Autism Commission

Sub-Committee for Three Years Old - Fourteen Years Old

November 1, 2017 –1:00pm – 2:30pm

500 Harrison Avenue

Members present were Carolyn Kain, Zach Houston and Dianne Lescinskas

Members accessing meeting remotely were Alexis Glickman, Sue McCarthy, Michelle Poulin, Beth Jerskey and Tina Fitanides

Carolyn Kain, the Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to the meeting of this Sub-Committee. Ms. Kain stated that the meeting was subject to the Open Meeting Law and that the Sub-Committee members present would need to vote to approve the remote participation of some members because of their geographic location, whenever any members were utilizing video and/or tele-conferencing. Remote access was approved unanimously. Minutes from last meeting in July were reviewed and approved.

**Review of Draft Resource Brochure**

The draft resource brochure was sent to this sub-committee for review and they were asked to give input/feedback. The Autism Commission is working with EOHHS to format the brochure and asked this sub-committee for suggestions/edits and asked if they have ideas on particular graphics.

* Autism Support Centers are listed as a great resource and Family Support Centers are listed as another source of information
* It was asked that a sentence be added under Insurance that states the ABA home services under MassHealth would be **in addition** to the ABA services provided by the school district
* It would be helpful to add more 800 numbers under perspective resources
* DESE has additional technical advisories that are more autism specific that could be added – they will email the information to be added
* Transition services start at age 14 and it was asked if we should we add a link about Transition Services since – we could link the Autism Commission Transition brochure as well as the Autism Commission website
* The title of this brochure could be clearer so people know that it is for school aged children ages 3-14
* The 14-22/employment sub-committee added links to printable guides – did we want to add that to this brochure?
* Individuals from DESE reviewed the brochure and gave feedback
* This brochure is intended for parents/families and the individuals who work with them
* The brochure will be broken down into plain language and will also be translated into several languages
* The Autism Commission doesn’t have the budget to use a marketing firm to have the brochure professionally developed and printed but is working with DDS and looking at grants to support the cost of creating materials
* It was mentioned that there could be multiple non-profits that would support the new brochure and help to fund the cost

Zach Houston from Boston Public Schools offered to use the brochure as part of a pilot study during the IEP meetings with families to get feedback from parents on its’ usefulness. He also discussed having transition aged students from BPS help with the printing of the brochure and offered to discuss this idea with the Director of Transition Services from BPS.

Michele Poulin discussed the regional meetings that DESE is doing, 4 in total, the next one will take place in January. If this brochure is complete, DESE could share it with the special education directors at the regional meetings.

The members of this sub-committee will be informed of the next meeting via email. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.