

Minnesota Autism Spectrum Disorder Taskforce

April 10, 2012 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol – Room 123

Members Present

Rep. Nora Slawik
Brad Trahan
Dawn Steigauf
Jody Manning
Regina Wagner
Barb Dalbec
Renaë Ouillette
Abbie Wells-Herzog
Idil Abdull
Dr. Catherine Pulkinen
Phil Sievers

Members Absent

Rep. Tara Mack
Sen. David Senjem
Sen. Chris Eaton
Dr. Kimberly Klein
Heather Hanson
Dr. David Griffin
Renaë Ouillette
Dr. Michael Reiff

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Discussion of U of M Strategic Plan Draft/Update from Departments

Phil Sievers from the Department of Education was the first to give an update on what the department thought of the strategic plan and how they plan to work with the U of M group to develop a more comprehensive plan. Some of the strengths of the strategic plan were that it was ambitious and did a good job of encompassing all ages and transitions. A few of the weaknesses pointed out by Phil were that it needed more stakeholder involvement and the language and terms used were a bit inconsistent. Phil also stressed that funding for appropriate education on all matters surround ASD is important.

Regina Wagner from the Department of Human Services spoke about DHS's views on the strategic plan and their efforts related to ASD. She thought they plan was both concise and comprehensive, as well as a good starting off point and call to action to look at the current continuum of services and what needs improvement. Regina also spoke about early intervention and its importance, as well as housing options for adults. DHS

plans to look at the U of M strategic plan, as well as the last task forces' report, and work together throughout the agencies to figure out which department is best suited to house all ASD related issues. DHS currently has a website related to ASD: www.dhs.state.mn.us/autism

Barb Dalbec from the Department of Health gave an update on MDH's autism related efforts, as well as the strategic plan. If a plan is to be implemented, the state will be better off as the departments apply for ASD related grants in 2013. MDH sees care coordination as an important factor in helping individuals and families with ASD. Other important aspects that need to be addressed are tracking and trends, a facilitator to guide implementation, and early identification.

Abbie Wells-Herzog from the Department of Employment and Economic Development gave an update on DEEDs ASD efforts and what the strengths/weaknesses of the strategic plan are. A few of the weaknesses included more input needed from stakeholders, tightening of language, and the fact that there is no mention of current employment services. Abbie mentioned the Internship Pilot Program in Anoka County, the results so far, and potential changes to placement. DEED, as well as other departments, feel that it is important to look at what has worked in other states.

Members of the task force talked about making recommendations in the next month or two and meeting with Amy Hewitt from the University of Minnesota to review those recommendations.

Discussion/New Business

The task force will discuss the Governor's Task Force on Bullying at a future meeting, as there was not adequate time at tonight's meeting.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. in Room 400 S of the State Office Building

Tuesday, June 5th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 123 of the State Capitol

Tuesday, July 10th at 6:00 p.m. in Room 123 of the State Capitol

Tuesday, August 7th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 123 of the State Capitol

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.