

Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce

October 27, 2009 – 4:45 p.m.
State Office Building – Room 300N

Draft Minutes

Members Present:

Sen. Bonoff
Rep. Slawik
Rep. Mack
Dawn Steigauf
Jean Bender
Dr. David Griffin
Renee Ouilette
Dr. Jodi Milburn
Virginia Richardson
Dr. Kimberly Klein
Idil Abdull

Members Absent:

Sen. Senjem
AJ Paron-Wildes

Meeting was called to order at 4:55 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Presentation from Alyssa Klein – Dept. of Employment and Econ. Development

Alyssa Klein from the Department of Employment and Economic Development presented on workforce development, vocational and rehabilitative services, and how DEED is involved with furthering the future of those with disabilities such as autism. DEED has a program called Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) for those with significant disabilities, and served 22,516 persons with disabilities in 2007. The taskforce asked several questions regarding the program, and agreed that VRS should be made more available for those who have disabilities, as there are many who have not heard of their services.

Development of Taskforce Work Plan

The taskforce worked on their plan for the next several months. It was decided that the group wanted to focus on improving the coordination of services, and divide their work up into three different groups; early intervention, school age, and adult. A few members are also working on developing a set of rules and guidelines for the task force to follow.

The guidelines are expected to be ready by next meeting so they can be voted on and implemented.

General Discussion/New Business

Next meeting, there will be another presentation from one of the departments listed in the enacting legislation. The last few minutes of the meeting was left open for public comments. Julie Rappaport, producer of Artistic Licensure, shared information regarding her video on children with autism. She also provided information as to what other states are doing regarding autism. Sherri Mortensen Brown, from the Department of Commerce, also shared information on insurance mandates and what other states were doing regarding autism related issues, legislation, mandates, etc. The next taskforce meeting will be Thursday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.