

Governor's Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders
Full Task Force
In-Person Meeting
Florida State University – College of Medicine
Tallahassee, Florida
January 29, 2009
9:00 a.m.
Summary of Meeting

Committee Members

Ausley, Loranne	absent
Bailet, Laura	
Benson, Holly	Beth Kidder - proxy
Berkman, Karen	
Block, Lance	absent
Brosco, Jeffrey	
DeBeaugrine, Jim	
Dowds, Debra	
Emken, Elizabeth	absent
Hill, Kimberly	
Homant, Susanne	
Houghland, Patty	
Jackson, Jarl	
Kanjian, Robert	
Kompothecras, Gary	
La Belle, Richard	absent
Llorente, Marcelo	
Lockman, Bambi	Michelle Polland - proxy
Marino, Dan	absent
Perkins, Randal	absent
Precourt, Lisa	
Purvis, Kelly	
Ring, Jeremy	absent
Ros, Ana Viamonte	Sally Golden-McCord - proxy
Sequenzia, Ven	

Department of Health Staff

Casey, Megan
Cozart, Thometta
Howard, Catherine

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Staff

Copley, Kimberly
Demko, Tamara

Mr. DeBeaugrine called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m.

Ms. Demko announced the presence of a quorum.

Mr. DeBeagrine opened the discussion regarding the vote on philosophical exemption. He explained that any simple motion before the body only requires a simple majority to pass. Earlier, at Mr. DeBaugrine's request, that the TF reach a 2/3 threshold. He reiterated that is not the rule, and no one objected. A point of order may be raised, but to require a 2/3 vote a formal requirement, a member needs to make a motion to raise the rules. 14 voting members, with two abstentions. $9/14 = 9.3$, coming to a 2/3 majority.

A motion to reconsider must come from a member on the prevailing side of the vote. The vote would be retaken, and a simple majority will be required. He reiterated that a 2/3 majority was agreed upon informally to strive toward a greater consensus among the TF.

Dr. Brosco discussed that there was never a real chance to be aware of the fact that the TF are not an elected group. He mentioned that they never had the chance for discussion about how to present the recommendation only being done up or down.

Dr. Kompothecras said that the TF has been around for a year, and the line knows where to be drawn. The vote was taken; far more than half were in favor.

Mr. Kanjian asked the chair if what passed yesterday was or was not correct under rules.

Mr. DeBaugrine reiterated that the issued voted upon passed. The vote was properly taken.

Mr. Kanjian mentioned that in order to provide language for a "strong" consensus in the report, a stronger majority as a rule would like to be considered by the TF.

Ms. Dowd expressed concern about the explanation, that in order to have 2/3, she felt uninformed and that 2/3 was more formally decided upon by the body and that 2/3 needs to be maintained on recommendations to keep continuity with other recommendations already made.

Ms. Homand asked about moving forward, if all recommendations moving forward needed a 2/3 vote, should require, and when?

Mr. DeBaugrine explained that the rules would need to be waived prior to a vote.

Dr. Bailet expressed the need to make a note in the report about what type of majority was reached for the report to state the process used.

Mr. Kanjian shared the importance of being unified that some items in the report had fewer consensuses/individual differences. He also offered that he feels the report should be passed unanimously.

Dr. Kompothecras expressed his reiteration of the need for a simple majority based on the lack of attendance by some members.

Ms. Demko noted that the only issue vote to be affected would be the vote taken yesterday on philosophical exemptions.

Ms. Demko noted that Dr. Brosco mentioned laying out a State plan for autism. One of the issues for consideration was Dr. Brosco's plan, and includes a timeline. The TF wished to make sure he would be in attendance to discuss, and make it 3-5 pages between intro and executive summary.

Ms. Demko gave a presentation and overview of the 2009 legislative session, and bills pertaining to autism.

- HB239 – Glorioso
- SB 642 – Altman
- SB514 – Hill
- HB89 – Precourt
- SB242 – Ring
- HB 353 – Porth
- SB 101 – Ring
- SB610 – Wise

Mr. Sequenzia provided comments on HB 239 relating to programs for autism related disabilities. Tailor current recommendation to fit current one. Use the contribution sent to card to fund website.

HB89:

Mr. Sequenzia suggested that Precourt should add a speech pathologist to the list of professionals.

Ms. Hill added that a speech pathologist is instrumental in diagnosis, but not allowed by law to diagnosis.

