

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Christina Krasovich, Lindsay McCary, Rose Cutting, Suzzane Juzwik, Vanessa Carmona-Lewis, Margaret Fairbanks, Rebecca Thompson, Bob Johnston, Daysi Jimenez
Date: 11/7/2024	Time Started: 10:00 A.M	Time Ended: 12:00 P.M	
Location: <a href="https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/j/1612168431?pwd=Y2VaRXAyN1gyd0RKeDJzOHRrc1VCQT09">https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/j/1612168431?pwd=Y2VaRXAyN1gyd0RKeDJzOHRrc1VCQT09</a>			Public Members: Lynn Hrabik, Dr. Stephanie Hood
			Absent: Alejandra Apreza-King, Kim Bruessel, Jennifer Maskel, Katie Morgan, Kevin Scholz
			DHS Staff: Zach Bauer, Isabelle Leventhal, Nikki Moore, David Sorenson, Andrea Warman
			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 Aug 2024.
  - Motion to approve: Christina Krasovich. Margaret Fairbanks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of the meeting dates for 2025.
  - Motion to approve: Lindsay McCary. Rose Cutting seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval of the three new Autism Council Executive Planning Committee members.
  - Motion to approve: Vanesa Carmona-Lewis. Daysi Jimenez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLTS Council Letter:**

- Margaret Fairbanks discussed the letter that the Autism Council wrote for the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Council.
- A draft has been completed, but the council was asked for personal stories about their experience with the CLTS program and suggestions for possible changes.
- The letter specifically mentioned issues with inconsistencies in CLTS provision across counties, service delays and a lack of adequate providers.
- Council members agreed to narrow the letter to a more focused list of three priorities.
- Margaret Fairbanks will edit the letter with the council's suggestions for the next meeting.
- Deb Rathermel reiterated that any families or providers that have issues with services should reach out directly to the Bureau of Children's Services (BCS).
  - For Families: [DHSBCSTAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSBCSTAC@dhs.wisconsin.gov)
  - For Providers: [DHSCLTSProvider@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSCLTSProvider@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**CLTS Timely Enrollment Process**

- Andrea Warman from BCS shared updates about the CLTS timely enrollment project.
- Currently, 20 county waiver agencies (CWAs) are not compliant with the enrollment timeliness guidelines.
- DHS issued a memo that described the process for correcting enrollment delays for non-compliant CWAs.

- DHS will issue a corrective action plan if a CWA has an average enrollment wait time of 100 days for over 60 days.
- For further non-compliance, DHS has the possibility of escalating corrective actions to include repayment of funds or withholding of CWA administrative allocation.
- Christina Krasovich mentioned including many of the CLTS timely enrollment resources in the letter to the CLTS council.
- Andrea shared the CLTS enrollment dashboard as a good resource: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/enrollment-dashboard.htm>
- Deb Rathermel suggested that the Autism Council collaborate or co-host a meeting with the CLTS Council about shared priorities because of the overlap between councils.
  - Council members agreed about increased collaboration and emphasized the Autism Council's unique perspective.

### **Governor's Budget Proposal Briefing**

- Deb Rathermel shared updates about the Governor's budget and the budget process, as it relates to the Autism Council.
- Deb discussed three budget items that affect issues related to the Autism Council
  - Cost to continue budget for CLTS.
  - Wisconsin Wayfinder—requires additional state funding as federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding ends.
  - Katie Beckett Medicaid eligibility determination—increased state general purpose revenue (GPR) funding is required to maintain adequate staffing as federal ARPA money ends.
- Deb reiterated that BCS is willing to help with any additional budget requests from the Autism Council, but they should be finalized by the council by the end of the year.
- Becky Thompson offered to begin the process of drafting a budget letter to the Governor and asked for any specific requests or feedback to be sent to her via the email below.
  - [Rebecca.thompson@learnbehavioral.com](mailto:Rebecca.thompson@learnbehavioral.com)

### **DHS Bureau of Benefits Policy (BBP) – Behavioral Treatment Benefit CMS Audit**

- Nikki Moore of BBP said that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) had completed their audit of the behavioral treatment benefit and should provide the results early next year.
- She anticipated that they will be able to share the results at the next Autism Council meeting.

### **Council Member Updates and Discussion**

- Becky Thompson discussed the recent survey of all autism providers in Wisconsin conducted by the Wisconsin Autism Providers Association (WAPA)
  - There was a 60% response rate.

### **Waisman Center – Wisconsin Autism Transition Demonstration Project (WAuTD)**

- Lynn Hrabik presented on the Waisman Center's recently begun WAuTD project that focuses on improvements to systems that support autistic youth transitioning to adult services.
  - The goal of the project is to improve outcomes for families with youth transitioning to adult services.
- In the first year, the project needs to define their target population and geographic areas of focus.
  - Lynn discussed working on four counties in South Central Wisconsin.
- Lynn asked for feedback about the study population or geographic area through a survey:
  - Survey: [https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8nUm1UB8qzOO7Yy](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8nUm1UB8qzOO7Yy)
  - Lynn's contact info: [Hrabik@wisc.edu](mailto:Hrabik@wisc.edu) or 920-427-5262

### **Marquette University – Workforce ARPA Grant**

- Dr. Stephanie Hood provided an overview of Marquette University's work that was done with its ARPA grant for workforce development.
- Grant overview:
  - To improve the number and diversity of behavior analysts in Wisconsin, 16 students were awarded tuition and stipend support to attend Marquette's Behavior Analysis Master of Science Program.
  - They created a training program about culturally responsive service provision for faculty and students in the

Behavior Analysis program.

- They created a curriculum and training for providing high quality tele-behavioral health services.
- Dr. Hood discussed how Marquette is closing its Behavior Analysis program.
  - Marquette is in discussion with UW-Madison to create a possible program to continue behavior analysis training in Wisconsin.

**MOTION** made by Margaret Fairbanks, seconded by Christina Krasovich to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Zach Bauer on 11/7/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 2/19/2025