

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Vivian Hazell; Robert Johnston; Christina Krasovich; Angela Levin; Lindsay McCary; Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Nissan Bar-Lev; John Jahnke; Roberta Mayo; Kevin Scholz (phone) Excused: Pam Lano; Julie Quigley Public Attendees: Krystal Rosenthal DHS State Staff: Nicole Miller; Autumn Knudtson; Jessica Cwirla; Julia Thoe; Laura Zimmerman
Date: 5/14/2020	Time Started: 10:05 am	Time Ended: 11:49 am	
Location: Zoom Meeting https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/3633618706			Presiding Officer: Autumn Knudtson, Deputy Director, 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:

- Krystal Rosenthal expressed interest in joining the council from a parent's perspective. Nicole Miller will reach out to her with information on how to apply for openings.

Operational: Nicole Miller

- Approval of February 7 2019, meeting minutes.
MOTION made by Vivian Hazell, seconded by Rebecca Thompson, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.
- Executive Planning Committee Vote – There are currently two openings on this committee. Members who volunteered to fill the openings were Bob Johnston, Daysi Jimenez, Lindsay McCary, and Rebecca Thompson. Each person shared their general interest on being on the committee. A vote was taken by council members.
- The voting was as follows:
 - Rebecca Thompson – 5 votes
 - Lindsay McCary – 5 votes
 - Bob Johnston – 5 votes
 - Daysi Jimenez – 5 votes

Further direction on the committee will be sought from the bylaws and communicated during the next council meeting.

Updates:

Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates –Jessica Cwirla (Bureau of Benefits Management)

- Discussed actions taken by the department related to COVID-19 to allow behavioral treatment to continue.



DHS Updates–Autumn Knudtson (Bureau of Children’s Services)

- Autumn Knudtson presented Vivian Hazell with a commendation from the governor’s office honoring her for her 15 years of service on the Autism Council and her retirement. Autumn read the certificate to the council and members had a chance to congratulate Vivian and thank her for her service.
- Autumn Knudtson provided a high-level overview of the actions taken by the department in order to secure program flexibilities and allow both long term care and early intervention services to continue during COVID-19. This discussion was intended to both review actions and identify concerns and experiences, and utilizes some of the council’s comments to address any outstanding concerns.



COVID-19 Input
Grid w Responses_A

- **Council member/state staff discussion comments included:**
 - Vivian Hazell suggested a checklist generated by parents of what makes it challenging to do online school or online support. Families described stressors for them in terms of working remotely, parenting and trying to teach their child. Has received feedback that telehealth for kids with autism is often times not successful.
 - Nissan Bar-Lev expressed concerns about inequity with internet provisions presents challenges. Some students don’t interact as well with screens as others.
 - John Jahnke expressed interest in more details of the recently approved flexibility from the federal government allowing parents to serve as paid as caregivers through the Children’s Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program.
 - Daysi Jiménez expressed concern over the timeliness that current families in the CLTS program are being communicated with. Daysi also expressed concern regarding the loss of services during this time. Families have reported limited services or no services being offered during this time.
 - Christina Krasovich identified concerns about inconsistency from county to county that brings challenges. Christina would like to see some sort of directive implemented that controls communication from county to county
 - Robert Johnston addressed telehealth verses teletherapy and stated some therapists are not being reimbursed by their insurance companies. Another concern is the impact this situation will have on kids in terms of their education.
 - Becky Thompson stated Spectrum is offering free internet to families so children can access online learning. She also mentioned there is research evidence on the effectiveness of parent training and supervision via telehealth. Although evidence is limited for direct treatment to individuals with ASD, providers are doing their best to support families

MOTION made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by John Jahnke to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Next meeting on August 13, 2020.

Prepared by: Laura Zimmerman on 5/18/2020.