

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Robert Johnston; Christina Krasovich; Angela Levin; Lindsay McCary; Katy Morgan; Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Nissan Bar-Lev; Roberta Mayo, Kevin Scholz Excused: John Jahnke DHS State Staff: Deb Rathermel; Nicole Miller; Dan Kramarz; Lydia Essenmacher; Nancy Bills, Julia Thoe; Gary Roth Public Attendees: Gail Chodron (Act Early State Team); Amy Van Hecke, Leah Jepson, Ida Winters and Troney Small (Next Step Clinic); Danielle Tolzman (parent); Tina Rock (parent)
Date: 11/12/2020	Time Started: 10:04 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:10 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Link - https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/93355374061			Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, Department of Health Services

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

- Individual introductions of Council members, DHS staff, and public attendees.

Public Comments:

- Danielle Tolzmann–Past President of the South Central Autism Society–observing meeting for school.

Operational:

- Approval of August 13, 2020, meeting minutes.
MOTION made by Christina Krasovich to approve the meeting minutes as drafted; seconded by Becky Thompson. Motion approved unanimously.
- Approval of proposed 2021 Council meeting dates February 11, May 13, August 12, November 11
MOTION made by Christina Krasovich to approve these meeting dates; seconded by Lindsay McCary. Motion passed.
- Julie Quigley has resigned as an Autism Council Member. Governor’s Office has been notified.
- Dan Kramarz will be leading the February meeting; Nicole Miller will be on maternity leave until May.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates

- **Birth to 3 Program Statewide Public Service Announcement (PSA) (Nicole Miller)**
DHS is working on a statewide PSA to increase understanding of the benefits of the Birth to 3 Program. DHS is requesting council member input and ideas on methods to connect with Wisconsin families who might benefit from this program. Council shared suggestions. Suggestions included: Give societies information to insert into newsletters and monthly updates; direct mail, libraries, grocery stores, day cares, doctors/medical offices; make informational videos; use Midwest Genetic Consortium; navigator staff; engage service providers; Central Hispano; midwives/doulas; radio/television media; WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program; homeless shelters; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals (through Child Protective Services); family intervention services; key community health professionals; churches; community organizations; industry/businesses. Hire more

bilingual, bicultural staff; offer more training to current staff. Wisconsin Facets (U.S. Department of Education) to reach out to underserved populations (Courtney Salazar, Executive Director).

- **Permanent Telehealth Policy** (Julia Thao)

The Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) is continuing to develop permanent policy that will roll out in 2021. Telehealth will be an option for medical and behavioral health services through Medicaid if it meets the need for specific services.

Council Member Updates:

- Council member discussion comments included:
 - Nissan Bar-Lev: He is working with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and 60 educators from Wisconsin and across the country to develop a guide for students with IEPs to give them access to the printed page. There is a need for more text-to-speech and audio books. Nissan will send Autism Council members a draft to review.
 - Daysi Jiménez: Was interested in learning more about provider flexibility as it relates to Medicaid acceptance. Nicole will follow up with her.
 - Kevin Scholz: Was looking for more information about the possibility of corporations sponsoring family support services for a child on the waitlist?
 - Bob Johnston: Raised interest in working more with DPI. Deb Rathermel will send him information regarding the DPI Special Education Council.
 - Christina Krasovich and Daysi Jimenez: Expressed concern regarding Waukesha and Milwaukee counties funding cuts and loss of program support related to autism services.

Legislative Symposium Update—Dr. Rebecca Thompson

- Reviewed the virtual four-week symposium series and highlighted speakers and presentation subject areas.
- WAPA (Wisconsin Autism Provider Association) is meeting with DHS Division of Medicaid Services Director Jim Jones.

Week 1: Access, diagnosis, health information and TeleHealth.

Week 2: WAPA presented on treatment service access and insurance mandate services.

Week 3: NEXT STEP presented on family engagement and access to diagnosis and treatment with a special focus on families of color falling through the cracks

Week 4: The Office of the Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance presented on the history of insurance mandates and certain policy exemption issues. Also, Deb Rathermel and Pam Lano from the DHS presented information on behavioral treatment benefit services and waiver and Birth to 3 Program access.

Promoting Early Identification and Treatment

- Act Early Wisconsin Presentation—Gail Chodron



Act Early Initiatives
update Nov 2020.pp

- Next Step Clinic Presentation—Amy Van Hecke, Leah Jepson, Ida Winters, Troney Small



Next Step Clinic
Presentation.pdf

MOTION made by Becky Thompson, seconded by Nissan Bar-Lev to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
Next meeting on February 11, 2020

Next Steps:

- Nicole Miller will research Council bylaws regarding the number of times this Council can meet in a year.
- Kevin Scholz requested discussing the licensing requirements for diagnosticians at the February 2021 meeting.

Prepared by: Nancy Bills on 11/23/2020.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 02/11/2021