

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Governor's Autism Council			Attending: Council Members: Christina Krasovich; Robert Johnston; Rose Cutting; Dr. Rebecca Thompson; Daysi Jiménez; Margaret Fairbanks; Alejandra Apreza-King; John Jahnke Excused: Nissan Bar-Lev; Kevin Scholz, Lindsay McCary Public Attendees: Angela Levin; Michelle Scarborough DHS State Staff: Nicole Miller; Julia Thoe; Debra Borquist-Conlon; Laura Zimmerman
Date: 5/12/2022	Time Started: 10:02 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:00 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Meeting https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1610010032			Presiding Officer: Dan Kramarz, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

Minutes

Public Comments

- Angie Levin – At Mercy Health in Janesville they are doing community outreach. Some of the local police departments have asked for support to find tools so that they can support community members with communication difficulties. Wanted to bring it to the council to see if there is something out there that can be easily translated to local police departments such as a communication app, or other tools and resources/training that we are not aware of to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities and mental health issues.
 - Council members can share resources to be shared with Angie.

Operational

- Approval of the February 10, 2022, meeting minutes.
MOTION made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by Margaret Fairbanks, to approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Motion approved unanimously.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Updates:

- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Home and Community-Based Services (Dan Kramarz, BCS)
 - [ARPA initiatives related to home and community-based services](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs.htm)<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs.htm>
 - One project is a grant initiative to support building provider capacity around the state to help serve home and community-based services (HCBS) populations. \$32 million allocated to fund grants to organizations to pilot ways to build provider capacity. Grant program should start in July.
 - Dan will share updates with the group when available. There will be a website and a portal to submit applications.
- Briefing on the No Wrong Door, Supporting Kids Together Initiative (Debbie Borquist- Conlon, BCS)
 - This is a project funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The project extends and expands access work previously done by the bureau to enhance access.
 - This project is looking to simplify access to information and resources related to specialty health care and support programs. Next advisory meeting is in June.
 - Project updates and key activities:
 - Branding and Marketing
 - Leveraging Technology
 - Strengthening Partnerships
 - State Collaborative
- Permanent Telehealth Policy (Julia Thoe, Bureau of Benefits Policy, BBP)

- Some features of telehealth exercised during the public health emergency (PHE) will become permanently policy, available after the PHE.
- Permanent policy will go into effect the 1st day of the month after the Federal PHE ends.
- Upcoming behavioral treatment benefit project (Julia Thoe, BBP)
 - Behavioral treatment benefit looking at two initiatives to expand benefits:
 - Adding behavioral treatment group procedure codes
 - Looking at concurrent billing
 - ForwardHealth will be hosting a regularly scheduled behavioral treatment stakeholders group meeting next week.

Council Member Updates:

- Becky Thompson – Recently attended a presentation by Department of Public Instruction (DPI) about rules around attendance to school and treatment services. We might consider bringing that to a future council meeting.
- Daysi Jiménez – Finds DHS family listening sessions helpful and tries to encourage parents to attend forums.
- Rose Cutting – Prairie Du Chien hosting a 2nd Annual Harnessing Abilities Summit in August in regards to building an inclusive employment strategies/opportunities. Rose will share details with council members.

Defining Success for 2022-2023 Council Goals:

- Council member discussion on potential activities to support goals:
 - Margaret Fairbanks – Get ideas from parents; parent-to-parent mentoring, podcasts, perhaps some kind of app that provides feedback about providers or some kind of kit that could be provided to families.
 - Daysi Jiménez – Discussed promoting [Parent to Parent of Wisconsin](#). Need to start thinking about the increase in adults and teenagers who are getting diagnosed and navigating the process. Suggested some kind of autism resource on the DHS website. The Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin provides a [new to autism kit](#).
 - Becky Thompson – A number of providers have an increase for diagnosticians. How can we help bring everything together for a quarterly review.
 - Christina Krasovich – Raised the question of where we begin. Perhaps something simple on a website to provide links to baseline starter points. We need to help connect the dots for parents to help them learn what is available.
 - Bob Johnston – Brought up the possibility of adding a link to the Autism Societies or reference a page that directly sends them to the appropriate affiliate (maybe with a map of the counties).
 - Rose Cutting – Brought up partnering with medical facilities to build provider community connections.
 - Becky Thompson – Connecting people to training programs such as [Project ECHO](#), CASTLE (Clinical Assessment Screening Treatment & Leadership in Evidence based practices for children with autism). Funding for remote parent training programs, as an "in the meantime" service.
 - Daysi Jiménez – Building capacity to train individuals to do diagnostic work.
 - John Jahnke – Make sure message of the needs gets to the governor and legislature. Becky mentioned another item to consider for letter to governor would be funding to subsidize travel costs when providers serve rural communities. Suggest loan forgiveness as a recommendation that could be also put in the letter.
 - Rose Cutting – Supporting educational opportunities/scholarships to increase qualified providers. It may also be helpful to have a tool kit from the providers to get families started if they have to wait for services.
- Overview of actionable items (Nicole Miller, DHS)
 - Proposal to increase resources on DHS webpage.
 - Drafting letter to the Governor on recommendations for policy changes or budget priorities.

MOTION made by Christina Krasovich, seconded by Rose Cutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting on August 11, 2022.