

Governor's Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders
Full Task Force
Conference Call
December 16, 2008
10:00 a.m.
Summary of Minutes

Committee Members

Ausley, Lorraine	absent
Baillet, Laura	
Benson, Holly	absent
Berkman, Karen	joined the call at 10:20 a.m
Block, Lance	absent
Brosco, Jeffrey	
DeBeaugrine, Jim	joined the call at 10:11 a.m.
Demko, Tamara	
Dowds, Debra	
Emken, Elizabeth	signed off the call at 10:29 a.m.
Hill, Kimberly	
Homant, Susanne	absent
Houghland, Patty	
Jackson, Jarl	absent
Kanjian, Robert	
Kompothecras, Gary	absent
La Belle, Richard	
Llorente, Marcelo	absent
Lockman, Bambi	
Marino, Dan	absent
Perkins, Randal	absent
Precourt, Lisa	
Purvis, Kelly	absent
Ring, Jeremy	
Ros, Ana Viamonte	non-voting member participant (Phyllis Sloyer)
Sequenzia, Ven	

Agency for Persons with Disabilities Staff

Demko, Tamara

Department of Health Staff

Howard, Catherine

Taylor, Lona

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Ms. Demko shared that the Governor's Office has extended the due date for the preliminary report to January 15, 2008. Task Force members are encouraged to continue their review of the November version of the report. If Task Force members do not feel that the essence of the issues have been captured in the staff write up, they are

encouraged to submit, to Ms. Demko, their edits. If Task Force members have solicited feedback from colleagues outside of the Task Force, Ms. Demko requested that the suggestions be vetted by and forwarded from the requesting Task Force member.

Ms. Demko stated that edits will be accepted through December 23, 2008.

Ms. Demko announced that there will be a full Task Force conference call on January 12, 2009 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. or conclusion. This time will be used for a final review of the preliminary report.

She announced that the fourth meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders meeting will be January 28 – 29 in Tallahassee at the Florida State University School of Medicine. The Commission of Disabilities meeting will take place on January 26 – 27, 2009.

Ms. Emken shared that there will be a compact meeting on December 17th. She stated that the last meeting was cancelled because no proposals were received from insurance companies.

Ms. Emken also mentioned that Illinois signed an Autism bill last Friday. No additional movements are expected at the federal level until after the presidential inauguration.

Dr. Brosco shared that he is in Washington attending an autism related event. He is noticing a trend in addressing autism in three areas: improving screening; rapid diagnosis and early and effective treatment.

Ms. Berkman shared that Alabama reached out to Florida to get information about the CARD center implementation. Ms. Berkman shared how pleased she is that Florida is being viewed as a best practice in this area.

Ms. Demko shared that she will be coordinating a voluntary collection of donations from Task Force members to be presented on behalf of Dan Marino's father who recently passed away. Interested parties should email Ms. Demko at tamara_demko@apd.state.fl.us for more information.

Dr. Brosco shared that the November 17th draft of the preliminary report reads as a series of random ideas with no overarching theme evident. The Task Force's top priorities are not identified. A system of care seems to be weaved throughout the report but not consolidated into a statement of action. He suggested organizing the report according to five topics that would reflect a system of care. They are 1) awareness, 2) screening, 3) diagnosis and evaluation, 4) treatment, and 5) family support.

Several other Task Force members expressed support of this idea.

Dr. Baillet commented that she would like to see a comprehensive report for Florida - a vision for Florida activities and goals outlined in the Executive Summary. For example, "One of the most important objectives of the Task Force is to work towards a comprehensive system of care

Regarding the organization of the report, Dr. Brosco stated that the Task Force will need to work together to properly place the recommendations for research, cost and the website into the appropriate topic area. Many of the recommendations are methods to achieve the overall vision – which has yet to be clearly stated in the report.

Ms. Precourt recommended that as the group plans, it should keep in mind that there may not always be the budget constraints that are evident at present. Hopefully, the future will offer better financial options to implement some of the Task Force recommendations. She stated that it is important for the report to emphasize that the Task Force recognizes the power of new technology to enhance integration. Further, Ms. Precourt suggested the group develop a gap analysis plan. For example, describe what current awareness initiatives are working, but note where there are gaps and offer short term, medium and long term solutions/suggestions.

Call concluded at 10:38 a.m.

Taken By: Lona Taylor