

MINUTES

KANSAS AUTISM TASK FORCE EMERGENCY MEETING

May 5, 2008
Room 423-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Dr. Bill Craig, Chairperson
Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Ms. Louise Heinz
Mr. Jim Leiker, *ex officio*
Ms. Nan Perrin

Members Present via Conference Call

Mr. Jarrod Forbes
Ms. Denise Grasso
Dr. Linda Heitzman-Powell
Ms. Yeyette Houfek
Dr. Matt Reese
Dr. Mike Wasmer
Ms. Jane Wegner

Staff Present:

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes Office

Chairperson Craig called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. He explained the current status of no funding in any budget for the additional money to provide services for children with autism on the waiting list for the autism waiver program. Several members discussed their personal situations which included the cost effectiveness of early intervention services. Louise Heinz indicated that her daughter who is now four years old was originally diagnosed as severely autistic. With intervention, she is now considered moderately autistic. Ms. Heinz made the point that early intervention is cost effective.

The members agreed that a handout entitled "*The Kansas Autism Waiver: the Promise and the Wait*" (Attachment 1) should be provided to legislative leadership, Senate Ways and Means Committee, and House Appropriations Committee members today.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Prepared by Sharon Wenger

Approved by Task Force on:

June 12, 2008

(Date)