

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2020

Task Force members present via polycom/phone: Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Senator Joan Heckaman, Carol Johnson, Teresa Larsen, Connie Lillejord, Heather Opland, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Gerry Teevens, Kristie Wolff, Catherine Yeager

Absent: Lacey Bergh, Dawn Hanson, Samantha Stewart

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Cheryl Anderson, Katherine Barchenger, Amy Clemons, Susan Gerenz, Jodi Hulm, Dr. Paul Kolstoe Kaitlin Kurtz, Rebecca Parisien, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Lynden Ring and Sandy Smith

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

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Update from the North Dakota Department of Human Services Field Services Division on Extended Services slots for adults with ASD

24 slots were made available. 9 slots are currently being used; 15 slots are still available.

Discussion around how to make the slots “known” to agencies and stakeholders to help spread the word about the extended services slots for adults with ASD.

Update from the North Dakota of Human Services Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC) on placements of individuals at LSTC with ASD

Opened in May of 1904. Has been serving individuals with autism since 1904.

Started as training and education for the individuals staying there so they could become contributing members of society.

To be admitted to LSTC, the individual would need to be denied from all other options from the state.

17 youth currently reside at Grafton, and of those, 8 have an autism diagnosis.

47 adults currently reside at Grafton, and of those, 16 have an autism diagnosis.

Discussion around the history of Life Skills and Transition Center.

Review of minutes – Carol Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes. Connie Lillejord seconded the motion.

12 yay/0 nay; motion passed.

Medicaid 1915(i) State Plan Amendment

Submitted State Plan Amendment to CMS on 4/29/2020. CMS responded on 7/24/2020, the 89th day with questions.

The state will respond to their questions within 90 days (but likely sooner) and CMS has another 90 days to either approve or ask more questions.

Current operations updates:

Discussion around the new layout of the dashboard and the expenditures for the autism waiver, the autism voucher, and State Plan applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Discussion around the excess amount of money that has not been spent and ideas of services/needs and getting it to the families that need it.

Teresa Larsen made a motion to develop recommendations to Governor Burgum for the 2021-2023 Biennium for autism services. Also, to have a special meeting to review and discuss the letter at a special meeting before it is sent.

Carol Johnson seconded the motion.

12 yay/o yay; motion passed

ABA workforce updates:

As of 8/11/2020- have only gained one more BCBA to the workforce to ND.

Discussion around Holly's tracking of BCBA's in the state, who wants to supervise, etc.

ASD State Plan:

Communication/public awareness: Teresa Larsen, Samantha Stewart, and Kodi Pinks- discuss information about how to make communication available to stakeholders. Information needing to spread out across different agencies, NDDoH, DHS and then having a page strictly for autism on one website.

Training/education: Holly Johnson, Senator Heckaman, Kristie Wolff, Heather Opland Gerry Teevens and Connie Lillejord- discuss the goals to get autism training across ND, how stakeholders can access the training/transition services, etc.

Discussion around condensing the Task Force State Plan, and possibly looking at changing the format.

Other topics for discussion

Discussion around increasing the age of the autism waiver.

There was also discussion about increasing the number of slots on the autism waiver.

Meeting adjourned: 3:28 p.m.

Next meeting: November 23, 2020 1:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. CDT

Transcribed: 9/10/2020 KRK