

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism  
Minutes  
August 4, 2004

**Attendance:**

Yeyette Houfek (chair), Theresa Keeton, Jamey Kendall, Karen Frye, Stephen Stein Shirley Erickson, Guest: Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS).

**I. Introductions/Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve

**II. Review of Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes.

**III. Yeyette officially started the meeting while waiting for additional members to show up.** Yeyette and the group reviewed the book on Autism that was produced by Ohio as well as a brochure produced by the Autism Society from North Carolina. Members discussed whether the Autism/Asperger Center at KU might have the ability to write a grant for the Autism Commission.

Pam will forward to Yeyette any articles regarding Autism that come through the Beltways, a federal newsletter. She will also check on the Autism web site Sean was developing before he left and with Margaret Zillinger regarding an Autism Waiver.

Meeting dates were discussed and set. **Oct 27<sup>th</sup>**, 2004 from 9:30 am to 3pm, this meeting will be scheduled in Topeka. **February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005** from 4 pm to 6 pm will be by teleconference and Pam will utilize HCP/CSS conference call number. **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**, from 9:30 am to 3 pm will be held at the Docking Bldg, due to the annual cookie delivery with the legislator. The April date is subject to change.

Members reviewed by-laws of the Commission and discussed the roles of its members. It was discussed that if a member cannot attend a meeting then they need to send a representative from their organization and notify the Chairperson or SRS contact person.

Yeyette talked to Jennifer Crow from the Governor's office and a meeting is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Yeyette will be contacting members to join her for this meeting.

Members discussed and decided that the Commission would not endorse or support any organization. Yeyette will draft a standard form letter as a

response to this request.

**IV. Open Forum**

Tom Laing, executive director of Interhab spoke with members regarding his advocacy work and how Interhab lobbies legislators. He made several suggestions on how the commission could become a stronger advocate for children with Autism. The following suggestions are:

1. Organize internally (small groups)
2. What is the message the Commission is trying to get across (keep it simple, tell a story).
3. Form a small informal committee to go to the legislator.
4. Network efficiently
5. Do not ask the Governor for permission to act.
6. Identify the dollar amount you need to accomplish the goal and do not compromise.

**V. Commission Business**

By – Laws are attached to minutes so Commission Members can review them before the next meeting.

**Next Meeting will be at KNI classroom B from 9:30 am to 3 pm. The address is:**

**3107 SW 21 St. , Topeka, KS. 66604**

**\*If you need directions to KNI please call (785) 296-3561.**