

Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism

Minutes

November 17, 2003

Attendance:

Yeyette Houfek (chair), Mary Woodworth, Michael Wasmer, Karen Frye, Stephen Stein, Carol Garrison, Jamey Kendall, Carol Dermyer

Guests: Sean Swindler (ARC of Johnson County), Margo Lytton (HCP/CSS), Jane Stein (parent), Lori Burnshire (parent and Families Together), Peggy Miksch (KDHE), Carolyn Nelson, (KDHE)

I. Introductions/Approval of Agenda:

II. Review of Minutes:

Correction in attendance as Karen Frye was not at the meeting. Woodworth motioned, Frye seconded

III. Infant Toddler Services (ITS):

Carolyn Nelson and Peggy Miksch joined Jamey Kendall (all from KDHE) for this discussion. Carol Dermyer (KSDE) also provided information.

KDHE provides services from birth to age 3.

KSDE is responsible for children once they reach 3 years of age.

KDHE provided handouts to describe the 16 services available and the network for services within the State. The State monitors the network of providers that serves 5500 children annually. There is a State Coordinating Council of advocates and Doug Bowman is the chair.

KSDE is responsible to provide a free and appropriate education for all children 3 years and over.

There was much discussion about scientifically based interventions, funding for services, legislation that might assist and Kansas policy. Two statements resulted:

- 1) Parents don't know what to ask for.
- 2) What does the Autism Commission need to do to impact change?

Families Together advised that they sponsor an annual conference for parents. They can also assist and advise families.

IV. Public Forum

No comments from any of the guests in attendance.

V. Updates

ARC of Kansas: Sean reported that several of the large ARCs would like to re-establish a Kansas ARC but this is a down the road. For now these ARCs will form a coalition, a no or low cost infrastructure and look at areas of the State where they can assist other ARCs to develop.

Special Education: Participants reviewed the handout titled "Response From KSDE to KCGA Questions." There was very little discussion regarding the Shawnee Mission Pre-school issues and extensive discussion regarding the Juvenile Justice system and students with behavior disorders. Several persons asked: how can the Autism Commission get information out to parents and/or get them training on how to work with their school districts.

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Families Together does receive a lot of calls on this and does advise parents. They can also provide Outreach as needed. Often the child's IEP is the best way to specifically deal with an issue. Karen was aware of some videos and books that could assist police, schools and families. She will bring this information to the next meeting or send it via e-mail.

Other:

CMS Review: Margo Lytton reported that the review went very well. SRS had no findings and only some minor recommendations. SRS' response to CMS has been sent and we are waiting a final report. This report will be available through the SRS/HCP/CSS website. CSS will be seeking input on the MR/DD waiver renewal soon. The Commission will be advised of the comment period and any scheduled meetings.

AYP: Annual Yearly Progress or No Child Left Behind. Many schools will be on "improvement needed because they are not doing what is needed for identified sub-groups of children. A sub-group is usually identified when 30 or more children are in one like category. Parents or advocates need to call the State to alert them of issues in addition to working with the local schools. Parents can also file a formal complaint or ask for mediation. KSDE is moving to focus monitoring. Either of these calls could trigger TA or instruction to the schools.

Project Stay: Schools can call and request help from Project Stay. (www.projectstay.com) ½ of their time is working for the project and ½ of their time is contracted to 20 school districts. There is a small conference in Wichita about Project Stay on Dec 13 sponsored by Families Together.

Autism Month: Yeyette will work on the proclamation and an appointment with the Governor for March or April. The Commission would like to tie this to cookie day at the Legislature.

VI. Commission Business

Yeyette will contact Trisha Self to see if she desires to continue on the Board.

Yeyette will contact the Governors Office for an appointment in either December or January to provide an update on Commission activities. Members should let her know if they would like to attend. Usually 5 or 6 persons can attend this meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Ks Early Childhood Development Annual Conference- February 26 –28, 2004, Wichita
See: www.KDEC.org

Next meeting: February 4, 2004 in Topeka – SRS Learning Center, Room C

Legislative Review

KAPS – Rocky Nichols

Rod and/or Mark from KSDE

MR/DD Waiver renewal - Greg Wintle, CSS

VIII. Adjourn

Woodworth moved, Dermeyer seconded – Meeting adjourned.