

**Kansas Governor's Commission on Autism
Minutes
October 27, 2004**

In Attendance:

Yeyette Houfek (Chair), Teri Keeton, Rebecca Flaton, Jamey Kieffer, Shirley Erickson, Stephen Stein, Michael Wasmer, Dr. Matt Reese, Mary Woodworth, Sarah Bommarito, Dr. Carol Garrison, and Guests: Pamela Keller (HCP/CSS), Sam Stillwell (Wyandotte County Autism Society), Sue Ann Kline (AARC).

Not In Attendance:

Ron Green (excused), Karen Frye (excused), Carol Dermeyer

I. Introductions/Approval of Agenda:

A motion to approve was made by Shirley Erickson, seconded by Jamey Kieffer.

II. Review of By-Laws /Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve minutes as corrected from the August 4, 2004 meeting was made by Mary Woodworth, seconded by Becky Flaton. A current membership list was updated and will be mailed out to commission members. The commission agreed to become responsible for assuming the role of taking the minutes and disseminating them to the members.

III. Yeyette and the group that met with Governor Sebelius on September 7, 2004 discussed their meeting.

Shirley Erickson, Sarah Bommarito, Mary Woodworth, Dr. Carol Garrison and Yeyette all shared their impressions of the meeting and felt the Governor listened to all commission members concerns in the 45 minute meeting. Ron Green was also in attendance at the meeting with the Governor. As a result of the meeting Yeyette is following up with a letter to the Governor updating her on state wide numbers of children diagnosed with autism. The commissions' goals continue to be two-fold. One to continue to endorse the Regional Centers and secondly to pursue the Autism Waiver. There was discussion on the update of numbers on the Regional Centers. Dr. Reece and Dr. Garrison will follow through with updates of numbers of children diagnosed with autism to Yeyette to include in her letter to the Governor. Discussion continued concerning the waiver. Pamela Keller will contact Margaret Zillinger and Laura Howard for a committee meeting of commission members concerning the waiver. Optional dates will be sent to members to choose from within the near future.

IV. Sam Stillwell, Executive Director, of Wyandotte County Autism Society,

shared with the commission members his personal background in autism and ways the group is educating parents on how to work with autism and various systems in Wyandotte County.

V. Members discussed endorsements and supports

to various organizations and whether to include this issue within the KGCA By-Laws. Yeyette will continue to use a standard form letter as a response to this request.

- VI. **Dr. Reece gave an update on the Regional Centers.** He stated another reason for the centers is that there is an increase of numbers in younger, bi-modal, and more complicated cases, therefore needing an ongoing relationship to see what is going on with each case, meaning a more thorough assessment or ongoing evaluation. He has updated the centers to now include standards, quality assurance and positive behavior supports billing. Dr. Reece will update the numbers of children diagnosed with autism at his facility and a new financial proposal to Yeyette.
- VII. **Commission members made decisions regarding the web site** that Pamela Keller will create through SRS. Members are to designate links that will be of value to the web site and send the link/information to Yeyette or Pamela before the next meeting. These links will be discussed at the next meeting.
- VIII. **Commission brochure was updated and revised by members.** Carol Garrison moved to approve the brochure and Jamey Kieffer seconded it. Pamela Keller will finalize it.
- IX. **Sue Ann Kline, Executive Director, Autism Aspergers Resource Center,** shared a variety of information with commission members about the new and improved center. In the past two years there has been a change of director, board of directors, mission, location, and working emphasis. The goal is to provide enough resources to serve the child to reduce the autistic symptoms. The area's services are disjointed and the center's goal is to bring the resources together and partner with any group.

X. Updates:

Mary Woodworth gave an Autism Awareness Workshop in Wichita to a ROTC group and several from the group became mentors.

Matt Reece is giving an Autism Awareness Workshop in Lawrence/Wichita in November.

Michael Wasmer is giving an Autism Awareness Workshop in November for the Interhab Governor's Affairs Committee.

Yeyette Houfek gave an Autism Awareness Workshop for Hays Area Children Center.

Yeyette will contact the State Education Department concerning numbers and representation.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2005. It will be a conference call from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be a committee meeting to be scheduled within the next few weeks to work on the Autism Waiver.

Rebecca Flaton motioned to adjourn and Carol Garrison seconded.