Autism Commission

Birth – three Sub Committee Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2017 - 2:30pm-4:00pm

NECC

Present: Ron Benham, Joan Rafferty, Sarah Richmann and Diana Parry-Cruwys

Remote Participation: Dianne Lescinskas, Cynthia Berkowitz, Nancy Lunden

Welcome and Introductions

**Update on Autism Commission March 6th Meeting**

Joan began by updating this committee around her presentation on the priorities for the Birth – Three Sub-Committee.

1. Early Identification/Early Diagnosis/Early Treatment
2. Increase knowledge of Pediatricians and Families of Early Signs through expanded use of Mass Act Early website and materials
3. Expand outreach on Turning Three process for Families
* Working on a brochure for families with a focus on ASD
* MA Act Early campaign is rolling out cable shows and they will be filmed in 7 different languages that include; English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Arabic. The program is 25 minutes long and the focus is on early screening and screening more often.

At the meeting on March 6th, Carolyn reported to the Commission that she has met with DPH and Early Intervention to discuss the barriers of early detection. Her office is working on a brochure for Turning Three, the plan for which is dissemination in multiple languages for parents and caregivers.

The MA ACT Early Summit is on April 21st at UMass Medical and Joan will send out the information to this sub-committee.

Ms. Kain and her office is working on a brochure for “Turning Three” and transitioning to public education. It was asked if the brochure could be sent to the members of the sub-committee for review. Mr. Benham would like to see if the brochure could mimic the look and colors and symbols of what they are using now for brochures.

Dianne gave an overview of the remainder of the meeting from March 6th and that included an update from most of the sub-committees. Workforce Development and Housing were not able to present at the AC meeting but did have a presentation prepared.

* The Autism Commission website is being revised and is awaiting feedback from the Commission
* Each sub-committee presented on 2-3 priorities/recommendations
* The minutes from the meeting will be posted on the Autism Commission website

The homeless shelter training that Ms. Kain is working on was discussed and asked if these trainings would be relevant to most; including those in the medical field and families.

Dianne discussed the training program at Mass General Hospital that was supported by the Ruderman Foundation. She will send the link to the sub-committee. ALEC training was discussed.

It was noted that these trainings are geared more towards youth and adults and our group is looking for training around screening and early detection for age’s birth to three. Ms. Kain is working with DPH and EI around early detection. The brochure could be helpful to families and will also include resources that are available in the community. Can hospital trainings like MGH address the needs discussed?

There was discussion around BCBA’s and wait time for services for families due to the lack of numbers in the Workforce. The Workforce Sub-Committee priorities were reviewed and it was noted that they are looking at the wage issues. Comments were made around agencies looking for more workers in this field and it is becoming competitive.

Mr. Benham asked about Workforce Development and the sharing of information to update this group. Ms. Lescinskas directed the committee to the Autism Commission website where all meeting minutes are posted. The minutes could also be sent directly to the Chair for updates on Workforce Development meetings – especially the conversations and action around wage rate. It was also noted that there is a wait time for some to get their actual license. Ms. Kain reached out to the BCBA board to discuss this wait time and will update the group at the next meeting.

Task specific groups was addressed and asked if this sub-committee could be broken up into groups to accomplish specific tasks. If so, could we welcome new members to join – this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The dates for the next two meetings were scheduled for May 12th and July 14th at NECC from 2:30pm-4:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.