

**ND STATE PLAN ON AUTISM ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING NOTES**

Monday, February 23, 2009

10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Heritage Room State Capitol in Bismarck, ND

Present: Cathy Haarstad, Christy Carroll, Wendy Thomas, Mark Sloan, Wendy LaMontagne, John Porter, Jesse Krieger, Tricia Kiefer, Tammy Gallup-Millner, Bob Rutten, Lynn Dodge, JoAnne Hoesel, Marcia Gums, Bruce Murry, Dan Howell, Barb Murry, and Brenda Munson, recording secretary. Bob Hoffert and Janice Kern participated via phone conference.

Welcome:

Review of status:

- Legislation that has been introduced to create a State Plan on Autism (SB2174). That legislation has been approved by the Senate and now will go over to the House. If it is approved in the House and signed into law by the Governor that then will expand what we are doing into a more official capacity.
- Legislation to fund an autism waiver for early intervention for children ages birth to five has also been introduced. The bill was stripped of funding for a staff person to implement it but did pass the House.
- ND also has a state team on autism that was developed specifically to look at early intervention. Members of that team will be traveling to Utah the first week of March to attend the Act Early Regional Summit and will be able to provide more information at our next meeting.

Logic Model:

- Cathy proposed that we incorporate ideas into some type of format that logically allows us to remember them and see how they would fit together for planning purposes.
- This same logic model will be used by the state team when they attend the Act Early Summit.
- Our plan should specify the activities that we want to accomplish, the resources we would need statewide to accomplish each activity, and the output measures that would allow us to know that the activity is really taking place, what short and long term outcomes we hope to achieve and the impact we expect it to have.

Discussion and Sharing of Ideas:

1. Mark Sloan brought up two important topics to include in the State Plan:

- Address the full needs of children/youth on the spectrum, not just individuals with classic autism, but the full spectrum
 - Revise the DPI guidelines and this would be an activity to achieve that outcome.
2. We discussed the need to create a definition of autism and decided that even if our committee develops a definition it is felt that the Governor's Task Force will develop one as well.
 3. JoAnne Hoesel indicated that rather than having two groups working on the State Plan, our group and the Governor's Task Force; that she would like to see this group morphed into the Governor's Task Force.
 4. We also discussed how to address the needs of the full- range of children/individuals with ASD as an activity. This would involve having better data to help us decide who is served now and who is not covered by the existing funding and services.
 5. Bob Rutten also clarified information on the organizational topics for the plan.
 6. From the continuing discussion we developed a planning matrix that is included at the end of the minutes.
 7. Wendy introduced suggestions based on the experiences of the ND GPAST project.
 - Early identification and timely access to services
 - Professional development
 - Adequate funding and multidisciplinary team concept
 8. Cathy entertained the idea of having a regional pre-school model that not only works directly with those little one that have ASD, but that also goes into the daycare and public schools and trains the receiving providers how to work with that group of individuals.
 9. The group agreed that we would like to see a delivery model that is a fit for North Dakota that has the specialized training in it, at least regionally with a training component that reaches out to different communities.

Planning Action Steps:

1. Our team will gather further data and present those findings at the May 2009 meeting. Each group will be given about 20 minutes to present and summarize findings and should bring handouts for the group. Data may be shared in advance if available.
2. DPI will present data on school age children and services.
 - a. Location of all the individuals within the educational system
 - Number of individuals diagnosed with ASD as both a primary or secondary disorder to include children and youth with Aspergers, PDD-NOS or other diagnosis being used such as SED or non categorical delay if that data is available.

Cathy will invite BCBS to provide or present current data

 - b. Cathy will find out how Montana is re-screening all children – what criteria and methods they are using and how successful it has been.
 - c. DHS (Joanne and Wendy L.) will gather data on adults with ASD, training for staff and services available/needed. They can use medical side, claims data from Medicaid or other sources they are aware of.
 - d. We will also look for training data compilation specific to the needs of parents and schools to include training provided and what is needed. The previous data collection attempted by NDCPD did not have the buy-in to give us relevant information.

- e. Other sources of data include: DPI survey, MSU survey, Director of Special Education (Jesse and John), GRAAIN enrollment data.
- f. Bottom line: We will begin our work with what we have, but expect to identify critical data gaps that should be addressed.

Preliminary Discussion of Outcomes:

1. Make data-driven decisions
2. Knowledgeable/skilled workforce and looking at other areas to include justice, mental health, DD, education and medical. Tammy will see if she can recruit another health professional to join the team and Cathy will check on the judicial representation.
3. Parents are informed and involved and we want to see that involvement continue.
4. Accessible and equitable service delivery models that are available and that utilize best practice.

Next Steps for May Meeting:

1. Re-evaluate available data from the various departments as described in the logic model action steps and present additional data.
2. Act Early Summit report.
3. Legislative Update
4. We may schedule an additional meeting, possibly in June; for further discussion at May meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2009 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Prairie Hills Plaza.

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