

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Bob Johnston, Margaret Fairbanks, Becky Thompson, Jennifer Maskel, Rose Cutting, Kevin Scholz, Daysi Jimenez, Lindsay McCary, Vanessa Carmona-Lewis, Suzanne Juzwik Public Members: Nathan Koss, Danielle Tolzmann, Tyler Wilcox, Lynn Renner Absent: Christina Krasovich, Katy Morgan-Davies, Alejandra Apreza-King, Kim Bruessel, Lisa Ridenour DHS Staff: Jessica Holland, Isabelle Leventhal, Nikki Moore, Dan Kramarz
Date: 8/8/2024	Time Started: 10:00 A.M	Time Ended: 12:00 P.M	
Location: https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1612570704?pwd=UTJTRDUxeTNsK3lOWjBWem9Xa3RKUT09			Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel, Bureau of Children's Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

- Individual introductions of Council members and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) staff.

Public Comments:

Note: Any public comments have a three-minute maximum per presenter/organization.

- No public members present at this meeting. No public comments.

Operational:

- Approval of the meeting minutes from May 2024.
- Motion to approve: Lindsay McCary. Jennifer Maskel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CLTS Council Letter:

- The Autism Council discussed drafting a letter to send to the CLTS Council. The goal of the letter is to share the Autism Council's expertise and experience about strengths and opportunities in accessing home and community-based services through the CLTS Program.

START Initiative:

- Dan Kramarz presented on the Wisconsin Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health (IDD-MH) System Improvement Report, formerly known as the START Initiative.
- In 2022, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services contracted with the National Center for START Services to look at the state's service system for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health (IDD-MH) needs. The evaluation resulted in the START Scan. The START Scan found five main areas for improvement.
- Phase 2 of the project aimed to create recommendations based on the findings of the START Scan. The goal was to improve supports and services for adults and children who have IDD-MH needs statewide. DHS brought together partners with different perspectives, experience, and expertise from around the state to form several different kinds of teams.
- Wisconsin IDD-MH System Improvement Report released in June 2024. The report is not created or owned by DHS.
 - Over 30 recommendations were submitted to the steering committee.
 - Eight focus areas: regional resources, expand access to psychiatric and behavioral health services, rate and billing code improvements, technology related, IDD and MH training, system review, system navigation, oversight and process improvement.

- Each focus area has several recommendations.
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/imsi-report.pdf>
- Next steps: organize and kick off phase 3 implementation. Determine recommendations to implement and begin implementation.

Family Voices of Wisconsin, “Early Choices Matter:”

- Danielle Tolzmann presented on the Early Choices Matters: Children Building Choice-Making Skills.
- Danielle Tolzmann shared that for children with intellectual and developmental disability, practicing choice-making is especially important because it can lead to a more self-determined life as an adult. Everyone on the team can encourage a child to make choices.
 - Let the child practice making a choice with something that will have a longer-term consequence. Narrow the options and then let the child make the final choice. Practice makes perfect.
 - An unwanted outcome can teach responsibility. Giving the child the dignity to fail, improves their choice-making abilities.
 - Include older children and have them be part of the team. These experiences build confidence, practice offering their choices to others, and have intentional choice-making as part of the IEP goals.
 - Find worksheets, tip sheets and other materials that focus on choice-making at: familyvoiceswi.org/learn/#early-choices-matter

Council Member Updates and Discussion:

- Daysi Jimenez shared that she is hearing about parents who are waiting for the CLTS Program.
- Becky Thompson shared two upcoming fundraisers:
 - A-Team Fun Walk will take place August 25, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo. For more information, visit: <https://asew.org/a-team-fun-walk/>
 - The 2024 Spectrum of Colors Virtual Race Across Greater WI will take place September 14th - October 13th. For more information, visit: <https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/spectrum-of-colors/>
- Bob Johnston: ASA is introducing a learning management system to access on the website for variety of learning courses. For more information, visit: <https://autismsociety.org/training-resource-center/>

MOTION made by Margaret Fairbanks, seconded by Daysi Jimenez to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Jessica Holland on 8/8/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 11/7/2024