

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force Meeting Minutes February 28, 2022

Task Force members present via Teams/phone: Lacey Bergh, Jacob Davis, Mandy Dendy, Jennifer Flores, Krista Fremming, Jamie Walker-Fuller, Dr. Shannon Grave, Carol Johnson, Holly Johnson, Haley Lang, Connie Lillejord, Heather Opland, Kodi Pinks, Dr. Myra Quanrud, Matthew Ruby, Samantha Stewart, and Dr. Catherine Yeager,

Absent: Carol Johnson

A quorum of Task Force members was present.

Guests (present and via polycom/phone): Katherine Barchenger, Tammy Barstad, McKenna DeMoe, Kristin Dvorak, Sarah Fuchs, Monica Haugen, Kim Hruby, Jodi Hulm, Kaitlin Kurtz, Lorena Poppe, Melinda Retzer, Kennon Schmit, Beth Schulz, Beth Larson-Steckler, and Beth Thune

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

Approval of November 2021 meeting minutes:

Dr. Quanrud made motion to approve minutes.

Lacey Bergh seconded the motion.

16 yay/0 nay; motion carries.

Kelly Discover Program-Beth Schulz

A client- focused and customized program launched in 2020 to dismantle unjust barriers in the workplace on-by-one. Meet with employers and consult with how the employees would be a fit for the position.

The client receives a year worth of job coaching and supports at no cost to themselves.

ND Medicaid 1915(i) Supported Employment Services-Monica Haugen

Available for individuals aged 14+. Supported Employment is individualized, ongoing support to learn a new competitive job and maintain employment. Initially, it is a 6-month intensive engagement period. Then, indefinite follow up along support period, continuing until the assessments show need is no longer present.

Individuals need to be enrolled in Medicaid or Medicaid Expansion, have a household income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level, a qualifying behavior health diagnosis, a WHODAS assessment score of 25 or higher, and meet the requirements of home and community-based settings rule.

Task Force bylaws:

Discussion about the changes to the original document from Mandy Dendy. Discussion on how to handle the attendance/participation of task force members, what is expected from the subcommittees, and the protocol for when a task force member wants to resign from the task force.

ND Department of Commerce Workforce Development Funds-Melyssa Diebold

Presentation/discussion on the various funding for developing the workforce in North Dakota:

- Operation Intern-private sector businesses in targeted industries (energy, advanced manufacturing, value added agriculture, tourism, and technology based, including cybersecurity.) Up to \$4,000 matching funds per student with a maximum of 5 students.
- Apprenticeships- 5 components- employer involvement, on the job training, related instruction, paid work experience, and award of a nationally recognized industry credential.
- Recruiter Network- HR Professionals across the state of ND. Membership is free, members meet quarterly. The goals of the recruiter network are to share best practices, develop strategies for attracting people to ND, and serve as a sounding board for retention and hiring challenges.
- Regional Workforce Impact Program- ARPA funding of \$15M, grant amounts are based on population of 8 planning regions. There is a 4:1 match, and to support initiatives that will have a regional impact. Eligible applications are: Economic Development offices, Job Development agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and cities.
- Technical Skills Training Grant: ARPA funding of \$3M. Accelerated reskill training and internal trainings to upskill existing workers, develop comprehensive onboarding and entry level training, safety training. Grant amounts, \$100k for reskilling programs, and \$50k for incumbent worker training. There is a 1:1 Match.
- Workforce Innovation Program: ARPA funding of \$2M. Portion of grants are reserved for:
 - Job fairs in areas of high unemployment
 - Innovative or unconventional initiatives to address workforce needs

Interim Legislative Update:

Department of Human Services has started working Alvarez and Marsal consulting. A&M is conducting the DD/Autism Study. They have made an initial data request for claims data, taskforce information and voucher information.

2021-2023 enrollment/expenditures dashboard for ASD waiver, voucher, and state plan ABA:

Discussion around dashboard information.

Updated Promotional materials for waiver and voucher:

The autism waiver and autism voucher brochures have been updated.

ABA Workforce Updates:

Total active, as of 2/2/2022:

- 218 (BCBA-D, BCBA, and RBTs). Decrease of 4 from November 2021 meeting.
 - BCBA-D-3, BCBA-65, and BCaBA-0; increase of 5 from November 2021 meeting.
 - RBT-150; down 9 from November 2021 meeting

ASD State Plan:

Discussion regarding how to arrange the workgroups to best serve the ND population.

Discussion about a survey being sent again as it has been 3 years since a survey has been completed.

Meeting adjourned: 4:10 p.m.

Next meeting: May 23, 2022. 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Transcribed: 4/8/2022 KK