

**EIDBI Advisory Group
Meeting minutes
March 31, 2017**

Attending: Brooke Anderson, Tom Billigmeier, Josh Craig, Melissa Fredin, Ashwak Hassan, Evan Henspeter, Lori Hilmer, Kelly Kausel, Eric Larsson, Charles Ledonio, Maggie Leshner, Trista Linn, Kara Mensink, Harun Musa, Jay O'Neill, Sara Pahl, Delia Samuel, Steven Schmidt, Kim Schulze, Vanessa Slivken, Sheri Stronach, ate Swenson, Ann Tesch, Nicholas Volkmuth, Teri Woelfel

Absent: Amy Esler, Fatima Molas, Linda Monchamp, Patina Park, Maci Spica

Staff: Nicole Berning, Gail Dekker, Mariam Egal, Maychee Mua, Gerry Nord, Paj Thao, Sarah Thorson, Claire Wilson

Background

This was the first meeting of the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention (EIDBI) Advisory Group. The group was formed to advise the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) on the ongoing development and implementation of the EIDBI Benefit. The benefit is for people under the age of 21 with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum (ASD) and related conditions who are eligible for or who receive Medical Assistance (Medicaid). Staff from the Disability Services Division of DHS administer the benefit.

This meeting was devoted to providing members of the group with an orientation. The orientation covered:

- Introductions of members and Disability Services staff who will work with the advisory group
 - Role of the advisory group
 - Principles to participate, DSD's commitment to the advisory group and visitors' information
 - The EIDBI benefit, what it is, how people access it, etc.
 - Current and proposed legislation that authorizes the benefit
 - Future advisory group meeting schedule
 - Parents' meeting. DHS plans to hold these meetings quarterly. The purpose of these meetings is to provide information on the benefit to parents, answer their questions, hear about their experiences and challenges and to provide feedback to the advisory group.
- Josh Craig agreed to be the advisory group representative to the April 21 parents' meeting.

- EIDBI webpage
- How to propose future meeting agenda topics
- How to communicate with EIDBI staff: email staff at ASD.DHS@state.mn.us

Materials

Please familiarize yourself with the materials in your three-ring binder, particularly the EIDBI overview and the legal resources.

Suggested future meeting agenda topics

DHS asked members to propose future agenda topics, which are listed below:

1. Outline or go through the array of services—besides the EIDBI benefit—for people with ASD and related conditions.
2. Create an exceptions process for enrolling new EIDBI providers.
3. Ensure the expedited, rapid enrollment of providers.
4. Review provider requirement, present and proposed.
5. Make assessment improvements.
6. Consider the financial accessibility of benefit, including TEFRA fees.
7. Consider how to influence private insurers to pay for the benefit.
8. Notice process, denial of eligibility, appeals
9. Integration with MnCHOICES assessment, waivers
10. Workshops and group homes: empower clients to supervise other clients when program lacks staff. Provide them with training and support to do this well.
11. Changes in private insurance, low reimbursement rates
12. Informing families of all services available, including school-based services
13. University training to alleviate workforce shortage; connect graduates and current students to market opportunities for employment.
14. Help undergrads to get personal care assistance (PCA) positions to fulfill their graduation requirements and to introduce them to the field and increase supply of workers.
15. Kids who fall through the cracks, who have cognitive deficits, but not enough to get services
16. Use of service animals: May they be used with this benefit? Is there funding for this?
17. Promote autism awareness among employers and community.
18. Regular (weekly?) coordination and staff meetings
19. Effective ways to prevent violence by clients directed against other clients
20. Wages: subminimum wages, ability to earn more with experience

Future Meetings

1. Parents' meeting: Friday, April 21, 10:30 to noon at the Brooklyn Park Public Library, 8500 W. Broadway, Brooklyn Park.
2. EIDBI Advisory Group meeting: Friday, May 12, 10 a.m. to noon, at the DHS Building at 444 Lafayette Road, Room 3148. Note that you will need to register your car at the InfoDesk if you park in the Visitors' Lot or on the streets around DHS. You will also need to pick up a visitor's badge to go up to the meeting room.