

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism Minutes

July 19, 2006

In Attendance:

Yeyette Houfek (Chair), Theresa Keeton, (Vice Chair) Mary Woodworth, Sarah Bommarito, Mimi French, David Cunningham, Jane sitting in for Jamie Kendall, Dr. Matt Reese, Dr. Michael Wasmer, Dr. Steve Stein, Rebecca Flaton-Koehler (per conference call) and Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS). Not in Attendance: Lee Stickle (excused), Shirley Erickson (excused), and Dr. Carol Garrison (excused).

- I. Introduction/Approval of Agenda: Agenda recommended for adjustment to allow discussion with Margaret Zillinger at 1 pm. Margaret will be discussing Secretary Daniels proposal of having two focus group meetings with parents of children with Autism to discuss proposals SRS would like to present to the legislation this next session regarding an Autism Waiver. The two focus groups would be held in Topeka and Hays. Agenda was approved. Minutes from last meeting were discussed and motion made to accept as corrected.

Guest:

Gary Blumenthal discussed issues involved in moving the Autism commission forward by getting providers and players involved. The goal is to get the Autism Waiver into the governor's budget.

Commission Members were invited to share why they are on the Autism commission and what expertise they contribute to the commission.

Mary Woodward shared her conference experience, shared about different tools for teaching autistic children and new assessment methods.

Dr. Michael Wasmer voiced concern regarding various autism organizations/advocates be consistent in what they say and do in order to have a stronger voice.

- II. Commission continued with business.

Next meeting dates were set for Oct. 25, 2006 from 9:30 am to 3 pm. Cookie delivery day to the legislators is Jan. 24, 2007; members need to be at the Capital to deliver cookies at 9 am. After cookies are delivered the Commission will have their meeting in Docking from 10:30 am to 3 pm. Back up date for cookie delivery (in case of bad weather) will be Feb. 7, 2007.

Mike will develop a presentation for the legislators. Yeyette will encourage members to be available for the Proclamation signing coming up sometime in March or the first of April.

Yeyette asked Commission members to come up with talking points as to why the State of Kansas should have an Autism Waiver. There were discussions which included: best practices, pointing out benefits to the community, as well as the positive long term impact of an early intervention program for autistic children, and age limits to the waiver vs: none.

Guest:

Margaret Zillinger informed the Commission that Secretary Daniels would like to have two focus groups with parents of autistic children in order to get their feedback. He wants the parents to tell him what an Autism waiver should look like. Secretary Daniels believes this is the time to request an Autism waiver due to the interest legislators showed last session and the positive budget outcome SRS experienced. Secretary Daniels would like the Commission to take the lead, support for the waiver, and get the word out regarding the focus groups.

Yeyette contacted DSNWK (Hays CDDO) for the Hays meeting and would propose that the meeting be held from 7 pm to 9 pm so working parents could attend. She would also like to see a focus group held in Wichita, as well as the Topeka area. Margaret will discuss this with the Secretary and get back with the commission. Pam will let Yeyette know the Secretary's response and the final times and places.

SRS will support and reimburse for child care at each area and will reimburse commission members travel expenses to attend these meetings.

Margaret shared with the Commission that the budget dollar amount must be ready by September 1, 2006 so it can be presented to the Secretary September 15, 2006. She went on to describe the process and steps necessary to acquire the necessary information.

It was suggested that parents complete a questionnaire at the meetings in order to assist in gathering information for the Secretary.

III. Theresa Keeton moved to adjourn and Mary Woodworth seconded.

The Oct. 25, 2006 meeting will be at the SRS Learning Center, Room 2 in Topeka from 9 am to 3 pm. SRS Learning Center address is 2600 SW E. Circle Dr. South (2nd and MacVicar) Topeka, KS 66606.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2007, from 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Docking State Office Building (DSOB) 10 Southwest scheduled. This room is also scheduled for Feb. 7, 2007. Address is 915 SW Harrison St. Free parking is provided in Lot 1 across from the Capitol.

If you are unable to attend, conference call will be available by calling 1-877-278-8686 code 975970.

