

MINUTES

KANSAS AUTISM TASK FORCE

March 5, 2008

Room 783—Docking State Office Building

Members Present

Dr. Bill Craig, Chairperson
Dr. Dee McKee
Jeanie Zortman
Jarrod Forbes
Dr. Martin Maldonado
Dr. Matt Reese
Dr. Mike Wasmer
Denise Grasso
Dr. Jane Wegner
Dr. Linda Heitzman-Powell
Louise Heinz
Sarah Bommarito
Nan Perrin
Tracey Lee
Colleen Riley, *ex officio*
Margaret Zillinger, *ex officio*
Linda Kenney, *ex officio*
Jim Leiker, *ex officio*

Staff Present

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carol Toland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Diane Lindeman, Kansas Board of Regents, presented information on various service scholarship programs, specifically related to how an autism service scholarship as described in 2008 SB 406 might be incorporated into the existing program. This discussion also included Task Force members indicating that it would be desired to add the pursuit of bachelors' degrees to autism service scholarship so that individuals could work toward becoming paraprofessionals or assistants working with autistic individuals.

Heidi Zimmerman, Legislative Division of Post Audit, presented the performance audit entitled *K-12 Education: Reviewing Issues Related to Special Education Funding*. (The audit can be found on the Legislative Post Audit website at <http://www.accesskansas.org/srv-postaudit/results.do>.)

Mr. Maury Thompson, Director, Johnson County Developmental Services, presented information on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver in 2008 HB 2761. He explained the details of the bill and its intent to eliminate the waiting list.

Margaret Zillinger, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), presented information on the Autism Waiver ([Attachment 1](#)). Ms. Zillinger told Committee members that there are 134 individuals on the Autism Waiver waiting list. She said there had been a severe decrease in the number of applications and encouraged members to get information out that applications would still be taken and are desired. She explained that SRS is now working to enroll providers. Ms. Zillinger further explained that currently the majority of enrolled providers are in northeast Kansas. She told members that the waiver program's biggest challenge is getting service providers.

Subcommittee conveners provided information on each subcommittee's activities. Dr. Matt Reese presented a handout entitled "Logic Model for Kansas." Dr. Dee McKee discussed the Funding Subcommittee activity including its discussion of attempting to map services, discuss adult services, and status of funding for the Children's Cabinet.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2008, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Prepared by Sharon Wenger

Approved by Committee on:

April 16, 2008
(Date)