

Autism Task Force Meeting

September 14, 2015

Polycom connected at 10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members Present: Trisha Page, Connie Lillejord, Teresa Larsen, Thomas Carver DO
Task Force Members Present via Polycom: Senator Joan Heckaman, MaryAnn Jaeger, Cathy Haarstad, John Porter, Nancy Ulrich-Crotty

Guests (Present & via Polycom): Amanda Carlson, NaTasha Sawicki, Paula Hinton, Patricia Phillips, Kirsten Dvorak, Jennifer Flores, Lorena Poppe, Russ Cusack, Karen Tescher, Heather Steffl, Dr. Tom Ochacki, Carol John, Joan Karpenko

Minutes from July 2015 were reviewed and motion to approve by Connie Lillejord and seconded by Teresa Larsen with the two minor typographical changes.

Teresa Larsen requested clarification on the status of whether or not Autism Services was a “division” or a “unit”; Karen Tescher advised it is a “unit.”

Discussion concerning the Collective Impact Quality Indicators

- A handout (attached) of an organizational chart requested by the Task Force showing the components for connection and interaction for those involved with autism in North Dakota.
- Will begin to discuss Phase 3, “Sustain Action and Impact” goal setting at next Task Force meeting.

Task Force Updates:

- Trisha Page advised the Task Force that Carolyn Fogarty, whose appointed role on the Task Force was that of a parent of a child with autism, had emailed her resignation (a copy of which is attached). Discussion followed regarding protocol for filling the position.
- The question as to whether or not Century Code was being followed as to reporting to the Governor’s Office and legislative council was asked. It was decided that research would be done as to the correct protocol for doing so.

Department of Health:

(Trisha Page read email provided by Kodi Pinks as neither she nor Kim Hruby were able to attend)

NDDOH and CSHS updates:

- Contracts for the autism clinics have been extended through June 30, 2016.
- ND DoH continues to work towards national accreditation.

- Children’s Special Health Services’ Medical Director, Dr. Joan Connell, has accepted a new position within the ND DoH as the Field Medical Officer.
 - She will continue to work as CSHS’s Medical Director along with her new job duties.
- Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS) will go live on October 5, 2015.
- Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant Review took place in Bismarck, on August 24, 2015.
 - The next step involves looking at state performance measures and evidenced-based strategies.

ASD Database updates:

- In the process of finalizing the ASD database’s Administrative Rules.
 - The next step involves the Department presenting the proposed rules before the Legislative Council Administrative Rules Committee. The next meeting date is tentatively set in December.
- Family and provider brochures are getting disseminated.
 - Trisha Page and Paula Hinton offered to include the brochures in this year’s ND ASD Conference bags.
 - If anyone would like copies of these brochures contact Kodi or CSHS staff to get them mailed out.
- Continuing to seek providers that will volunteer to test the fillable PDF and electronic versions of the ASD report form in the next couple of weeks.
 - Looking to test the time it takes to fill out both versions of the report form from start to finish. This information will be posted on the autism website and will be shared with providers during outreach and education.
- According to the NDDoH Division of Disease Control staff that have been working on the ASD database and the electronic report form; the database will be completed by 9/11/2015 and the electronic report form by 9/21/2015.
 - Internal testing will be done by Disease Control staff to ensure that the electronic report form imports data into the database as intended.
 - The fillable PDF is currently available for reporting on the ASD website at: <http://www.ndhealth.gov/cshs/autism.htm> . The electronic report form will be available for providers to report by September 21, 2015.

- In November, the Department will conduct awareness and outreach activities to providers about the ASD database and its reporting requirements.

DPI updates:

- Task force appointed to discuss concerns regarding students who want to access supportive services.
- Second Transition Interagency Conference
 - November 18th and 19th at the Ramada Inn & Hotel in Bismarck, ND
 - Keynote Speakers: Melinda Jacobs, Esquire and Mallory Sear an Advocate
 - Accepting requests for proposals
- Northern Plains Law Conference on Students with Disabilities
 - South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana
 - September 22-23, 2015 in Rapid City, SD
- State Systemic Improvement Plan
 - Discusses graduation rate for children with disabilities
 - Effective selection/effective support
 - Stakeholder Support—Surveys
- AT Guideline will come out in the Fall (September Conference)

DD:

- Ensuring compliance for those with ASD in regards to EPSDT regulations.
- 623 individuals with ASD on the DD traditional waiver. Request was made to obtain a breakdown by age.

Autism:

- State Autism Conference in Fargo (October 21-23, 2015)
 - 50 parent stipends were included in Conference planning. The question of whether or not childcare could be included was asked. Also opening stipends up to others on the spectrum to be eligible for the stipends to attend.
 - Space requested during conference for networking opportunities.
- Waiver Program:
 - Working on CMS and State Plan changes to amend the waiver for number of waiver slots and age increase.
 - CMS moving programs from waiver to state plan that are deemed medically necessary.
 - JoAnne Hoesel contracted to help with the changes.
 - Waiver changes two months behind being put out for public comment as communication with CMS is slow but questions are given to CMS prior to phone calls to make the calls more production and to hopefully speed up the approval process once it reaches that stage.
 - Developing what is deemed “medically necessary” per CMS guidelines.

- Question asked if more funds that have been appropriated for the waiver will be available since some services will move to the state plan.
- No timeline can be given.
- Screenings will continue for when waiver amendments are implemented.
- Discussed trouble of getting packets back for screenings.
- Waiver numbers:
 - 39 new slot letters sent
 - 1 applicant moved out of state
 - 1 applicant opted out after receiving letter
 - 3 applicants returned packet info for screening
 - 43 currently being serviced
 - 2 being evaluated for current waiver slots available
 - 3 scheduled to leave on 10/3/15 due to redetermination scores
- Voucher Program
 - Clarification given for residency criteria; must be a resident for six months.
 - Voucher numbers:
 - 35 applications received to date for new fiscal period
 - 25 currently being serviced
 - 1 out of home placement
 - 2 denied due to income
 - 6 awaiting income verification
- Vocational Rehabilitation

Russ Cusack attended and reported the following:

- Services cover all individuals with disabilities.
- New VR program for pre-employment transition services for ages 14-21
- Outreach to schools requesting proposals for transition services by November 1, 2015.
- Doing a broadcast for advertising for applying for the free pre-employment transition services.
- Project SEARCH
- Question asked how long someone with ASD receive VR services—answered 2 years (24 months)
- NDASDC Awards
 - Pathfinder was awarded a grant through the NDCPD collaboration currently designed to target discussion on bullying. It will be piloted in five schools and then will go statewide.
- ICANBIKE Camp held in Minot. Three students with ASD learned to ride bikes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Next Meetings

- March 21, 2016