

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 26, 2006
Meeting Time: 10:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 4

Members Present: 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.

Members Absent: Leah Helvering.

Chairperson Duncan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Commission members introduced themselves. Legislative Services Agency staff members introduced themselves.

Tammy and Jack Neal, Jr. gave testimony on the issues their family has encountered in raising an autistic daughter, including: (1) child care; (2) respite care; (3) transportation to

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

and from child care; and (4) financial problems.

In response to the Neal testimony and Commission members' questions, Adrienne Shields, Director of Client Services, Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, (DDRS) discussed services available for families with autistic children. She stated that a family must be eligible for the developmental disabilities waiver in order to receive support services. The services include providing relief time from the autistic child for up to 10 hours a month for the parent or caregiver. The support services are not available for after school care or for relief during work hours for the parent or caregiver.

Joe Wainscott, Training Director, Indiana Department of Homeland Security (DHS), distributed a handout to Commission members, and presented information on the current training provided to emergency medical services personnel. [Exhibit A] Mr. Wainscott stated that DHS does not currently include specific training on autism. In response to Commission members questions concerning the feasibility of DHS including specific training on autism, Mr. Wainscott stated that the inclusion of autism as a specific required continuing education course could be implemented through the rulemaking process within nine months to a year if the training material was currently available.

In response to Commission members' questions, Dr. Cathy Pratt, Director, Indiana Resource Center on Autism (IRCA), stated that IRCA currently has training materials available for distribution to emergency medical personnel to use for a training course in dealing with individuals with autism.

The Commission discussed draft legislation requiring emergency medical services personnel to successfully complete a course of education and training on autism in order to renew a certification upon expiration. The Commission made changes to the draft and voted 13-0 to approve the language of the draft legislation to be introduced during the 2007 session of the General Assembly. [Exhibit B]

The Commission discussed draft legislation allowing schools to adjourn in order for teachers, school administrators, and paraprofessionals to participate in a basic course of education and training on autism. After Bob Marra, Director, Division of Exceptional Learners, gave his input concerning the legislation, the Commission made changes and then voted 13-0 to approve the language of the draft legislation to be introduced during the 2007 session of the General Assembly. [Exhibit C]

Carole Cutter, Deputy Commissioner, Indiana Department of Insurance, distributed a handout to Commission members and presented information concerning insurance coverage for pervasive developmental disorders, including the Indiana insurance mandate. [Exhibit D]

Dan Seitz, Association of Indiana Life Insurance Companies (Association), discussed the organizations that make up the Association and introduced Roberta Meyer, Associate General Counsel, American Council of Life Insurers (Council). Ms. Meyer discussed the services that life insurance companies provide and the purpose of the Council. In response to Commission members' questions concerning the inability of some persons with autism to obtain life insurance, Ms. Meyer briefly discussed the rationale behind how life insurance companies make decisions on who is denied coverage. She distributed an article to Commission members concerning a study on determining which causes of death are more frequent in persons with autism and the life expectancy of autistic persons. [Exhibit E]

The Commission discussed and voted 13-0 to draft a resolution to be introduced during

the 2007 session of the General Assembly urging medical schools in Indiana to include training in autism for resident students majoring in general medicine, pediatrics, family practice, and neurology.

Liz Floyd, Indiana Autism Coalition, distributed a handout and presented information that included recommendations to the Commission for developing and implementing the Indiana comprehensive plan for services for individuals with autism. The recommendations are based on research concerning national trends and state-wide interviews of consumers, providers, educators, agency administrators, and individuals with autism. [Exhibit F]

The Commission adjourned at 12:50 p.m.