

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2021

Task Force members present via Teams/phone: Lacey Bergh, Krista Fremming, Senator Joan Heckaman, Carol Johnson, Holly Johnson, Connie Lillejord, Heather Opland, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Jamie Walker-Fuller

Absent: Jennifer Flores, Dawn Hanson, Samantha Stewart, Kristie Wolff, and Catherine Yeager

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Cheryl Anderson, Katherine Barchenger, Heather Capella, Teresa Ekren, Rebekka Freije, Susan Gerenz, Daniel Guyla, Danielle Hoff, Hailey Hoff, Kim Hruby, Jodi Hulm, Hank Johnson, Caprice Knapp, Kaitlin Kurtz, Jordan Lill, Stephanie Nelson, Stephen Olson, Lorena Poppe, Blake Ritteman, Amanda Thompson, Beth Thune, Mary Weltz, and Kim Zeeb

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

Review of minutes – February and March (special meeting)

February meeting minutes: Carol Johnson made the motion to approve; Dr. Quanrud seconded the motion.

9 yay/ 0 nay; motion passed

March (special meeting): Carol Johnson made the motion to approve; Dr. Quanrud seconded the motion.

9 yay/ 0 nay; motion passed

Reflection from Caprice Knapp about legislation session. How to make the autism waiver, voucher programs run smoother.

North Dakota Association for the Disabled-Autism Spectrum Assistance Program (ASAP)

The ASAP program was started in January 2020. It can help rural families with medical travel for the individual with autism to get to their OT, PT, SLP, Behavior Health appointments.

ASAP can help with respite as well- no applications for respite services.

ASAP does not just cover children with autism, they cover adults with autism as well.

You must be a ND resident, at the same address for at least 90 days and a permanent resident of the United States.

Legislative updates:

Senate Bill 2089- Changed autism voucher- directed department to amend administrative rules. Also changed the appropriation to \$300,000.00/ Biennium

Senate Bill 2256- Legislation management will hire a consulting company to perform an audit on DD services and Autism services.

SB 2125- Loan repayment program through the Department of Health. The bill passed without any amendments. Added Licensed Behavior Analysts to the eligible behavioral health professions. No appropriations for new awards, only appropriation to previously awarded.

House Bill 1012- Department of Human Services budget bill. The department will be increasing the slots on the autism waiver, from 96 to 150. The age of the children on the waiver is also increasing to 16.

ND Autism Spectrum Disorder Advocacy Coalition-update from members and discussion about how to collaborate in the future

Discussion on the history of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Coalition.

Strategized on how to better approach building the Department of Human Services budget for the next legislation session.

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

Discussion around the dashboard and expenditures. Updated the dashboard with units approved versus units spent.

Kathy Barchenger updated the task force about Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) that started January 1, 2021, autism providers needed their own numbers, so claims were back logged due to this.

ABA Workforce updates:

148 RBTs in North Dakota

49 BCBA's or BCBADs

ASD State Plan:

Kodi Pinks updated on behalf of the communication and public awareness that the autism dashboard information is now on the Department of Health's website.

Training and Education workgroup- still trying to identify current trainings.

Family Voices has their newsletter informing of upcoming trainings.

Department of Public Instruction will have online trainings starting in the Fall.

Identifying autism podcasts.

Creating visual training tools.

Autism Voucher Administrative Code Changes-recommendations from Task Force

Proposed changes to the autism voucher program were discussed. There was a handout with proposed changes, such as, taking out the requirement that the individual must have been a resident of North Dakota for six months, change the maximum amount an individual is eligible to receive per voucher year, reduce the amount of time that an individual can keep the voucher without spending any of it.

2021 Meeting dates: August 23, and November 22

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting: August 23, 2021, 1:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. CDT

Transcribed: KK