

Members

Rep. Cleo Duncan, Chairperson
Rep. Phil Hinkle
Rep. Vanessa Summers
Rep. Dennis Tyler
Sen. Marvin Riegsecker
Sen. Ryan Mishler
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Connie Sipes
Don Bayne
Mary Rosswurm
Herbert Grulke
Hugh Beebe
Michael Carmin
Leah Helvering



INDIANA COMMISSION ON AUTISM

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 6, 2006
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Rep. Cleo Duncan, Chairperson; Rep. Phil Hinkle; Rep. Vanessa Summers; Rep. Dennis Tyler; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker; Sen. Ryan Mishler; Don Bayne; Herbert Grulke; Hugh Beebe; Michael Carmin; Leah Helvering.

Members Absent: Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Connie Sipes; Mary Rosswurm.

Chairperson Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Commission members introduced themselves. The Legislative Services Agency staff introduced themselves.

Michelle Trivedi, Advocate for Autism Awareness, discussed how certain insurance companies are denying health insurance coverage for adults with autism. She also stated that the insurance companies are denying certain services to children with autism if the children are receiving similar services at school through their individualized education

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program.

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Liz Freeman Floyd, Indiana Autism Coalition, and Susan Pieples, Autism Society of Indiana, gave a brief overview of autism that included the following information: (1) causes, (2) characteristics, (3) treatments, (4) early intervention, (5) screening, (6) statistics, (7) survey results, and (8) advocacy groups. (Exhibit A) The group also presented the Commission's concerns about the rise in the incidence of autism. Paula Wales, Assistant Dean of Medical Education and Curricular Affairs, Indiana University School of Medicine, was present at the meeting on behalf of the Indiana University School of Medicine as an invited guest to hear the concerns of the Commission. Ms. Wales agreed to have discussions with the medical school administration that would include the concerns presented to her at the Commission meeting.

Karen Pedevilla, Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services (IPAS), gave a brief overview of IPAS. Ms. Pedevilla presented information concerning the services that IPAS provides, which include eight federally funded advocacy programs: (1) Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (PADD), (2) Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI), (3) Client Assistance Program (CAP), (4) Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT), (5) Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI), (6) Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA), (7) Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS), and (8) Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights program (PAIR). (Exhibit B)

In response to Commission member questions, Ms. Pedevilla stated that IPAS has in the past, partnered with Partners in Equal Justice to provide training for law enforcement in dealing with people with autism. She expressed a willingness to cooperate with other agencies to create training material for other groups including emergency responders , professionals and paraprofessionals.

Peter Biscebos, Director, Division of Disability and Rehabilitation Services, Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), presented information concerning the status of the service delivery system for individuals with autism in Indiana. He discussed the short term and long term challenges that FSSA faces in addressing the needs of those with autism. Included in the discussion was the goal of FSSA to create a uniform funding model to determine levels of state support for individuals with disabilities being served through the autism waiver. (Exhibit C)

Dr. Cathy Pratt, Indiana Resource Center on Autism, gave an update on the federal Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Act). She stated that the Act is currently still alive in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 26, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 233 of the Indiana State House. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.