Autism Commission Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA

Present: Secretary Marylou Sudders, Carolyn Kain, Rep. Christine Barber, Emma Schlitzer for Rep. Kimberly Ferguson, Janet George (DDS), Christine Hubbard, Patricia Gentile (NSCC), Kathy Sanders (DMH), Russell Johnston (ESE), Jane Ryder (DDS), Toni Wolf (MRC), Tim Cahill (DDS), Chris Supple, Judith Ursitti, Jessica Katon for Sen. Richard Ross, Cathy Boyle, Paola Ferrer (DCF), Michelle Brait, Jason Albert (EOLWD), Joan Rafferty (DPH), Vinny Strully, Laura Conrad (MassHealth), Dania Jekel, Dan Burke and Rocio Calvo.

**Meeting Minutes Approval**

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order and welcomed the Commission members. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 4, 2017 and February 28, 2018. The minutes for both dates were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Laura Conrad, from MassHealth, is a new member of the Autism Commission and Secretary Sudders welcomed her to the Commission. Carolyn Langer has left MassHealth and is currently the Chief Medical Officer of Fallon Health Care.

**MassHealth Presentation on Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) - Restructuring Update**

On March 1, 2018, MassHealth launched 17 accountable care organizations (ACOs) statewide serving 85,000 members. The 11 15 Waiver was submitted to make changes to MassHealth and to manage care in a different way – for better health outcomes and at a lower cost.

The PowerPoint was presented to the Commission members by Ipek Demirsoy from MassHealth.

* There was extensive stakeholder engagement during this process and the priority is to make this a smooth transition
* ACOs focus is on better coordinating care and engaging members in their care
* There is an innovative approach to address social needs (e.g. housing, food insecurity) that impacts health
* ACOs are a network of primary care providers who work in partnership with hospitals and specialists to coordinate all of a member’s medical and behavioral health
* Members under the age of 65 who have MassHealth as their primary insurance are eligible to enroll in ACOs
* MassHealth launched a new website called [www.masshealthchoices.com](http://www.masshealthchoices.com) to help members understand the new plan choices available. They also added extended hours and 200 additional customer service representatives for support with this transition.
* Members have until July 1, 2018 to switch plans for any reason

*Community Partners*

* MassHealth is launching 27 Community Partners on July 1, 2018.
* They are community-based organizations and providers with expertise working with members with complex needs (an internal group identified the “at risk” with complex and chronic conditions).
* There are 18 behavioral health community partners to coordinate care for serious mental illness, substance us disorders and co-occurring disorders and 9 long term services and supports community partners to coordinate care for members with physical and developmental disabilities.
* Community Partners act as a high-touch, wraparound support to navigate members to the care they need. They are statewide and address cultural competencies and language access.
* ACO’s want to maintain members with disabilities living in the community and not in nursing homes.

*New Federal Funding: Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP)*

* $1.8 billion in new DSRIP funds over 5 years support the development of ACOs and help providers transition towards new care delivery models, improve member care, and strengthen provider capacity.
* $1 billion is to support infrastructure development, care coordination and funding to address health-related social needs
* $547 million for community-based providers/organizations for specialized wraparound supports for members with complex behavioral health and long term care
* $115 million to support initiatives that will strengthen the health care system statewide.

*Questions*

Members of the Autism Commission were asked to email Ms. Kain if they have specific questions about the ACOs and she will direct them to MassHealth and send out the responses to the Commission members.

**Update on Mass Act Early Videos**

Elaine Gabovich UMass Medical School Worcester LEND Program (lead on project) and Joan Rafferty from the Department of Public Health (co-lead on grant) presented a one minute trailer of the Mass Act Early Videos - *1, 2, 3 Grow!*. The process of developing these videos had 3 objectives: 1. to define a milestone 2. Increase access 3. Provide a resource and contact for families. The videos are on YouTube (25 minutes in length) and can be found by visiting the 1,2,3 Grow Channel. It was launched on May 2 and first aired on the Boston Neighborhood Network (BNN). The goal is to reach out to all local cable providers.

* In development for over 2 years and had a multicultural review team and advisory board.
* There are 8 shows in 8 languages and cultures - the script is the same in the beginning for all shows but they all have different cultural stories.
* Most of the shows are hosted by a developmental pediatrician.
* They are working on an evaluation tool to report out in the fall and they are collecting data from towns on how many times the video airs.
* The videos are targeted to anyone with a concern about a child’s development and the primary audience is parents.
* The videos were viewed by Early Intervention providers.
* WIC will show the videos in their waiting rooms across the state. EEC also promoted the videos.
* They will reach out to the Autism Support Centers and Operation House Call (Maura is aware of the videos).
* Intercultural Productions filmed and edited the videos.

**Update from the Executive Director**

Ms. Kain gave a brief update on the work of the Autism Commission and discussed the organization memo that had gone to all of the Commission members reviewing the restructuring of the subcommittees. Most of the subcommittees have had at least one meeting since the restructuring of the co-chairs. Ms. Kain said that any new recommendations from subcommittees would need to be submitted to her one week in advance of the September 27th Autism Commission meeting.

The Autism Commission brochures, Turning Three, and A Resource Guide for Transition Aged youth with ASD, have been translated in 5 languages and are available on the Autism Commission’s website. The brochures are being distributed to relevant organizations.

Training has been a focus of the Autism Commission and there is a tracking document developed to capture what exists currently. DDS has created 3 trainings that are in draft and include child/adolescent /adults. The Federation for Children with Special Needs is working with the 14-22/employment subcommittee on creating training for MRC vendors and the pre-ETS program. Ms. Kain and Ms. Lescinskas met with the Pine Street Inn to discuss their training needs to help identify ASD individuals in the homeless population. Ms. Kain requested feedback for a draft training submitted from Pine Street personnel. Ms. Kain and a few subcommittee members from the Housing subcommittee will provide training in June to property managers from across the state covering various topics on ASD and Housing.

With no further discussion there was a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made and it being duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 3:40p.m.