

**Governor's Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
**Full Task Force**  
Conference Call  
February 10, 2009  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
Summary of Minutes

Committee Members

Ausley, Loranne	absent
Bailet, Laura	absent
Benson, Holly	absent
Berkman, Karen	
Block, Lance	absent
Brosco, Jeffrey	joined the call at 1:40 p.m.
DeBeaugrine, Jim	absent
Demko, Tamara	
Dowds, Debra	
Emken, Elizabeth	absent
Hill, Kimberly	absent
Homant, Susanne	absent
Houghland, Patty	
Jackson, Jarl	
Kanjian, Robert	
Kompothecras, Gary	signed off at 1:17 p.m. and returned at 1:45 p.m.
La Belle, Richard	
Llorente, Marcelo	absent
Lockman, Bambi	absent
Marino, Dan	absent
Perkins, Randal	absent
Precourt, Lisa	
Purvis, Kelly	signed off at 1:19 p.m.
Ring, Jeremy	absent
Ros, Ana Viamonte	
Sequenzia, Ven	absent

Department of Health Staff

Howard, Catherine  
Taylor, Lona

Call began at 1:05 p.m.

Ms. Demko shared that she had received comments from Mr. Sequenzia regarding the license plate recommendation and the correction of a few other typos. His comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the next version of the report for review.

Ms. Purvis requested a review of the information on Page 12 of the report. Specifically, Ms. Purvis voiced a concern about listing selected disabilities "These include Down  
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Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, intellectual disability (mental retardation), spina bifida, cerebral palsy, and Prader-Willi syndrome.” Ms. Purvis suggested that the list be greatly expanded or removed all together.

Mr. Jackson added that he felt that if a list is provided people will assume it is inclusive. However, Mr. Jackson stressed that some of the recommendations of the Task Force might work to help other disabilities.

Ms. Purvis asked the Task Force to consider changing the numbering sequence of the recommendations to avoid confusion.

Ms. Demko stated that Dr. Brosco will be assisting her in completing the “Strategic Roadmap to Addressing Autism in Florida” section. Ideas about this section should be sent to Ms. Demko for discussion and consideration with Dr. Brosco.

Ms. Precourt shared that she had not read the complete report thoroughly and may have additional comments about the Executive Summary. Ms. Precourt did note that an additional bullet is needed on Page 18 about diagnosis and treatment.

Ms. Demko shared that House Bill 89 by Representative Precourt has been reviewed by the CARD Center.

Dr. Berkman commented that the success of the report of the Task Force should not be contingent on the people who wrote it. She expressed a desire that it be a living document regardless of who implements the recommendations. Mr. LaBelle added that he hopes the report generates positive momentum and enthusiasm because that may determine how much impact the recommendations will actually have before it is put on a shelf.

Ms. Demko reminded the group that voting on substantial changes to the report is scheduled for February 26.

Ms. Demko further shared that the next Task Force meeting will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2009 in Tallahassee. April 1<sup>st</sup> will include a discussion of comments from the Governor’s Office and if needed, a discussion for next steps to address any further direction given by the Governor’s Office.

Ms. Demko shared that she received a few comments about the Quality of Life recommendation. Mr. Jackson added that he would like information included about self advocacy and the need for social interaction and opportunities with an emphasis on the capacity and opportunities for higher education and employment.

Dr. Berkman stated that looking at adult services and employment opportunities is a necessity. Ms. Precourt added that kids diagnosed with an ASD will become adults and that long term planning has to happen now.

A concern was brought forward by Task Force member, Dr. Brosco, about the perception of a video edited by Dr. Kompothecras highlighting clips taken from the Task Force meeting in Tampa regarding immunizations. Specifically, Dr. Brosco felt that the video could be perceived as an endorsed product of the Task Force. He further

questioned if Task Force members were empowered to step outside their role as a Task Force member and speak as a private citizen about topics that the Task Force is working on to make a unified recommendation.

Ms. Demko stated that the Task Force members are not empowered to speak on behalf of the task force. This is a duty of the Co-chairs and Executive Director if Co-chairs are not available.

The video communication in question will be sent by Ms. Demko to all Task Force members. Any comments on how Dr. Kompothecras can edit this video to clearly demonstrate that it is not a Task Force endorsed action should be sent directly to Ms. Demko.

Dr. Viamonte Ros also expressed concerns.

Additional comments, if warranted, on this video will be discussed on the February 18<sup>th</sup> call schedule for 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Precourt asked if there was anything to report on the concerns brought forth during public comment about the CARD Center in Jacksonville. Ms. Demko shared that fact gathering is still being done at this time.

Call concluded at 2:14 p.m.

Taken By: Lona Taylor