

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism Minutes
January 25, 2006

In Attendance:

Yeyette Houfek (Chair), Teri Keeton, Jamey Kendall, Shirley Erickson, Stephen Stein, Michael Wasmer, Lee Stickle, Mary Woodworth, Sarah Bommarito, Dr. Carol Garrison, and Dr. Matt Reese (by phone)

Guests: Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS), Sue Ann Kline and Jennifer Carrier (AARC).

Not In Attendance: Karen Frye (excused) and Rebecca Flaton

- I. Introductions/Approval of Agenda: Yeyette began the meeting by thanking all members for participating in the delivery of the cookies to the legislators during the morning in the GCOA annual autism awareness campaign. The cookies were prepared by the students of a commercial baking class of the Culinary Arts Program at the Broadmoor Technical Center in the Shawnee Mission School District. Yeyette thought it would be a good plan to continue with giving a cookie to the legislative secretaries in the future as was suggested for this year.

A motion to approve minutes as amended from the October 26, 2005 meeting was made by Lee Stickle and seconded by Mary Woodworth. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Shirley Erickson and seconded by Mary Woodworth.

Commission members were asked to give reports of activities relating to autism:

Dr. Matt Reese – Discussed the following

- 1) Dodge City is attempting to secure federal monies through grant writing for developmental delayed services (which would include autism and the regional centers)
- 2) Dodge City will be the location of the Kansas Autism Conference
- 3) Reported on potential of supported living grants for a modified program for autistic individuals.

Lee Stickle – Reported on the Department of Education's meetings and plans. She mentioned the big push is on technology and distance learning training.

Steve Stein – Reported Jeannie Zortman is going to Washington D.C. next month to meet with Pat Roberts about the Regional Centers. He also reported that at the Kansas Autism Conference on April 21st the speakers will be Temple Grandin's Mother, Dr. Shaw and Diane O'Saki of Denver's Children's Hospital.

Mary Woodworth – Reported that she gave a presentation on Inclusion at the state conference of Families Together. She talked about the success of students within the Wichita schools moving from the self-contained classroom into the regular classroom with support.

Sara Bommarito – Mentioned that there is new awareness in the public about autism but there is a lacking of providers.

Teri Keeton – Reported on the large movement of the special education students being included in the regular classroom with support versus the self-contained classroom.

Jamey Kendall – Informed the commission about CFIT (Caring for Infants and Toddlers) to be held on April 28th from 7-10 a.m. with physicians Dr. Kerschen and Dr. Ellerbeck doing the presentation to educate pediatricians to get evaluations on their patients.

Yeyette Houfek – Told the commission about a new autism support group that was started in Hays. They had a first meeting with 20 parents attending without childcare. Lee Stickle gave the first presentation.

Mike Wasmer – Gave the following dates from the Autism Society of Johnson County, Kansas: 2/11 Bowl-A-Thon across from the Doubletree, 2/14 Meet with Autism groups; 3/30 Pub Fest, 4/5 Wake Up to Autism at the Doubletree, 4/22 Walk-A-Thon at Longview College, 4/24 Golf Tournament. Lee Stickle added that students who must follow specific nutritional guidelines in their diet must now observe new regulations at the school cafeteria if they choose to buy lunch. New guidelines state that a doctor must send a written note. The KSDE web site has a nutritional link with a form for the physician to fill out if needed by the student.

II. Legislator Presentation:

Mike Wasmer and Dr. Carol Garrison presented a PowerPoint presentation for legislators. There were 4 legislators in attendance. The legislators brought up a few points 1) with the big upcoming increase in education funding, make sure Special Education gets part of it, talk to Superintendents, etc. 2) They also asked the question of whether the increase in numbers has to do with awareness or incidence.

III. Membership:

Membership was discussed. Yeyette reported she has submitted names for appointments but has not had a response. Karen Frye is resigning. There are currently three vacancies.

IV. Future:

Mike Wasmer will talk to Insurance Commissioner Praeger again since she was not in attendance today.

Yeyette asked for a volunteer to update the proclamation wording and Mike Wasmer agreed to help.

Sue Ann Kline from the Asperger Autism Resource Center discussed the Wake Up to Autism breakfast schedule for April 5, 2006. It was agreed that the next commission meeting would be held on that same date at 9:30 at the Doubletree, which is the same location where the breakfast will be held. Those who plan to attend the breakfast need to RSVP to the Asperger Autism Resource Center (Sue Ann Kline).