



Autism Society of North Dakota  
Annual Meeting Agenda  
Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

1. Welcome
  - a. Introductions: Mark Sloan, Jennifer Hefter, Jennifer Stroh, Jocelyn Sloan, Renie Chadwell
  - b. AT Conference is available for use and will charge us only by use
2. Update
  - a. Activities over past year
    - i. Autism Source—ASD friendly dentists a link will be added to the ND Autism Society's website
    - ii. Williston had an Autism Walk and raised \$500
    - iii. April 10-Autism ND Annual Meeting
    - iv. May 7 and 8-Information Booth Pathfinders Conference, Minot ND
    - v. May 22 Williston Autism Walk
    - vi. June 12-Bismarck Autism Walk
    - vii. July 16-MAPS Picnic
    - viii. July 16-NDCPD Panel Discussion
    - ix. October 29-Grafton visit
    - x. October-Newsletter meeting with Renie in Williston
    - xi. Renie develops newsletter
    - xii. Renie serves on Parent Navigation Meetings in Williston
    - xiii. Bottineau-New Town-Minot-Diagnostic Clinic Support
    - xiv. Bismarck-Carrington-Jamestown-Grand Forks-Waiver for Dept. of Health
    - xv. Various phone supports
    - xvi. April 15-Fort Totten Parent Fair
    - xvii. April 2011 Governor acknowledges April as Autism Awareness Month
    - xviii. KXMC TV interview regarding Autism Awareness Month
    - xix. Contacts to Criminal Justice Program and Nursing Program for Autism Awareness Month (Safe and Sound Initiative)
3. Finances
  - a. Treasurer's report
    - i. Budget: This has been a good year for ND Autism Society. We received \$1100 in donations over the past year. Expenses were about \$200 and most of this is for the

website fees. We currently have about \$1554.00 in the checking account.

1. Process to use funds for activities requires approval from the President for funding use and notification to the Treasurer to send out funds.
- ii. Minot group had a picnic last year and requested some funding. We never received finalized details and Jennifer plans to check in with them again for this year.
- iii. Do we send out thank you notes for donations? Mark indicated if we receive a large donation we do send out a thank you.
- iv. Advertising: Non-profit groups typically receive discounted rates and some places may allow advertising for free. A grocery store in Fargo allows free advertising in their flyer.

#### 4. Planning

##### a. Upcoming Activities

- i. We would like to keep a running list and put our activities on the website.
  - ii. Parent group and support: We would like to get more information out about support groups that are available
  - iii. Mark serves on a state board and represents parents and the Autism Society of ND.
  - iv. May 10- Autism Safe and Sound Program in Hazen
  - v. June 11-Bismarck Autism Awareness Week
  - vi. July-Float/Awareness info at ND State Parade in Minot— Dawn Keiser of Hazen would be willing to help with this
  - vii. Fall 2011: International Autism Awareness Day or Walk: discussion with some colleagues from Canada to have something at the International Peace Gardens, Jennifer has sent some emails out to groups in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Mark suggested contacting our National organization as we get more details on this event.
  - viii. Hallan Burton—International Oil and Gas Company's Impact group: Renie is looking at having this group volunteer and sponsor an event in Williston. She would like to have various booths in the park (sensory, face painting, creative/social story, informational, chair massage stand, support group, nutrition, technology, and etc...). We would like to have a booth. Autism Fair or Special Needs Fair would create a broader scope and the different treatment options would apply to more than just ASD. Tentative timeline is mid to late June.
- b. Working with other Autism groups in the state: Mark has been involved in the Red River Asperger Network and tries to keep up-to-date with their activities. It would be nice to have connections and communications among all the Autism groups across the state. In 2008, there was a meeting of the state groups, but this has not continued. There were also monthly conference calls after this meeting. The facilitator of these activities moved positions and it did not continue. State Autism

Task Force or Center for Disabilities in Minot (NCDPD) may be able to organize and sustain this type of activity. Jennifer will look into this and try to have more information by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- c. Regional Support Groups: Page on our website that lists meetings of various groups. PAC—Parents with Autistic Children out of the Devils Lake area has been formed and information will be added.
  - d. Banner for the Western side of the state and Eastern side of the state to share for events. Vista Print will make one for \$54 and our logo is available on our website to use in designing the banner.
5. Communications
- a. Newsletter: We have one formatted, but have not distributed it yet. Renie would like to send it out to others for review before we distribute the newsletter. Previous newsletters were sent out 3 or 4 times a year and could just be updated information and a contact. Renie would like to have more contributors of articles. Could we be included in the NDCPD newsletter? We will think more on this and review the newsletter. How often do we want to send out a newsletter? Quarterly would be the most frequent. We would like to get the newsletter out by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We would like to have a Spring and Fall Newsletter that could include upcoming events and updates on past events. Spring newsletter in March that could promote Autism Awareness Month and our Annual Meeting and the September newsletter could cover upcoming school information etc... We will look into emailing this and posting it to our website.
  - b. Obtain email member list from National
  - c. Web site: Mark adds items as he comes across them and will add items when requested or sent to him.
6. Autism Awareness Month
- a. Proclamation: Governor signed proclamation for April as Autism Awareness Month in ND. Posters have been used in the past. April is the National Month for Awareness. Those that live with ASD in their lives know that ASD is in their lives everyday and we can promote awareness any time through out the year.
  - b. Press release: This accompanied the proclamation and is available on the website.
7. Other Business
- a. Next meeting date (April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012): Conference Call Again or try skype if we would like to see each other.
  - b. Announcements
8. Adjourn business meeting. Jennifer moved to adjourn the meeting.