

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Pam Lano, Nissan Bar-Lev, Roberta Mayo (phone)
Date: 5/9/2019	Time Started: 10:04 a.m.	Time Ended: 11:50 a.m.	Public Attendees: Dr. Rebecca Thompson, Angie Levin (Mercy Health Systems/WAPA), Julie Quigley (Autism Society of South East Wisconsin), Matt Doll (ABBA) by phone. DHS State Staff: Andrea Jacobson, Sam Ninnemann, Nancy Bills, Tabitha Ramminger, Andy Forsaith, Daniel Yang
Location: Wisconsin Department of Health Services Building, 1 W. Wilson St., Room 630, Madison, WI			Presiding Officer: Andrea Jacobson, Section Chief, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), Department of Health Services (DHS)

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Public Comments:

- Julie Quigley reported that she has reapplied for Autism Council membership.
- Angie Levin shared that autism providers have a waitlist of 1,000 clients indicating an increase due to Easter Seals and other providers discontinuing service provision in Wisconsin. She distributed a handout from the Wisconsin Autism Providers Association (WAPA) addressing: waitlists; reimbursement rates; lack of available providers; and proposed solutions to increase available providers and access to services for children and families.
- Dr. Rebecca Thompson added that the cost of service provision can outweigh the rate of reimbursement. She stated that new providers coming into Wisconsin aren't accepting Medicaid clients due to the current rate of reimbursement. She reported that states establish their own reimbursement rates based on state budgets and who delivers the services and commercial insurers establish their own separate rates. DHS rates are set by the Bureau of Benefits Management, and Dr. Thompson suggested that the Council consider reviewing other states' rate-setting methodologies. She noted that WAPA has met with the Wisconsin DHS regarding these concerns and has been working collaboratively with DHS along with other providers and state departments. WAPA is performing another survey and will share those results when available.

Nissan Bar-Lev suggested the Council obtain information regarding providers; their costs; how many families are being served and not being served. Tabitha Ramminger (DHS) indicated that some of this data may be readily available.

Operational:

- Approval of the February 21, 2019, meeting minutes
Nissan Bar-Lev made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the following name corrections: Angie Levin and Nathan Halbach. Motion was seconded by Pam Lano and passed unanimously.

Page Two

May 9, 2019

Governor's Autism Council



02-21-2019_autism-
minutes (APPROVED B

DHS Budget Briefing – Andy Forsaith, DHS Budget Director

- Distributed copies and went through the 2019-2021 Governor's Budget–Department of Health Services (DHS)–document. He highlighted that additional fact sheets on the DHS website.



2019-21 DHS Biennial
Budget Summary for /



Governor Ever's
Budget - Department c

Council members asked about budgetary references to TeleHealth. Nissan Bar-Lev asked if WAPA supports TeleHealth, and Dr. Thompson stated WAPA plans to discuss telehealth at an upcoming meeting. Pam Lano added that the DHS Treatment Intervention Advisory Committee (TIAC) reviewed research to determine the effectiveness of interventions being provided through telehealth and their conclusions are in a paper on the DHS website:

<https://tiac.wisconsin.gov/summary-determinations-regarding-level-evidence.htm>.

Department of Health Updates:

- Bureau of Benefits Management–Tabitha Ramminger (Clinical Policy Section Chief) and Daniel Yang (Behavioral Health Policy Analyst) distributed written updates from Medicaid.



Medicaid BT Data --
Approved PAs and Ser

- Bureau of Children's Services (BCS)–Andrea Jacobson, Program Improvement and Quality Outcomes Section Chief distributed map of CLTS Waiver Program Enrollment & Waitlist By County as of April 30, 2019 and the waitlist progress graph covering January 19 through June 19, 2019. A draft data report format for enrollment in the Children's Long Term Support Waiver program was shared for discussion. The data identified 9,817 children enrolled in CLTS waiver program in 2018 and of these approximately 48% are identified as having a diagnosis of autism.



CLTS Waitlist and
Enrollment Map and W

- Council discussion regarding the DHS data that was presented and data that might be helpful to review. The council members would like to review utilization of services by comparing prior authorizations to paid claims

data. They also expressed interest in exploring regional or geographic service areas for provider availability and capacity. Pam Lano would also like to review data for children who are not found functionally eligible for CLTS Waiver program.

- Autism Society of Wisconsin also has a survey with data that can be shared.

Page Three

May 9, 2019

Governor's Autism Council

DHS Budget Proposal: "No Wrong Door"—Andrea Jacobson, Bureau of Children's Services, Section Chief

- Data has been gathered regarding the numbers of children who are enrolled in BCS programs compared to a proxy or census-based estimate of children who would likely qualify for services. Per this data, BCS is serving approximately one out of four children who may be eligible for services.
- A "No Wrong Door" statewide intake solution for children with disabilities was proposed in the recent budget proposal. The proposal included funding to support a marketing campaign, adding family navigators, benefits specialists, and ombudsman positions.
- DHS currently has a pilot program in seventeen counties called Compass Wisconsin Threshold. In the next year, decisions need to be made regarding the continuation of this pilot. This presents an opportunity to obtain stakeholder feedback in order to develop a longer-term solution for ensuring statewide access to BCS programs.
- Council members were asked to share their feedback regarding a "No Wrong Door" proposal and unique concerns or features to consider specific to children with Autism.
 1. Nissan Barr-Lev expressed that it would be helpful to have more members on this Council with a broader range of representation to help answer these questions. Pam Lano supports having a school liaison on the Council to represent school's position.
 2. Public comments shared were:
 - Julie Quigley noted the importance of families with a recently diagnosed child to be referred to the Autism Society for assistance in obtaining referrals to supports and available programs.
 - Becky Thompson reported supporting a unified system, with a phone number or access location which is marketed to all societies, agencies, churches, child care referral programs, etc.

Planning for Development of 2019-2020 Council Goals

- Council members decided to put this discussion off until the next meeting on August 8, 2019, when possibly new members would be appointed.

Adjournment:

- Motion was made by Roberta Mayo to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nissan Bar-Lev. Motion passed unanimously.