley Prunty-Benson, Amy Clemons, Kristin Dvorak, Danielle Hoff, Jodi Hulm, Kaitlin Kurtz, Lora Marchaa, Traci Moen, Stephanie Nelson, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Blake Ritteman, Tami Ternes, Beth Thune, Renee Wetzesteon

This was a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting due to COVID-19.

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

Review of minutes – Gerry Teevens made the motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Myra Quanrud seconded the motion.

15 yay/o nay; motion passed.

Review of September (special meeting) minutes- Teresa Larsen asked that these notes be amended to state, “Teresa needed to obtain signatures of Task Force individuals who could sign the letter. Other Task Force members were not allowed to sign per their leadership guidance.”

Senator Joan Heckaman also stated the date needed to be changed from August 24, 2020 to September 14, 2020.

Teresa Larsen made a motion to amend the notes from the September 14, 2020 special meeting.

Senator Joan Heckaman seconded the motion.

15 yay/0 nay; motion passed.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota and Sanford Health Plan-overview of coverage for applied behavior analysis and other ASD related items/services

Sanford Health Plan-Marley Prunty-Benson: Bulletin 2018-1, ND Department of Insurance requires all individual, small group and large group insurance plans to cover evidence-based treatment for ASD, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy.

Prohibited caps/limitations on other types of coverage-including physical, speech and occupational therapies.

Grandfathered plans were required to comply by 10/1/2018. Non-grandfathered plans were required to comply by 1/1/2019.

Sanford Health Plan pays for: ABA (not limited for ND plans, may be limited to self-funded plans). PT/SLP/OT (may have visit limits per policy. Counseling and other treatments (for both ASD diagnosed individual and family members/caregivers covered under plan).

Discussion around the PowerPoint presented.

ASD National and State Trends

Discussion around handout given- children being diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder has increased every year.

Current operations updates: 2019-2021 enrollment/expenditures dashboard for ASD Waiver, Voucher and State Plan ABA

Discussion around the quarterly spending for the autism waiver, autism voucher and state plan aba

Discussion on how to increase spending- add more services to the waiver?

Was asked about DHS' budget for the 2021-2023 Biennium. Was stated that since the Governor has not shared the budget, DHS cannot release what was proposed for the budget

ABA Workforce updates

Since the August meeting, 5 more BCBA's have been added to the ND workforce

Fargo has 22 BCBA's currently living there; one was added in Williston and Dickinson

18 BCBA's are willing to supervise grad students

69 RBTs have been added in 2020-they need to be supervised by a BCBA

2 out of state BCBA's are supervising ND RBTs

Administrative rules were sent to Attorney General's office-hearing to be held first week of December to adopt the rules.

Renewal of licenses will be the odd years

Continuing Education was 40 hours and now went to 32 units

New board made the change to be Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) instead of L

ASD State Plan

Education/ Training workgroup:

Identified two main goals with objectives/tasks listed below

1st goal- Identifying training and education opportunities available that addresses the needs of diverse stakeholders (from 2019 state plan)

Identify currently available local (statewide) trainings

Social media page with representation of all disciplines/areas to post trainings, resources, etc.

Partnership with Autism Coalition and ASD Task Force

ND Autism Conference (financial assistance)

Peer to peer support

2nd goal-Review and provide recommendations on the current centralized location(s) for information on ASD (from 2019 state plan)

One website location (are there resources already in place? Who would be responsible for the upkeep)?

Communication and public awareness

Goal: Clear, concise, family friendly information via one autism focused website

Draft a layout for an autism focused website, present draft for discussion by the Task Force, solicit input from potential users, finalize layout, submit to DHS for implementation, onboard website

Goal: Create Public Awareness

Promote autism awareness on an ongoing basis, brainstorm list of options for creating awareness, prioritize and establish connections, pursue outcomes

Research protocol-apply for a grant for a video, produce video

Current autism dashboard with related data, on website

2021 proposed meeting dates: February 22, May 24, August 23 and November 22

Other topics for discussion

Behavior Health Loan Repayment program won't be able to add slots to their program but said that and ask could be made that Behavior Analysts share the slots that are currently available to the program.

A motion was made to add Behavior Analyst to the list of Practitioners that are eligible for the Behavior Health Loan Repayment Program.

Dr. Myra Quanrud made the motion

Teresa Larsen seconded the motion

10 yay/ 0 nay; motion passed

Meeting adjourned: 3:15 p.m.

Next meeting: February 22nd, 2021. 1:00-4:45 CDT

Transcribed: 12/17/2020 KRK