

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism
Minutes from 10-25-06

Present: Yeyette Houfek (Chair), Jamey Kendall, Mimi French, Mike Wasmer, Shirley Erickson, Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS), Sara Bommarito, Mary Woodworth, Stephen Stein. Not in attendance (excused): Matt Reese, Lee Stickle, Rebecca Flaton-Koehler and David Cunningham and Teri Keeton. Carol Garrison (not excused).

Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m. Agenda was approved. Minutes from 7-19-06 were reviewed and approved as corrected.

Commission member activities/input: three focus groups were held since the last meeting in Wichita, Hays and Topeka. Stakeholder meetings have been held in Topeka and another Stakeholder meeting will be held this Friday. 1.2 Million has been added to the SRS budget request for the next fiscal year for an Autism Waiver. One concern voiced is that if the waiver says the autism is falling under mental health will this cause even more reason for insurance to deny coverage.

Four legislative coffees have taken place. Mike has done presentations for all of them. In Wichita, 60 people attended with 7 legislators; in Overland Park, 100 attended with 15/16 legislators. In Dodge City, 55 attended with 6 legislators. The fourth one is scheduled in Manhattan tomorrow, 10-26-06.

Mike Wasmer reported that Senator Wilson was granted a hearing with the Legislative Education Planning committee on 10-17-06 and he testified for them. The Kansas Coalition for Autism Legislation (KCAL) is recommending an Autism task force that will help with education of legislator's and work on development of the waiver. They also want an Insurance task force that will investigate insurance issues and work for mandates. Senator Schodorf has asked for a meeting with Mike and Senator Wilson before the session begins.

Shirley Erickson thanked Mike for all of his work. She expressed concern about suggestion that Special Education teachers stay in the field for 10 years. Also recommended that we find parents of adults with autism to testify.

Sara Bommarito reported on the upcoming Families Together conference that will be held December 9th on Inclusion in Education. Also reported on the recent purchase of the Halstead Hospital and the desire of the buyer to have area for Autism.

Mary Woodworth announced the keynote speaker for the Families Together conference is a parent of a child with autism. Also she has been asked to be a regional autism specialist to work with Ks State Department of Education. She also continues to work with the Teach Transition Assessment Profile (TTAP).

Stephen Stein has attended the legislative coffee in Dodge City and the focus group in Hays. He also met with a group of persons including Jeannie Zortman and Ryan Carpenter; who were meeting with Senator Roberts's staff regarding a regional center in Dodge City.

Lee Stickle had sent an email to report that they have a new series of education offerings that will take place in 11 different ITV sites and they will offer 3 hours of graduate credit for those attending. Also reported on the training of 60 new team members and that KSDE will soon have 6 regional autism consultants around the state.

Commission Business:

Margaret Zillinger has copied Yeyette on a letter she wrote in response to Dr Richard Kaspar regarding encouraging use of the Broadmoor Medical Building in Overland Park, which houses "Finding a Cure, Inc". The commission continues to not endorse specific treatments so no further action will be taken.

Email request to Yeyette and Pam from Ginny Chanda requesting Service Guidelines for Kansas. There are none currently in place we will refer her to Anna Leitch who is developing resource directory.

Margaret had also sent an email request to Yeyette that was from a parent of a child with Asperger's looking for funding for out of state training. Mimi will f/u with the parent to see where the training is, where the family lives and see if there is training in Kansas that may work for her.

Resignation letter read from Teri Keeton. Teri also served as Vice Chair, so anyone who is interested in serving in the capacity should let Yeyette know, so we can contact the Governor to recommend appointment.

Presentation and Discussion about the waiver:

Some discussion about items we absolutely want to be included:

Funds tied to the individual/self-directed.

Annual Reassessment.

Use of funding needs to be flexible.

Use of case manager.

Respite.

Age range was discussed from and it was discussed high/low age versus amount of time after diagnosis.

Kyle Kessler and Michelle Ponce were present and thanked the commission for involvement and assistance in this process. They hope to have a waiver in place by 1-1-08. SRS commissioned a study that was performed by KU School of Social Welfare. The study identified gaps in the current system. Early Intervention was identified as one of the most crucial parts of treatment.

Michelle reported on a registry that Missouri is looking at using. They will tie in with Interactive Autism Network (IAN) that has 2 sides, a voluntary, self-reporting system and a research component.

Next Meeting scheduled for 1-24-07 we will deliver cookies starting at 9:00 am, meeting at 10:30 and then have legislative education session at 1:00.

Meeting adjourned.