

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Christina Krasovich; Lindsay McCary; Katy Morgan; Dr. Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Rose Cutting; Margaret Fairbanks; Alejandra Apreza-King; Nissan Bar-Lev; John Jahnke; Robert Johnston; Kevin Scholz
Date: 2/10/2022	Time Started: 10:02 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:00 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Meeting <a href="https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1614444613">https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1614444613</a>			Public Attendees: Angie Levin; Michelle Scarborough
			DHS State Staff: Deb Rathermel; Nicole Miller; Debra Borquist-Conlon; Laura Zimmerman
			Presiding Officer: Dan Kramarz, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

### Minutes

#### Public Comments

None

#### Operational

- Approval of the November 11, 2022 meeting minutes.  
**MOTION** made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by Kevin Scholz, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted.  
Motion approved unanimously.

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

- Reminder to complete the required Public Records and Ethic Training. Additional information will be sent via email.
- Briefing on the No Wrong Door, Supporting Kids Together Initiative (Debbie Conlon-Borquist, BCS):
  - This is a project funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The project extends and expands access work previously completed by the bureau.
  - The initiative is in the initial planning phase and has 4 key areas of concept and vision:
    - Develop a brand and marketing plan
    - Strengthening partnerships
    - Exploring what different technologies might be beneficial (e.g. an app or web-based portal that would be more family friendly)
    - Creating a resource hub
  - More information on DHS projects funded through ARPA visit: [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs.htm)
- START Assessment (Dan Kramarz, BCS)
  - DHS has contracted with the University of New Hampshire to conduct a formal assessment of crisis services for the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) population who have complex behavioral and mental health care needs.
  - The assessment aims to address institutional readmissions for the IDD population, determine where the biggest breakdowns are and what can we do about it.
  - A broad advisory group has been put together. Council member Becky Thompson has been asked to join
  - The assessment begins the third week of February and goes through May and then provide a series of recommendations and provide their analysis on the Wisconsin system.

- Updates on permanent telehealth policy and upcoming behavioral treatment benefit projects will be presented at the next council meeting.

### **Council Member Updates:**

- Kevin Scholz – Expressed concerns with businesses banning people such as a patient ban lists or no fly lists due to behavior. Feels they can be damaging to people with autism. Hoping the council can do something to raise awareness about stories and similar experiences and is prepared to voice his concerns to the governor. Council members discussed similar personal experiences and potential solutions such as creating an autism friendly business designation and encouraging greater acceptance of neurodiversity. Some members of the Council decided to draft a letter to the governor addressing this issue. The letter will be brought to the next Council meeting for consideration.
- Bob Johnston – Has joined the national board of the Autism Society of America (ASA). If there are public policy issues that you feel would be appropriate for ASA for future issues, please see him as connection with ASA. The ASA is also offering a second town hall to discuss applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy.
- Daysi Jiménez – Provided an update on initiatives with mental health providers serving people with autism. Becky Thompson, Lindsay McCary and the president of the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin joined her in meeting with Rogers Behavioral Health in addressing the huge gap that exists with our autistic community. Hoping to have conversations with other agencies and get ongoing support and peer to peer support. Continuing to look for providers that are willing to be trained on supporting autistic patients. Autism of Greater Wisconsin is offering upcoming training and expand services.
- Becky Thompson – Mentioned the intensive program through Rogers available. The Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin is putting together a series of training on how to do mental health training. Virtual training link at: <https://www.autismgreaterwi.org/mental-health-therapy-with-the-autistic-client/>
- Margaret Fairbanks – Shared that Islands of Brilliance and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee have received their first-year funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to establish a new research lab that will study the impact of creativity and creative technologies on people with autism. The grant is renewable for up to five years.
- Nissan Bar-Lev – Shared an update on his work within the public school system to address challenges in accessing grade level curriculum for students who do not have a grade level reading level. Working on training for teachers to make sure students with disabilities would have access to their own grade level curriculum.
- Daysi Jiménez – Asked if we had any new members to the council and if there were any current openings. Currently there are no openings, and new members include Margaret Fairbanks, Rose Cutting, and Alejandra Apreza-King.

### **Goal setting for 2022-2023:**

- Nicole Miller – Introduction of where do we want to go as a council and focus our efforts. Shared the Governor's Autism Council Mission and Scope document that was updated in 2019. Provided overview of what was previously discussed at least meeting.
- Asked members where they are seeing needs in the communities
  - Becky Thompson – Finding the providers, the number of providers and training of providers.
  - Margaret Fairbanks – Sees transition services as a big piece. We need an educational campaign to better understand autism
  - Katy Morgan – Constant shifts when people are diagnosed. Assigning levels (usually used by medical professionals) doesn't necessarily help families or the kids that are diagnosed. Feels its inappropriate language in the educational system. Helping people understand early interventions.
  - Daysi Jiménez – Continues to hear families having trouble accessing services after diagnosis. Big concern is that someone else needs to work with your child, instead of empowering the parent. Would like clinicians spend more time helping parents to navigate next steps after diagnosis.
  - Bob Johnston – Adult population needs significant attention as well. Access to services. Initial discussions are usually about new diagnoses. Maturing children that are no longer on Medicaid services still need a lot of support. Nicole clarified that the scope of this council is for children and that there are other councils that address services for adults, but did reiterate that there is extensive transition work going on at DHS.
  - Nissan Bar-Lev – Questioned if access to dentists is still a challenging area. Bob mentioned that there is a resource section (pg. 50) for the Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin with a listing of dentists.
- Goals considered for a vote by the council:
  1. Community capacity to understand and accept neurodiversity
  2. Empowering caregivers to navigate the system

3. Empowering caregivers to support their children
4. Connecting with diagnosticians for how to make next steps after a diagnosis
5. Provider capacity
6. Transitions

**Formal Vote on Proposed Council Goals for 2022-2023**

- Empowering caregivers, children and youth to navigate the system of autism supports and services
- Increasing provider capability to support neurodiverse children and youth

**MOTION** made by Rose Cutting, seconded by Nissan Bar-Lev to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.  
Next meeting on May 12, 2022.

Prepared by: Laura Zimmerman on 2/14/2022.