

## **Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce**

February 9, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.  
State Office Building – Room 300N

### **Draft Minutes**

#### **Members Present**

Sen. Terri Bonoff  
Rep. Tara Mack  
Rep. Nora Slawik  
Dawn Steigauf  
AJ Paron-Wildes  
Dr. David Griffin  
Renaë Ouillette  
Dr. Kimberly Klein  
Dr. W. Brooks Donald  
Dr. Jodi Milburn  
Jean Bender  
Idil Abudll  
Abdullai Farah

#### **Members Absent**

Sen. David Senjem  
Virginia Richardson

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

#### **SF 1138/HF 622 - Senjem/Welti Project Lifesaver Bill**

Representative Welti discussed the Project Lifesaver bill he is carrying in the House with the task force. Senator Senjem is the author of the bill in the Senate. This bill directs the Commissioner of Public Safety to assist local law enforcement agencies in creating lifesaver programs which are designed to quickly find individuals with medical conditions that cause them to go missing. The program would use electronic tracking via wristband transmitters. The bill also creates a task force to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of these programs.

The bill made it through several committees in the House last session and was sent back to State and Local Government. It is expected to be heard and possibly passed this session. The bill was not given a hearing in the Senate last session.

The task force discussed the bill and believe it would be very beneficial to have this program in place. A vote was taken to recommend passage of the bill, and all members voted yes.

### **SF 312/HF 359 - Norton/Scheid Autism Coverage Bill**

Rep. Norton came to discuss the autism coverage bill with the task force. This bill requires private sector health insurance to cover autism spectrum disorders. It will cover services that are deemed medically necessary by a health professional. This was a somewhat controversial bill last session because some health insurers are hesitant to support another mandate. Legislators and interest groups are still meeting to try and work out language that everyone can accept.

This bill made it through several committees in the House last session and is currently sitting in the Health Care and Human Services Finance Division waiting to be heard. The bill passed Health, Housing and Family Security in the Senate and is waiting to be heard in Finance.

The task force decided that they would like to work with Rep. Norton to help revise the bill. Instead of taking a vote to support/not support the bill, they decided to table the bill until they see the improved language.

### **New Business**

Next meeting, the task force will continue the early childhood discussion as well as have a speaker on research in early intervention from the Autism Society of Minnesota.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Tuesday, March 9th, 2010  
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force  
6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 25th, 2010  
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force  
9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, April 13, 2010  
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force  
6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 13th, 2010  
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force  
9:00 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.