

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council		Attending: Council Members: Nissan Bar-Lev; Vivian Hazell; John Jahnke; Pam Lano Roberta Mayo (phone); Lindsay McCary; Julie Quigley; Kevin Scholz; Dr. Rebecca Thompson
Date: 8/8/2019	Time Started: 9:00 am Time Ended: 12:00 pm	Public Attendees: Kimberlee Coronado (phone); Bob Johnston DHS State Staff: Andrea Jacobson, Deb Rathermel, Sam Ninnemann, Daniel Yang, Nancy Bills, Tabitha Ramminger, Nancy Bills, Kelsey Vincent, Jenny Steinberg
Location: Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Building, 1 W. Wilson St., Room 630, Madison, WI		Presiding Officer: Andrea Jacobson, Section Chief, Bureau of Children's Services, Department of Health Services

Minutes

Welcome and Introductions:

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

Public Comments:

- Kimberlee Coronado (phone)—mother of three children with autism; supports idea of certified peer specialists. She will mail Andrea information re: community activities and resources to share with the Council members.
- Bob Johnston—parent and former president of the Autism Society of Wisconsin. Shared that Community Resource Networks exist in multiple locations to help families navigate the system; he also encourages parents to contact their insurance company if specific autism benefits are not part of their policy to advocate for change; he has applied for membership on the Autism Council.

Council History, Mission, and Scope: Pam Lano, Nissan Bar-Lev, and Vivian Hazell

- Pam went through the "Autism Treatment in Wisconsin" timeline handout and discussed this Council's historic role in guiding DHS.
- Nissan went through the Forward Health Guidance for Behavioral Treatment for School-Age Youth joint DHS and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) guidance document. He shared that services are most effective when provided early and the benefits of services offered in the school setting. He noted that some parents choose insurance companies based on their available autism services as some insurance groups were excluded from the mandate that requires them to offer autism services.
- Council member/state staff discussion comments included:
 - Kevin—frustration with delays caused by waiting for service approvals and with the reality that self-insured companies aren't mandated to provide autism services and sometimes ration services.
 - Becky—identified challenges with workforce related to reimbursement rates and agencies that are unwilling to accept Medicaid reimbursement.
 - Deb Rathermel (Director, Bureau of Children's Services) suggested that Autism Council members find ways to share information with other councils. This Council has a unique knowledge and perspective related to children with

Autism which is helpful to DHS's many divisions and programs and is relevant to the work of other Councils.

Additional Orientation Needs: New Council Members were asked to identify any additional background or other orientation needs.

- Kevin—looking for information on family navigation and service coaches; he would like to learn history and background on budget and workforce related issues. It would also be helpful if an easy-to-read chart was available to identify services provided by each state department, including treatment and non-treatment services.
- John and Vivian—both expressed interest in family navigators who provide assistance to families working through the system. Julie shared that southeast Wisconsin staff serve as navigators.
- Pam—is interested in connecting with public health and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

Updates:

- **DHS-ForwardHealth—Daniel Yang**
 - Shared a data report handout showing the number of Behavioral Treatment providers in the state by county, “2018 Count of BT Providers by County—ForwardHealth”
 - DHS is working on updating published policies regarding Behavioral Treatment services which will include guidance on coordination of care for professionals.
- **DHS—Bureau of Children’s Services**
 - Kelsey Vincent provided a data report “Children Enrolled in Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver (CLTS) Program with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)”
 - The BCS 2018 Summary of Family Surveys Results handout was distributed. Council members are asked to email Andrea any questions or comments regarding this handout.
- **Council Members—Rebecca Thompson** passed out a handout titled “Updated WAPA Survey—May 2019,” explaining significant access to treatment challenges for Medicaid clients with autism.

Operational:

- **Parent Representative Vacancies**

Andrea passed out a new roster of Council members indicating two parent member vacancies. Council members are encouraged to reach out to their contacts. Suggestion: look for parents of younger children on the spectrum. Interested applicants should go directly to the Governor’s website to apply:
<https://30.selectsurvey.net/doa/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=92MK8o2K#>.
- **Approval of the May 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Vivian Hazell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with one edit suggested by a member: under public comments for Angie Levin, it should say “Angie Levin shared that autism providers have a waitlist of 1,000 clients.” Motion was seconded by John Jahnke. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: November 7, 2019, WI Department of Health Services, 1 W. Wilson St., Room 630, Madison

- **Agenda Items:**
 - Request for information on the current navigation system for families. Julie has a “next steps” book and a navigator guide for services she will bring to share.
 - Autism Council strategic planning for 2020-2021. In today’s meeting the following items were raised for consideration in November’s meeting:

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- Waitlists and provider capacity issues
- Removing children from school to access treatment services
- Providers unwilling to accept Medicaid insurance
- Family Navigation

Adjournment:

- Motion was made by Julie Quigley to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Thompson. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Nancy Bills on 9/5/2019.