

Members

Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson
Sen. Ryan Mishler
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Rep. Cleo Duncan
Rep. Phil Hinkle
Rep. Dennie Oxley
Rep. Vanessa Summers
Hugh Beebe
Michael Carmin
Leah Helvering
Susan Hansen
Mary Rosswurm
Herbert Grulke



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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Authority: IC 12-11-7

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 12, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Chairperson; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Cleo Duncan; Rep. Phil Hinkle; Rep. Vanessa Summers; Hugh Beebe; Michael Carmin; Leah Helvering; Mary Rosswurm; Herbert Grulke.

Members Absent: Sen. Ryan Mishler; Rep. Dennie Oxley; Susan Hansen.

I. Call to Order

Senator Riegsecker called the Commission meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

II. Presentation by Dr. Cathy Pratt, Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism

Dr. Pratt presented the Indiana Resource Center for Autism Annual Report to the Commission (Exhibit 1).

Information that was provided addressed topics such as:

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Capacity building for professionals and family members through the Center's Team Training program;

Development and dissemination of various print and video educational materials (Dr. Pratt reported that the Center recently disseminated 10,000 copies of "When Your Child is Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder." The publication was provided to the Commission during its previous meeting. During the last year, the Center disseminated 3.1 M print and video items.);

Research projects, including:

- Anxiety and Social Skills in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- State-Wide Assessment of Early Intervention Services for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Evaluating the IRCA Autism School Team Training Program
- Assessing the Psychometric Properties of the Autism Social Skills Profile
- Literacy Learning & Use by Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Teaching Social Skills to Children with Autism using Video Self-Modeling;

Interdisciplinary Trainees/Pre-Service Instruction;

Outreach Training/Consultation;

Individual-Focused Assistance; and

Total Individual and Program Consultations/Conferences/Workshops/Inservices.

Dr. Pratt also indicated that it would begin collecting information in January for a needs assessment conducted by the Center every 3 years. The survey collects information about insurance, waivers, and incarceration.

III. Presentation by Ms. Lora Miller, Director, First Steps, Family and Social Services Administration

Ms. Miller reported that she is overseeing the restructuring of the First Steps program. The program is currently looking for a permanent home within the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). The program may be moved from the Division of Family Resources (DFR) to the Division of Disabilities and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS). Ms. Miller indicated that this change would take statutory language change.

Ms. Miller provided the Commission with a First Steps, Indiana Early Intervention System, handout (Exhibit 2). The handout includes a program description, profile report, and legislation which passed during the 2005 session pertaining to the program.

Ms. Miller also discussed the First Steps Stakeholders Group. The group will complete its final meeting on September 19, 2005. Following that, she anticipated having additional program information which will address changes proposed by the stakeholders group.

Ms. Miller presented information on the funding of the program. Total funding for the program is approximately \$67 M annually. Of this, approximately \$29 M are funded through federal money. This money is, in general, limited to use for infrastructure and staff. The remaining program money is funded through state dollars, \$6.2 M of which are appropriated in the budget for the program. The remaining dollars are funded through the state General Fund.

Ms. Miller discussed one issue that the program is encountering. Approximately 40% of clients allow the program to access and bill or attempt to bill private insurance companies. The state is unable to bill Medicaid for the remaining 60% of clients because Medicaid rules do not allow billing unless all other possible providers have been billed first. The state

loses funding for the program as a result. The program is unable to draw down on all Medicaid dollars possible and does not receive all money that could be billed to a private insurance company. She stated that the program is looking to propose legislation this year that would close that loop hole. The legislation would not require private insurance companies to pay for anything that they currently would not be responsible for if billed.

IV. Other Business

Senator Riegsecker asked Commission members if there were any ideas for legislation that the Commission might propose. In addition, he discussed the possible need for a fourth meeting if the Commission did so choose to move forward with proposed legislation.

Ms. Leah Helvering proposed an idea to draft legislation which would influence what is taught pertaining to autism in medical schools. The Commission decided that it would be best to bring in presenters from various groups involved in education of medical persons to find out what is currently being done, then move forward.

Ms. Helvering also asked about the comprehensive autism plan which is included in statute, IC 12-11-7-5. The Commission is required to oversee and receive updates on the development of the plan. Senator Riegsecker recommended that we have the DDRS come in and let the Commission know if there is a plan and what the status is, and then make moves following that.

V. Adjournment

The next meeting of the Commission on Autism will be held on September 28, 2005. The meeting will convene at 1:00 pm in Room 233 of the Statehouse. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.