Dr. Brosco mentioned current law requiring that any pediatrician must refer any suspected ASD to Early Steps.

Ms. Purvis noted that the goal is not just to get a diagnosis, but make referrals as soon as possible for early intervention

Dr. Bailet reiterated Ms. Purvis' point about early diagnosis but early quality intervention is the priority.

HB353:

Ms. Demko noted that it was misnoted, SB101 is not the companion, and the correct number is SB1010.

Dr. Kompothecras expressed his contentment with this bill.

SB610

Ms. Demko noted that staff will update the TF on any further updates as they pertain to legislation on ASD.

Ms. Demko moved into the discussion about the statewide plan. She asked if there were any changes thus far.

Mr. Sequenzia noted changing the section about insurance coverage after no provider has signed on to compact.

Question to TF: if there are no signatories, would they like to remove section re: Window of Opportunity and Compact information.

Ms. Demko noted that the TF could create a statement regarding alternative recommendations or denying support to changing SB2654 if it occurs during the 2009 legislative session.

Mr. Sequenzia moved that staff create a statement regarding mandatory coverage.

The motion was seconded.

Dr. Brosco moved that a separate letter/recommendation be created to discuss coverage.

The motion was seconded.

Ms. Demko asked for more information and clarification on Recommendation 2.1 under Cost in the Report, referencing proper payment to a licensed psychologist and proper payment for CPT codes.

Ms. Precourt motioned to add a section to 4.1 that Early Steps be the only referral service

The motion was seconded.

The motion passed without objection.

Mr. DeBaugrine called a recess at 10:58, to reconvene at 11:15.

The meeting was called back to order at 11:28.

Ms. Demko reviewed conference calls prior to the final report to review language and recommendations. No votes would occur without TF members being informed. She asked the TF to designate certain dates for voting dates.

Ms. Demko brought up World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. Fifth meeting will be in Tallahassee April 1, 2. She shared that a press conference will be held the morning of April 2 to announce final recommendations and website to include Governor.

Ms. Demko moved into discussion about the State roadmap for treatment and the direction of ASD in Florida. She deferred to Dr. Brosco to lead the discussion.

Dr. Brosco discussed laying out a vision for ideal services, treatment options, etc to use as a goal that is fluid in nature.

Mr. Sequenzia mentioned formally thanking the Governor for his vetoes as it pertains to CARD centers and APD funds.

The Task Force requested that staff to work with Dr. Brosco on what State roadmap will look like. Dr. Kompothecras asked to be involved as well.

Ms. Demko shared that the report is due 3/20/09. In terms of submitting preliminary report, the Task Force can put placeholder in for strategic plan. The Task Force agreed and send to all members.

Other issue not unanimous: Alternative Vaccination Schedules

Dr. Brosco moved that in this area, process is described in detail about how consensus and decisions were made including where areas were not fully agreed upon. Reflect that only area on vaccinations be discussed as not having full consensus. Still at least 2/3 was met.

Motion was seconded by Kelly Purvis.

Dr. Kompothecras left at 12:31.

Dr. Brosco said he could not support sending the report to the Governor's Office. A quorum was no longer present after Dr. Kompothecras leaving.

Ausley, Loranne	absent
Bailet, Laura	yes
Benson, Holly	absent
Berkman, Karen	yes
Block, Lance	absent
Brosco, Jeffrey	yes
DeBeaugrine, Jim	yes
Dowds, Debra	yes
Emken, Elizabeth	absent
Hill, Kimberly	yes
Homant, Susanne	yes
Houghland, Patty	yes
Jackson, Jarl	yes
Kanjian, Robert	absent
Kompothecras, Gary	absent
La Belle, Richard	absent
Llorente, Marcelo	absent
Lockman, Bambi	y
Marino, Dan	absent
Perkins, Randal	absent
Precourt, Lisa	y
Purvis, Kelly	y
Ring, Jeremy	absent
Ros, Ana Viamonte	absent sent Proxy – Sally Golden-McCord
Sequenzia, Ven	absent

A quorum was present when vote began at 12:30. Quorum was lost at 12:31 p.m.

Chair decides that legitimate vote was taken due to presence of quorum vote began. Vote was taken, passed.

Call out vaccinations/immunizations entirely as only issue that did not receive unanimous consensus. Still at least 2/3 was met.

Mr. DeBeaugrine thanked the TF for their time and passion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:46.