

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism Minutes

April 4, 2006

In Attendance:

Yeyette Houfek (Chair), Lee Stickle, Shirley Erickson, Rebecca Flaton-Koehler, Dr. Carol Garrison, Dr. Matt Reese, Dr. Michael Wasmer, Dr. Stephen Stein, and Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS). Not in Attendance: Teri Keeton (excused), Sarah Bommarito (excused), Karen Frye (excused), Jamey Kendall (excused), and Mary Schlyer Woodworth (excused).

The Autism Commission met on April 5, 2006 in Overland Park, Ks after attending the first annual "Wake up to Autism Breakfast" hosted by the Autism Asperger Resource Center.

I. Introduction/Approval of Agenda: The Commission was called to order and a motion was made by Yeyette and seconded by Lee Stickle to begin the meeting as an open forum so individuals from the Autism Breakfast could provide feedback to the Commission.

After Commission members introduced themselves to guests, all individuals were invited to share their experiences, concerns, or relevant information regarding current issues surrounding autism.

Guest:

Kirsten Sneid - Reported that 87% of children diagnosed with Autism still live with their parents. The question was raised what will happen to these children as the parents age and can no longer care for them. The state of Kansas should develop an array of services to train these young individuals so they can live independently.

Shirley Fearon - Shared with the Commission Missouri's system of care. Missouri has a blending of funding sources from both the Mental Health and Mental Retardation side to address children with dual diagnosis. She recommended the Commission research and review Missouri's system.

Barbara Mesner - Shared her experience of receiving services through the MR/DD waiver for her child. She has encountered difficulty finding an individual to provide the services for her child, yet she is still expected to pay the parental fee.

Shared concerns expressed by all of the parents are:

- a. suicide rates for autistic children
- b. law enforcement
- c. school issues
- d. insurance

II. Commission closed the open forum and moved to the lobby and continued with business.

Another motion was made to approve minutes as amended from the January 25, 2006 by Lee Stickle and seconded by Rebecca.

Mike Wasmer – Reported that he met with the Insurance Commissioner Sandy Prager and the following individuals were at the Proclamation signing with the Governor declaring the month of April as the month of Autism awareness at 10:30 am on March 24, 2006 Andrew Schlapp, Kristen Sneid, Sarah Wasmer, Mike Wasmer, Jamey Kendall, Sue Ann Kline, Cheryl Bondank, Lee Stickle.

Pam will update the Commission list with changes and set up the next meeting in Topeka for July 19, 2006.

Yeyette reported that Teri was unable to come to the meeting due to the passing of her mother.

III. The Commission adjourned early so members could return home at the normal time.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19th at the Kansas Neurological Institute (KNI), Wheatland Bldg., Classroom B. If you are unable to attend, conference call will be available by calling 1-877-278-8686 code 975970.

**Address for KNI:
3107 SW 21st
Topeka, Ks**