

Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce

August 19, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.
State Office Building – Room 300 N

Minutes

Members Present

Sen. David Senjem
Rep. Nora Slawik
Rep. Tara Mack
Dawn Steigauf
AJ Paron Wildes
Renaë Ouillette
Dr. W. Brooks Donald
Virginia Richardson
Jean Bender
Idil Abudll

Members Absent

Sen. Terri Bonoff
Dr. Kimberly Klein
Dr. David Griffin
Dr. Jodi Milburn
Dr. W. Brooks Donald
Abdullahi Farah

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July meeting were approved.

Discussion of Task Force Recommendations

The task force spent most of the meeting discussing the list of recommendations. These recommendations have not yet been approved, but are a result of the discussion at previous meetings.

Draft recommendations are as follows:

1. Statewide awareness campaign - The task force discussed the idea of a statewide awareness campaign (potentially along the lines of First Steps) that reaches out to everyone, not just doctors.

2. Distribution of Educational Materials - The task force discussed recommending funding for greater distribution of FAQs/filers/brochures to day care centers and posting on the Department of Health's website. This was part of a discussion to develop a statewide awareness campaign.

3. Mandate Follow Along - The task force discussed recommending a mandate that every county has a standard screening and follow-up program, either using the Follow Along program, or something similar. This recommendation would attempt to reduce inequity in services between counties.

4. Service Coordinator - The task force discussed recommending the implementation of an autism service coordinator for children ages 3-5, as well as a possible school age coordinator, who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. This person would potentially work through the Department of Human Services.

5. Renae will be working on developing a recommendation relating to coordinating/planning/sharing services and funding within the systems.

6. Physician Screening - It is recommended that every child in Minnesota have access to a primary health care professional for establishing a medical home. Within this relationship, it is recommended that each child receive developmental surveillance and screening throughout early childhood for all developmental domains, including autism spectrum conditions based on American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. This should occur within routine health care maintenance as well as whenever a parent or provider concern is raised. These activities should be coordinated with tracking and intervention services within the local community.

7. Establish an ASD council or commission that meets at least 3-4 times a year to review and continue to coordinate all services provided by the state. The Departments of Health, Education, Human Services, and Employment and Economic Development must be represented. The group will develop a long term strategic plan, working to maximize existing services and identifying unmet needs.

8. The Autism Task Force recommends to the legislature that all Pediatric and Family Practice residencies located in Minnesota provide their trainees with didactic and clinical exposure to normal and abnormal childhood development. That, specifically, the understanding of the presentation and natural history of Autism Spectrum Disorders should be an expectation of graduates of these residencies. Appropriate topics in the curriculum should include: screening tools, associated medical conditions (and their presentations), treatment modalities, training for medical staff to screen for disorders and presentations of available community resources. In addition, recommended guidelines from the AAP for both developmental screening/surveillance and Autism Spectrum Disorders should be a part of that curriculum.

9. Recommendation to the University of Minnesota to conduct and write proposals for research.

10. Development of a guidebook which would contain information and material for parents.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Location TBD

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

9:00 a.m.

Location TBD

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.