

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Robert Johnston; Christina Krasovich; Lindsay McCary; Katy Morgan; Dr. Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; John Jahnke; Kevin Scholz
Date: 2/11/2021	Time Started: 10:02 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:00 p.m.	Excused: Nissan Bar-Lev  Public Attendees: Amy Van Hecke, Amy Levanthal (Next Step Clinic) DHS State Staff: Deb Rathermel; Dan Kramarz; Jessica Gehr; Alisa Morrison; Laura Clark; Laura Zimmerman
Location: Zoom Meeting <a href="https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/88253328260">https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/88253328260</a>			Presiding Officer: Deb Rathermel, Director, Bureau of Children's Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

### Minutes

#### Welcome and Introductions:

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

#### Public Comments:

None

#### Operational:

- Approval of August 13 2021, meeting minutes.  
**MOTION** made by Bob Johnston, seconded by Christina Krasovich, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.
- Review of the Autism Council goals: Promoting early identification and intervention and increasing family awareness of resources, supports and services.

#### Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates

- Council Membership: There have been two parent resignations and two open vacancies on the council at this time. There is a link on the website that goes through the process if anyone is interested in learning more about the Governor's Council on Autism [applications](#). All appointments are administered by the Office of the Governor. For further questions, reach out to DHS staff.
- Reminder of Open Records Training that all are asked to complete.
- The [Governor's Autism Council webpage](#) was relaunched and available.
- Medicaid and Long-Term Care Program COVID-19 flexibilities still in effect.
- Vaccination:
  - Currently in phase 1a of Eligible Vaccine stage. Caregivers of participants in certain Long-Term Care programs are eligible for vaccination under caregiver, unpaid, unaffiliated caregiver.
  - COVID-19: Vaccine Phases and Eligibility information can be found on the [DHS website](#).
  - Currently the state is continuing to secure additional vaccines.

#### Council member updates:

- Council member discussion comments included:
  - Christina Krasovich shared concerns that communications aren't necessarily getting to all the different counties regarding vaccines.

- Daysi mentioned that some families are getting letters and others are not. Some families are not understanding the process, and the number to speak to a translator is not answered. Deb Rathermel will send a Spanish version of the letter to Daysi. DHS does not require evidence, but some local vaccinators may be asking for evidence.
- Christina Krasovich had questions on Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) funding. It was stated that each county establishes and uses allocation as they choose to use.
- Robert Johnston–attended the Special Education Council meeting to share concerns with extended access to school beyond age 22 for children aging out during the pandemic.

### **CLTS Waiver Renewal Proposal Summary Presentation–Jessica Gehr**



CLTS Waiver  
Renewal Proposal Si

Council members may provide additional, written feedback via the [CLTS Waiver renewal inbox](#).

### **Addressing Access and Equity in Wisconsin Children’s Programs–Deb Rathermel**



DMS Information  
Memo 2020-01 Faci

High-level orientation of Facing Racial Injustice and Improving Health Equity in Wisconsin Children’s Services Programs memo from Division of Medicaid Services.

- Raising awareness and initiating steps
- In process of developing a “blueprint” as to what our plans to improve health equity are.
- Commitment to change is the focus of the communication
- Three main categories:
  - 1) Awareness, education and training
  - 2) Policies and practices
  - 3) Data and measuring progress

### **Next Steps Clinic Presentation–Amy Leventhal**

- Overview of how outreach to underserved communities of color.
- Addressing critical issues.

**MOTION** made by John Jahnke, seconded by Robert Johnston to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.  
Next meeting on May 13, 2021.

Prepared by: Laura Zimmerman on 2/15/2021.