

**ND STATE PLAN ON AUTISM
WORK GROUP - MEETING NOTES
Thursday, June 11, 2009**

Present: Cheryl Collins, Bob Hoffert, Cathy Haarstad, JoAnne Hoesel, Chris Houmann, Tricia Kiefer, Wendy LaMontagne, Tammy Gallup-Millnor, Bob Rutten, Mark Sloan, Sharon Solum, Wendy Thomas, Connie Irey, recording secretary. Bruce Murry and Donene Feist participated via phone conference.

Purpose: To review remaining data that describes ND populations of children with ASD and to form recommendations to pass on to the ND Task Force.

Welcome and Introduction of Attendees:

Data Sharing:

Tammy Gallup-Milnor presented data representing health care costs from BCBS of ND on children with autism as a primary or secondary diagnosis code. The number of claims is approximately one third of the amount of children estimated to have ASD in ND. Parent survey data suggests that Medical Home is an advantage to children and their families to establish qualitative care for children to include involvement and develop a relationship with their physician. Discussion on early developmental screening and lack of standardized developmental screening tools used during medical appointments for children age 10 months to 5 years. Data also shows a need for working with primary care physicians in ND to do early screening on a continuous basis for special needs including ASD. Academy of Pediatrics has been involved in groundwork for pediatricians for best practice and ASD education. Discussion held regarding possible recommendation to ND School of Medicine to include ASD education in their family practice education.

Wendy LaMontagne shared data from JoAnne regarding non-DD cases. Data presented from time period 7/1/07 – 6/30/08 shows 236 children with ASD diagnosis did not receive other DD services. Concern expressed about children not being diagnosed. There are children who are having problems but don't have the diagnosis. Question raised are we only looking at factual data or is there room for assumption regarding the number of children with ASD. 446 individuals with ASD are receiving DD program management ranging from ages of 1-77. Of the 446 – 285 also have diagnosis of mental retardation. See attached.

Recommendations: – See attached.

- **Services**
- **Service Coordination**
- **Assessment**
- **Equity**
- **Workforce Development**

Final Thoughts and concluding remarks:

- Categories for positions on ND State Task Force that we still need to send in recommendations are:
 - ✓ Adult Family Member
 - ✓ Health Insurance Representative
 - ✓ Representative from a licensed residential care facility.
 - ✓ Deadline to submit application for recommendation is today, June 11, 2009 @ 5:00 pm
- Cathy will finalize recommendations by the end of June and email out to everyone
- A copy will be sent to JoAnne Hoesel to deliver to members of the selected ND State Task Force.

cfi