**Autism Commission**

**Birth to Fourteen Years Old**

**Subcommittee Meeting**

**Via-Zoom**

**October 11, 2024**

Present on Zoom: Carolyn Kain, Carol Gracia, Iraida Alvarez, Beth Jerskey, Shari Krauss, Meghan Glassberg, Mary Kate Haswell, Stephanie Coburn, Zach Houston, Eileen Crehan, Emily White

Meeting Minutes: Carol Gracia

Carolyn Kain called the meeting to order and introduced all members of the Birth to Fourteen-Year-Old Subcommittee. Beth Jerskey made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes and Stephanie Coburn second the motion. Emily White abstained as she was not present for the meeting.

Ms. Kain began the meeting, it is the last meeting before the recommendations are due to the Autism Commission. The subcommittee went over and edited last year’s recommendations. They are now defined as priorities rather than recommendations.

**DESE IEP Improvement Project**

Districts are expected to use the new IEP platform by Thanksgiving. There are a select number of schools already using the new platform currently. The recommendation will be left as is until we can collect more data when districts are using the new platform on a regular basis.

**Age of Diagnosis**

Per Emily White the database does not capture significant information regarding “funding source” so we will remove that piece of information from recommendation. The subcommittee also agreed to change the title of the recommendation from “Age of Diagnosis” to “Level of Service and Age of Initiation of Services with Early Intervention” as there is limited data as to how old a child is at diagnosis.

**Transition from Early Intervention to Special Education**

Per Emily White, DPH does have information available. The transition process needs to start 6 months prior to a child turning 3 years old, which the subcommittee does not believe is happening in a timely manner leaving gaps in services.

**Supporting the Influx of Migrant Families and Students**

The Subcommittee agreed to take out this recommendation and will revisit at a future meeting.

**Child Safety**

There are many resources available on the Autism Commission website regarding child safety. This topic will be a continued focus for the subcommittee. Per Emily White there is a report that will be voted on next week that focuses on more specific recommendations that go along with specific agencies. Eileen Crehan would like to add the topic of Psycho-Sexual Health to the recommendation and Zach Houston agreed given what we are seeing across our ASD population with regard to sexual health.

**School Discipline and Behavior Management**

This recommendation is going to be taken out for the time being. The subcommittee hopes to have a more in-depth conversation at a later meeting as this recommendation is unrealistic the way it is currently written.

Carolyn Kain began wrapping up the meeting letting the subcommittee know under the new administration they want to take a closer look at the work of the subcommittee. The undersecretary is very engaged in our work. There will be a discussion at the next Autism Commission meeting in regards how the subcommittees are going to proceed in the future. Carolyn Kain will update everyone after the meeting.

Stephanie Coburn wanted to plug the DDS Autism Waiver Program which the request period is now open until November 1. If anyone has any questions they can reach out to Stephanie Coburn and Mary Kate Haswell directly.

Carolyn Kain stated that this meeting was very efficient and will update the subcommittee after our next Autism Commission meeting.

With no further topics for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.