

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 MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date: October 24, 2005  
Meeting Time: 1:00 P.M.  
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington  
St., Room 233  
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Meeting Number: 4

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

**Members Absent:** Sen. Ryan Mishler; Susan Hansen.

Senator Riegsecker, Chairman, called the meeting of the Indiana Commission on Autism (Commission) to order at 1:12 p.m. After opening remarks, Senator Riegsecker stated that he wanted to dispel the rumor that there was an active movement towards eliminating the Commission.

### Draft Resolutions

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<sup>1</sup> 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.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

### Autism Education Requirement for Medical Students

Francine Rowley, Attorney, Indiana Legislative Services Agency (LSA) read the draft resolution (Exhibit 1) concerning medical students, specifically students majoring in the areas of pediatrics and family medicine, completing a rotation in a clinic with a history of diagnosing and treating people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Commission member Leah Helvering offered additional language (Exhibit 2) to be included in the draft. After members of the Commission and the public made suggestions on further amendments, the draft was voted on by the Commission and passed with amendments. Commission members agreed to meet with administrators of the medical schools in the state prior to presenting the resolution at the 2006 legislative session.

### Continuing Education Requirement on Autism for Physicians

Francine Rowley, Attorney, LSA, read the draft resolution (Exhibit 3) encouraging the inclusion of Autism Spectrum Disorders as a required topic for continuing education credits for physicians. Commission member Leah Helvering offered additional language (Exhibit 4) to be included in the draft. After Commission and public discussion, the draft was voted on by the Commission and passed with amendments.

### Naming the Lead Agency for the Development of the Autism Comprehensive Plan

Francine Rowley, Attorney, LSA read the draft resolution (Exhibit 5) concerning the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) serving as lead agency to oversee and update the development of a comprehensive plan for services for individuals of all ages with Autism Spectrum Disorders. After discussion and members of the Commission and public made suggestions on amendments. The draft was voted on by the Commission and passed with amendments.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Cathy Pratt, Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism, presented a report concerning Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (Exhibit 6). The report was developed by the Autism Spectrum Disorder Expert Working Group (EWG), a panel of autism experts established by the Services Subcommittee of the Interagency Autism coordinating Committee in July 2004. The EWG is a diverse group comprised of members with special ASD expertise, including: service providers, educators, community program coordinators, researchers, individuals with ASD, and family members of individuals with ASD. The EWG was asked to review the state of the field and identify principles of best practices, challenges, and recommendations to provide the blueprint for a national public and private implementation plan for expanding and improving ASD services.

Chairman Riegsecker recognized Senator Allie Craycraft for his work during his tenure in the Indiana General Assembly and asked the Commission members and those present at the meeting to join him in wishing the Senator well on his upcoming retirement from the state legislature.

Commission members were asked by Lori Miller, (FSSA), to support legislation in the upcoming 2006 legislative session concerning emergency responders' training.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.