

## **Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce**

March 1st, 2012 6:00 p.m.  
State Office Building – Room 400 S

### **Members Present**

Rep. Nora Slawik  
Rep. Tara Mack  
Sen. David Senjem  
Sen. Chris Eaton  
Dr. Kimberly Klein  
Dawn Steigauf  
Brad Trahan  
Jody Manning  
Regina Wagner  
Barb Dalbec  
Abbie Wells-Herzog  
Idil Abdull  
Phil Sievers

### **Members Absent**

Heather Hanson  
Member appointed by AAFP (to be determined)  
Dr. David Griffin  
Renaë Ouillette  
Dr. Michael Reiff  
Dr. Catherine Pulkinen

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

### **Election of Chair**

Idil Abdull nominated Brad Trahan as chair of the task force and the nomination was approved.

### **Amy Hewitt – University of Minnesota**

Amy Hewitt from the University of Minnesota gave a presentation on the ASD state plan the Region 5 Autism Summit Committee group is working on. Representatives from many different organizations have been involved in the development of the state plan, including: Autism Society of Minnesota, ARC Greater Twin Cities, Autism Advocacy and Law Center, CASCW, MNAAP, the MN Departments of Education, Health, and Human Services, SAAF, parents, self-advocates, and family members, among others. The goal of the strategic plan is to help the State of Minnesota implement new policies surrounding ASD, as the prevalence rates continue to increase. Through the development of new policies, the hope is to better accommodate the specific and unique needs

associated with this group of individuals and their families/caregivers. The group has extensively looked at ways to move forward to address challenges in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and culturally-responsive way. The Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force will be looking at ways to collaborate with the Autism Summit Committee group and the University of Minnesota to make recommendations to the Legislature on implementing a state plan.

**Discussion/New Business**

The task force discussed various ASD related topics such as autism waivers and how they are different from other DD and CADI waivers offered by the MN Department of Human Services, the statewide implementation grant, and potential topics for the next meetings. Representatives from the departments will give an update on their respective department-wide autism related efforts at the next meeting.

**Next Meetings**

Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.