

Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce

October 12, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.
State Office Building – Room 300 N

Minutes

Members Present

Dawn Steigauf
AJ Paron Wildes
Dr. David Griffin
Dr. Dr Jodi Milburn
Jean Bender
Sen. Terri Bonoff
Rep. Tara Mack
Rep. Nora Slawik

Members Absent

Virginia Richardson
Idill Abdul
Dr. Brooks Donald
Dr. Kimberly Klein
Abdullah Farah
Sen. David Senjem
Renaë Ouillette

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September meeting were approved.

Karen Balmer – Minnesota Board of Teaching

Karen Balmer gave a presentation regarding special education licensure updates. The Board of Teaching was asked to conduct a comprehensive review of Minnesota's licensure structure for serving students with exceptionalities, including both disabilities and gifts. They were also tasked with making recommendations regarding the preparation of special education teachers and all teachers serving students with exceptionalities. The work was done in three phases with many stakeholders participating. Recommendations were made on common standards, standards that needed to be updated and strengthened, standards developed to create new licensure fields and the overall structure. In June of 2010, final recommendations were made to the board and the final rule making was launched in August of 2010. By Fall of 2012, new rules are expected to be effective and revised programs launched.

Sarah Thorson – Minnesota Department of Health

Sarah Thorson gave a presentation on Community Partnerships Collaborative for Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities. The collaborative was charged with improving the system of care for children birth through eight years of age who have, or who are at risk for, autism and other developmental disabilities through improved collaboration and coordination of screening, evaluation, service referrals and resources at the community level. Teams of parents, physicians, and education providers worked on an improvement model and several good initiatives came out of the work that was done. Children began to receive better services, a successful “Help Me Grow” feedback letter was developed, and better communication between agencies was developed. It was found that the work was overwhelming and hard to change, but interagency cooperation and service provider collaboration is essential for best possible outcomes.

Next Meetings

Thursday, November 18, 2010

6:00 p.m.

SOB 300 North

Adjournment

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