

Advisory Council to the Division of Autism Services  
Minutes, November 17, 2010

**Members Present:** Catherine Abercrombie, Nancy Bagatell, Judy Dowd, Chera Gerstein, Jan Galloway, Jacqueline Kelleher, David Daniel Klipper, Sara Lourie, James Loomis, Kathy Marcione, Nikki Richer, Lois Rosenwald, Jonathan Ross, Stan Soby, Margery Stahl, Tricia Winter, Larry Wood, Yana Razumnaya

**Guest:** Jennifer Cello

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Carroll, Ruth Eren, Ann Gionet, Sara Reed, Jennifer Ureta.

**Ex Officio Members:** Kathy Reddington, Lori Conchado

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Review the Role of the Advisory Council and Executive Committee** – David Daniel opened the meeting stating that the role of the Council is to advise the Commissioner. In this role we also need to be in compliance with our By-laws.

**Facilitated Discussion by James Loomis on what the focus will be for 2011-**

**Frame the Discussion** – The Council has already successfully made recommendations and provided advice to the Commissioner on issues i.e, housing, polices. The next step is to set priorities to focus on for 2011.

**Criteria for suggestions:**

- **Address Needs** of individuals with ASD in a way that is responsive to the community
- **Scope** – Set realistic timeframes for Long Term/Short Term goals with measurable outcomes to accomplish goals
- Equitable access statewide for all individuals

**Generate Ideas-** The group made the following suggestions of issues to focus on:

1. Changes to the Division of Autism as the division begins to serve individuals across the lifespan
2. Work to Maintain what services are currently existing
3. Growing the Waiver
4. Housing
5. Cost Benefit of Services to justify resources
6. Identify Populations of Under- identified groups
7. Women with ASD
8. National/Regional trends
9. Encounters with the Justice System

10. Interagency Collaboration
11. Best Practices for Diagnosis and Treatment
12. Grant/Foundation Support
13. Accessing Entitlements
14. Employment
15. Transition in Schools
16. Training of Providers; Pre-Service training for Teachers
17. Collecting Longitude data
18. Social Outcomes
19. DMV – Access to driving
20. College Access

All members were allowed 4 votes on categories they would like to focus on. The topics were narrowed down and some combined. The following are the 3 areas the Council agreed to focus on for 2011:

1. Maintain resources currently existing
2. Housing
3. Employment

**Housekeeping** – Council members set 1-year and 2-year term dates in 2008 to stagger membership. Terms for Co-Chairs and the Executive Committee are now expired and will need vote on members to be fill vacancies.

- **Co-Chairs** - Lois announced that she will be stepping down as the Co-chair, but would like be appointed to the Executive Committee.
- **Membership** - David Daniel expressed willingness to remain as a co-chair if he is reelected. He discussed the need for a Nominations Committee to propose a slate for Co-chairs, and provide suggestions of new members. Stan Soby, Cathy Abercrombie and Sara Lourie volunteered. Lori will send an e-mail to all members seeking volunteers to serve as a Co-chair. There will be a slate presented for vote at the January meeting.
- **Meeting times and frequency** – Jonathan Ross proposed the schedule for 2011. Meetings will be scheduled for January 19, March 16, May 18, September 21 and November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Update on Autism Waiver** presented by Kathy Reddington

- The 3 draft waivers have been distributed to DSS, OPM, DMHAS and DCF. DDS will post notification of the application in the Law Journal and to Tribal Nations, as required and schedule a Public Forum. The Center for Medicaid has approximately 90 days to respond to the application and usually has some questions.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2011**