

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021

Task Force members present via Teams/phone: Lacey Bergh, Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Dr. Shannon Grave, Senator Joan Heckaman, Carol Johnson, Holly Johnson, Haley Lang, Connie Lillejord, Heather Opland, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Jamie Walker-Fuller, and Dr. Catherine Yeager

Absent: Dawn Hanson and Samantha Stewart

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Katherine Barchenger, Amy Clemons, McKenna DeMoe, Tim Eissingner, Daniel Gulya, Jodi Hulm, David Kemper, Kaitlin Kurtz, Lorena Poppe, and Beth Thune

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

Approval of May 2021 meeting minutes:

Carol Johnson made motion to approve minutes.

Senator Joan Heckaman seconded the motion.

14 yay/0 nay; motion carries.

Approval of August 2021 meeting minutes:

Carol Johnson made motion to approve minutes.

Senator Joan Heckaman seconded the motion

14 yay/0 nay; motion carries.

Task Force charter discussion:

Discussion around a document created by Task Force member, Mandy Dendy. Discussion around the idea of establishing bylaws or a charter for the committee.

Discussion on how the bylaws/charters would be, what the role of Task Force members be.

Mandy Dendy is receiving feedback from Task Force members and will present an updated document during the February 2022 ASD TF meeting.

Interim Legislative Update:

The study for DD and Autism Services is moving forward. The consultant company is Alvarez and Marsal (A&M).

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) having a study conducted for children who are enrolled in Medicaid. The department is required to produce a report on the program and submit it to Legislative Management and the Human Services Committee. The deadline for the report is October 1, 2022. The consultant group assisting with the report is Helgerson Solutions Group.

Autism Voucher Administrative Code Changes:

Administrative Code Changes hearing scheduled for December 6th. Time is to be determined.

Current Operations updates: 2019-2021 enrollment/expenditures dashboard for ASD waiver, voucher state plan ABA:

Autism Voucher and Waiver program updates. For the autism waiver, the only data available at the time of the meeting was July and August 2021, as September's data wasn't in the system to be pulled for data. (Assistive Technology for the waiver was presented as the data is collected by Kaitlin Kurtz).

Update on Electronic Visit Verification "EVV". As of October 1, 2021, Therap send the collected information to the aggregator. The aggregator ensures the information is correct and the claims can be paid.

Legislation granted an increase of 54 slots, and 4 children came off the waiver from November 1, 2020-October 31, 2021. Kathy is working on filling the 58 slots for the autism waiver.

Money Follows the Person has earmarked \$40,000 for Autism Services to use as grant money. The grant money is to be used to help agencies do startup costs, training, for service management/service managers.

ABA Workforce updates:

Increase of 21 workforce members (Registered Behavior Technicians, RBTs and BCBA's, Board Certified Behavior Analysts).

Discussion around the handouts created by Holly Johnson.

ASD State Plan:

Communication and Public Awareness workgroup-No updates to provide.

Kodi Pinks let the Task Force know that Special Services from the Department of Health updated the Resource booklet.

Education and Training workgroup-No update to provide except that the Autism Conference is in April 2022. No other information was provided regarding the Autism Conference.

Meeting adjourned: 3:49 p.m.

Next meeting: February 28, 2022. 1:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. CDT

Transcribed: 11/29/2021 KK