

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021

Task Force members present via Teams/phone: Mandy Dendy, Senator Joan Heckaman, Carol Johnson, Holly Johnson, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Susan Gerenz, and Jamie Walker-Fuller

Absent: Lacey Bergh, Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Dawn Hanson, Connie Lillejord, Heather Opland, Samantha Stewart, and Dr. Catherine Yeager

A quorum of Task Force members was not present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Katherine Barchenger, Kristin Dvorak, Jennifer Faul, Jodi Hulm, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Beth Larsen-Steckler, Beth Thune, and Jackie Walsh

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

ND Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program-Jennifer Faul:

The purpose is to promote behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care- support the development of new or improvement of existing statewide or regional pediatric mental health care, telehealth access programs. Educate and encourage providers to screen for mental health.

Increase telehealth behavioral health services to children and adolescents who are living in underserved communities.

This program is a partnership offered by North Dakota Department of Health and Sanford Research.

Task Force charter discussion:

Discussion around if a charter for the Task Force would be helpful. What would the charter look like? What would the goals be? How would the goals be brought to fruition?

This discussion will be brought back to the November 2021 meeting, as there wasn't a quorum to vote.

Interim Legislative Update:

Human Services Interim Committee met on August 3, 2021.

SB 2256-Legislative Management will hire a consulting firm to perform an audit on DD Services and Autism Services. Was decided to issue an RFP for the study.

Krista Fremming provided an update for autism services. Update on autism voucher administrative code changes and expenditures.

Jodi Hulm provided testimony of Early Periodic Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). An informal request for proposal will be issued for the EPSDT report from HB 1012.

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.

Updated January-March 2021 dashboard data only for waiver since claims had been delayed due to EVV.

Discussion around April-June 2021 dashboard.

ASD Waiver annual survey results:

Waiver survey is sent out to families every year. There were fewer responses in 2021 than previous years.

Discussion was held around survey results.

ABA Workforce updates:

Since May 2021: BCBA-D, BCBA, and BCaBA increased by 6, and lost 2 RBTs.

Katherine Barchenger did a training for Southeast Education Cooperative. Schools are wanting to do more ABA in schools, add ABA into the children(s) IEPs.

ASD State Plan:

Communication/ Public Awareness group: Kodi Pinks asked for volunteers for this group, as right now there is only two people since Teresa Larsen retired. Mandy Dendy said that she would take Teresa's place.

Training and Education: No meeting during summer, lost two members (Gerry Teevens and Kristie Wolff).

Autism Voucher Administrative Code Changes-review draft changes that are open for public comment:

Discussed the changes that have been made to autism voucher administrative code changes and that are out for public comment for review, comments.

Discussion about autism waiver changes, administrative rule to change age from 13 to 15.

Added "The child meets the institutional level of care required by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services."

Hearing for public comments is September 7, 2021, at 2:30 p.m. CDT

Waiver was submitted to centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS) on July 31, 2021. Currently, CMS is reviewing the changes.

Meeting adjourned: 3:23 p.m.

Next meeting: November 22, 2021. 1:00 p.m.-4:45 p.m. CDT

Transcribed: 9/16/2021 KK