

**Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce**  
March 25, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.  
SOB 300S

**Draft Minutes**

**Members Present**

Rep. Tara Mack  
Rep. Nora Slawik  
Dawn Steigauf  
Dr. Kimberly Klein  
Dr. David Griffin  
AJ Paron-Wildes  
Jean Bender  
Idil Abudll

**Members Absent**

Sen. David Senjem  
Sen. Terri Bonoff  
Dr. W. Brooks Donald  
Dr. Jodi Milburn  
Renaë Ouillette  
Abdullahi Farah  
Virginia Richardson

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

**Provider Presentations**

**Judith Strommen, Clinical Manager, Autism Day Treatment Program and Julie Sjoldal, Associate CEO, St. David's Center – Child and Family Development**

Representatives from the St. David's Center spoke about how they provide services to those on the autism spectrum. Their care model includes in-home services, as well as group therapy services, parental consultation, and training. Presenters also shared their thoughts on what the Legislature could do to better help the autism community.

**Pat Pulice, Director, Frazer Child and Family Center**

Frazer is nonprofit organization serving children and adults with special needs through comprehensive education, healthcare and housing services. Ms. Pulice spoke on the Integrated Mental Health Model, which addresses a menu of services for families, as well as early entry into the system and coordinated care. She also spoke about how important

early intervention is, as well as coordinating care among different organizations and services.

**John Sailor, Director and Therapist, Rochester Center for Autism, Inc.**

The Rochester Center for Autism is a center-based ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) program that provides one-on-one therapy for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD), and Asperger's Syndrome. Their program is dedicated to improving the lives of children with ASD. They use a center-based program, in conjunction with a strong home component, to provide their services.

**Ann Harrington, Founder and Director, Celebrate the Spectrum**

Ms. Harrington spoke about her program, Celebrate the Spectrum. This program is an evidence-based parent education and child interactive treatment service program for young children on the autism spectrum. Services are provided in the home or at the center and are child and family-centered and tailored to address each child's unique social interaction, communication, sensory processing, behavioral, and learning challenges while supporting the caregiver as well.

**New Business**

There will be several presenters at the next meeting, including representatives from metro area public schools.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Thursday, May 13th, 2010  
Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force  
9:00 a.m. – Room 300 N SOB

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.