

Autism Council Meeting  
August 26, 2010

Council Members: Terri Enters, Pam Stoika, Brad Thompson, Joan Ketterman, Glen Sallows, Vivian Hazell, Nissan Bar-Lev

Facilitator: Kris Freundlich

DHS Staff: Julie Bryda, Bill Murray, Tracey Brent

- I. Public Comment
  - a. Council member Vivian Hazell mentioned a new video-based tool called “Me Moves” and spoke to how it is marketed to help transition children from one activity to the next.
- II. Introduction and Announcements, Kris Freundlich
  - a. Introduction of Tracey Brent, the new administrative assistant with the Children’s Long Term Support team.
  - b. Katie Sepnieski has resigned from her position at DHS to take another position with the Department of Children and Families.
- III. Introduction of Council Members
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Clarify IV. c regarding “emerging treatment” and the interpretation of “evidence-based” and how there is not enough evidence to support or disprove this statement.
  - b. Glen made motion to approve minutes with changes noted
  - c. Brad 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
  - d. All Approved
- V. Informative Presentation
  - a. Prior to the presentations the Council received information from presenters regarding the use of evidence-based practices and intervention.
  - b. Presentation the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders-Linda Tuchman from the Waisman Center
    - i. The presentation focused on the goals of the NPDC-ASD. The presenters shared information regarding:
      1. The goals of the NPDC-ASD which are; promote evidence-based practices, increase the number of highly qualified personnel serving children with ASD, and increase the professional development capacity of states. These goals are centered around four content areas which are professional development, content development, technical assistance, and evaluation.

2. Evidence-based practices (EBP) and current Federal initiatives are defined by the No Child Left Behind act as “the use of practices, interventions, and treatments which have been proven, through data based research, to be effective in improving outcomes for individuals when the practice is implemented with fidelity.”

3. The presenters focused on education and how “teams,” which include parents, support children on the autism spectrum.

4. Kate Szidon, MS, Waisman Center presented on Goal Attainment Scales (GAS) and how they are designed to document progress on a goal. GAS helps document where a child started and where they end up.

5. Both Linda and Kate talked about how the partnership with Brian Johnson, DPI, has created a legacy with access to information with webinars, statewide autism trainings, and online courses sponsored by the Waisman Center.

- VI. Quality of Care-Julie Bryda and Bill Murray, Department of Health Services
- a. The autism waiver is due for renewal in September of 2011.
  - b. Programmatic and quality issues are a big concern. Parents, providers, and county staff express concerns about the quality of the therapy being received.
  - c. The quality and supervision of some line-therapy staff needs improvement, and retention of staff is difficult. The question of boundaries was raised and how line-staff are interacting with children. Some families are concerned about things said by line therapists that can be interpreted negatively. The question of parents/homes that are ill prepared for therapy work was raised. Case managers need guidelines to share with families on the responsibilities and expectations so the child can be worked with effectively.
  - d. A proposal for the creation of a subcommittee as an active work group for staff was made and council members Vivian Hazell, Pam Stoika, Nissan Bar-Lev, Brad Thompson, and Terri Enters volunteered.

## LUNCH

- VII. Youth in Transition-Julie Bryda and Bill Murray, Department of Health Services
- a. Counties with children transitioning from ongoing services to adult services are distressed and unsure of what services to provide. Families are also unsure of what services they can receive.
  - b. Brochures, resource links and the DHS website are helpful tools in sharing about what services are available.

- c. Julie's discussed intra-departmental thinking on how the department can help these families to effectively improve outcomes.
- d. A subcommittee to focus on children transitioning to the adult world was agreed upon and volunteers for this are Vivian Hazell, Brad Thompson, and Terri Enters. Also volunteered were Rose Helms and Milana Millan.

VIII. Informative Presentation

- a. Prior to the presentation the Council received information from the presenter regarding information about the grant they received.
- b. Presentation on Wisconsin Connections Initiative-Sharon Fleischfresser, Amy Whitehead and Tim Markle from DPH
- c. \$37 Million Grant awarded nationally for Combating Autism Act Initiative, \$300,000 of which is allocated to Wisconsin
- d. Goals
  - 1. Strengthen statewide infrastructure with Communities of Practice (CoP)
  - 2. Strengthen regional and local partnerships
    - i. Identify resources and gaps
    - ii. Regional training for key partners
    - iii. Asset-based process to identify what exists for families and providers
    - iv. Emphasize strengths and cross-community collaborations
    - v. Community trainings in each DHS region
- e. Sustainability Recommendations
  - 1. Continue CoP meetings
  - 2. Continue steering team as mechanism to stay connected
  - 3. Conduct environmental scan of ASD/DD related groups
  - 4. Continue to review whose voices are missing from CoP and do outreach to expand the stakeholder group

IX. Reviewed Data provided by DHS regarding children participating in the Children's Long-Term Support Waivers for autism services

- a. Currently on wait list: 230
  - i. Next child to receive a slot waited since 12/7/09 or about 9 months
  - ii. Ages on wait list range from 2 years, 3 months to 8 years, 5 months
- b. Currently receiving intensive services: 893
- c. Currently receiving ongoing services: 1420

X. Council Member Updates

- a. Joan Ketterman announced her retirement at the end of this year.
- b. Save the date: April 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2011 Circles of Life Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

XI. Other Key Issues

- a. The Council provided guidance to Bill on the variance form/process
- b. Issues for consideration:
  - 1. When do providers decide that services are not meeting a child's needs
  - 2. What guarantees optimal outcomes
- d. It's important to change provider mindset that the minimum requirements are not the goal on the maximum achievement

XII. The Council adjourned at 2:47 p.m.