

ASD Task Force
May 12, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Participants: Darren Dobrinski, Senator Joan Heckaman, Tamara Gallup-Millner (for Kim Hruby), Robert Rutten, Tom Gaffany, Nancy Crotty -Ulrich, Tom Carver, MD, Teresa Larsen, Terri Wilder for Cathy Haarstad, Kenneth Fischer, MD

Guests: Vicky Peterson, Teri Finneman, Brent Askvig, Lori Kalash. Eric Monson, Marsha Kulish, Carry (Medical Records)

Update from GPAST:

Military families have been calling GPAST.

60% of youth seen do have ASD but 40% have another condition.

Lori reported that the website is operational. <http://www.ndcpd.org/alinks/>

A statewide radio campaign ran in April 2011.

Roxann Romanik was chosen as a champion for families by the CDC. Great acknowledgement of her work.

ASD State implementation proposal:

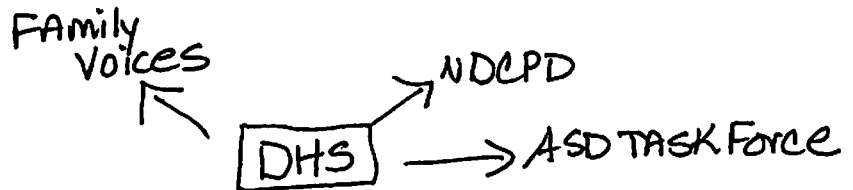
Maternal Child Health bureau grant – competitive grant to implement autism spectrum disorder plans. 10 -11 will be awarded. It is felt there is a one in 3 chance of being awarded this grant.

It is a collaborative proposal that would fund \$300,000 for each of three years.

Application information is on record. It is called the SAND proposal. (Support Autism in North Dakota)

The proposed activity links with the state autism plan and will work closely with the task force.

Organizational framework envisioned:



There would be a September start if funded. They should receive word in August.

2011 Legislative Assembly:

Senate Bill 2268 was chosen as a interim study. The study will focus on studying the current system for the diagnosis of, early treatment of, care for, and education of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. See section 2 of bill for details. Senate Bill 2268 is on record.

ASD Waiver status report:

NDCPD provided information on their evaluation team which is part of the ASD waiver process. Deb Balsdon, DD Division, DHS, provided an overview of the ASD waiver for children ages birth through 4. Her presentation slides have been scanned for the record.

The evaluation team has 30 days from the date they receive a completed application packet to complete the evaluation report. They have 45 days from initial referral to the IFSP, if under 3. The IFSP team does a quarterly review of the plan. This review is unique to the waiver.

Anne Carlson Center – Senate Bill 2268 – Regional ASD centers of early intervention and achievement pilot program

Eric Monson provided information to the task force on the evolution of this senate bill. ACC has had internal conversations and commissioned a study in 2007 leading to recommendation that they provide a broader spectrum of services. 40% of all ACC patients are on the spectrum. They had planned to introduce the concept in the 2013 legislative session. The bill was changed from an insurance mandate to the current version as it was viewed as not being able to be passed with the insurance involvement. ACC's vision is that this is not a physical center, but rather community-based services involving Medicaid and non-Medicaid populations. Two organizations are already interested in partnering with ACC on this effort. The services would be determined by the evaluation but would most likely include diagnostic clinics, intensive interventions, interdisciplinary teams, training and support, functional parenting skills training, coaching-mentoring, with quality indicators and outcomes tracked. This wouldn't duplicate what is already available for adults and children.

ACC will move forward with this effort even if the state does not find the funding. ACC plans to partner and develop a couple of centers around the state. They plan to serve all communities. The office may be in a community of 10,000 but the services will be delivered statewide. They will serve rural areas. Services would be delivered on tribal land.

There is much confusion over the title. It is a misnomer and better stated it would read to be community-based service delivery.

NDCPD would like to do a research study as they implement the centers so ND could add to the research base on autism.

The group was reminded that there is no appropriation for this bill. DHS already has intent language in their appropriation bill that says if they realize any roll-up funds in the DD grants area, it needs to be applied to the Developmental Center (DC) transition efforts. DHS does not anticipate the funding will be available for this effort.

ASD Diagnostic Changes in DSM V – 2013:

Task Force members reviewed material (on record) on proposed changes in the diagnostic and statistical manual version five (DSM-V) scheduled for 2013. Major changes in autism and autism spectrum disorders are being proposed.

The change is being made so it is easier to communicate between the medical and educational systems. For the medical field, this creates a huge change in how they look at this condition. It is positive in that sensory issues are included and communication and language overlap, but the negative is that aspergers is no longer identified. Basically, it uses the spectrum with a severity rating.

It is unknown what impact on program eligibility this change will create. Task force will continue tracking this issue.

The education system shared that the IDEA authorization is on hold pending no Child Left Behind reauthorization. There may be a redefining of disability categories. In education, the diagnosis plus the need lead to services they are required to provide.

Task Force operations:

The task force will meet quarterly. May, August, November, and February with the hours of 10:30 to 3:30.

NDCPD will have a standing report item on each agenda. Next meeting insurance and what is covered in the autism spectrum disorder areas will be reviewed. (Military, BC/BS, Sanford, other)

*Johanne
Boesel
6-9-11*