

Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce

May 20, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

State Office Building – Room 300 N

Minutes

Members Present

Sen. Terri Bonoff

Rep. Tara Mack

Rep. Nora Slawik

Dawn Steigauf

AJ Paron-Wildes

Dr. David Griffin

Dr. Kimberly Klein

Dr. W. Brooks Donald

Dr. Jodi Milburn

Renae Ouillette

Jean Bender

Idil Abudll

Members Absent

Sen. David Senjem

Abdullahi Farah

Virginia Richardson

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from April 13th meeting were approved.

Dr. Kevin Wand, Midwest Wellness Center

Dr. Wand, who practices both traditional and non-traditional medicine, presented to the task force information on the type of autism related disorders he treats at his clinic and what has happened since he saw his first autistic patient 11 years ago. He believes diet can play a roll in a child with autism because 2/3 of the immune system is in the intestinal track, but leaves that decision up to the parents as to what type of treatment their child receives. Ten percent of the total patients he sees have some type of autism related disorder. In concluding his presentation, Dr. Wand stated the following, “Genetics cocks the gun, and environment pulls the trigger.”

Ann Kelly, Nutrition Ignition

Dr. Kelly gave a presentation entitled “Diet Does Matter.” She discussed the post WWII modern American Diet, covering topics such as process foods, synthetic chemicals, genetically modified crops, the use of microwaves, food intolerances, genetics,

hormones, various vitamins, environmental influences, and nutritional management. Dr. Kelly tied the diet of autistic children to how they act and feel, as well as their over all health. She also discussed making changes to a child with ASDs diet by removing foods and giving them supplements, and that dietary treatments are based on the idea that food allergies or lack of vitamins cause symptoms of ASD.

Julia Sawyer, Parent

Ms. Sawyer has a 12 year old with autism and has become very involved with his treatment and awareness of the disorder. Her son began to have medical issues by age 1, but seemed to be developing cognitively. By age 20-24 months he began exhibiting withdrawn behavior. At 2.5 years he was diagnosed but the cause is still unknown. They tried looking at his overall diet to see if they could find connections to food and his behavior.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Room 300N SOB

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.