

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Conference Call Meeting
Meeting Minutes - July 12, 2010 (Ratified)
12noon – 1pm**

Council Members Present

Michele Adubato, MSW, MA, Deputy Executive Director, The North Ward Center Inc, Public Member

Elizabeth K. Bell, BS, volunteer and independent contractor with Autism Speaks,
Autism Organization Representative

Caroline Eggerding, MD, Vice President Clinical Services, Bancroft NeuroHealth,
Assembly Speaker Appointee
Chair of Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Susan P. Evans, EdD, Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program,
Commissioner of Health and Senior Services Appointee

Ms. B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA, Founder/Director of the Noah's Ark Children's Association,
Autism Organization Representative

Ketan Kansagra, MD, FAAP, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Academic
Institution Recommendation

Linda S. Meyer, EdD, MPA, BCBA-D Executive Directory of Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC), Autism
Organization Representative

Kendell R. Sprott, MD, JD, Acting Director of Pediatrics, University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey
Medical School, Academic Institution Representative

Mr. Judah Zeigler, Associate Vice President of Sharp's Retail and Consumer Marketing,
Senate President Appointee

Absent

Jessica C. Guberman, PhD, Executive Director for Community Options, Inc.,
Autism Organization Representative

Yvette Janvier, MD, FAAP, Medical Director for the Children's Specialized Hospital in Toms River, Healthcare
Organization Representative

Grace M. Reilly, RN, MSN, APN-C, Adult Nurse Practitioner for Riverview Medical Center,
Individual with Autism or Family Member Representative

Barbie Zimmerman-Bier, MD, Appointment at Rutgers University, clinician at St. Peter's University, Academic
Institution Representative

NJ Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Attendees

Gloria M. Rodriguez, Director
Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services

Lori Garg, MD, MPH, Senior Public Health Physician
Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services

I. Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by Dr. Eggerding, Council Chair. She stated the purpose of this meeting is to vote on a mission statement for the New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJACE). The vote will allow the RFA (Request for Applications) Subcommittee to move forward. Dr. Eggerding continued to say that an email had been sent to Council members to summarize statements. She added the mission statement should:

- Reflect Legislation PL 2007, c 168,
- Define the reason for NJACE,
- Reflect the philosophy and goals of NJACE as discussed at the Council Retreat, and
- Be understandable to the general public.

Dr. Eggerding noted Dr. Evans presented the two original mission statements at the June 7, 2010 Council meeting. Three additional suggested mission statements have subsequently been submitted. Dr. Eggerding read each mission statement and asked Council members to respond by verbalizing their first choice with a run-off if needed.

Original Mission Statements:

- 1) The mission of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to research, promote and apply best practice biomedical and functional evaluation and intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

First Choice: Ms. Adubato, Dr. Kansagra, Dr. Sprott, Dr. Meyer and Ms. Bell

- 2) The mission of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to conduct basic and applied autism research and to promote and apply best practice biomedical and functional evaluation and intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

First Choice: none

Additionally suggested Mission Statements:

- 3) The mission of the NJACE is to research the cause, diagnosis and treatment of ASD and; to advance and apply best practice biomedical and functional evaluation and intervention to individuals with ASD.

First Choice: Ms. Goldfarb, Dr. Eggerding and Dr. Evans

- 4) The mission of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to conduct basic science and translational clinical research into the causes, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of autism across the lifespan and disseminate best practice models for biomedical and therapeutic interventions (functional evaluation and intervention) through training programs and continuing education in order to improve the standard of care, quality of life and outcome for affected individuals.

First Choice: Mr. Zeigler

- 5) The mission of a NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to conduct basic and applied autism research and to promote and apply best practice biomedical (what practice?), functional evaluation and intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

First Choice: none

Comments

Noting a mission statement should be understandable to the general public, Dr. Meyer expressed concern with the words biomedical, functional evaluation and intervention used in statement #1. Ms. Bell said after reviewing the comments submitted by Council members the word biomedical was removed. She also noted statement #1 is missing the word prevention. Dr. Eggerding asked if there was a consensus to statement #1 with the comments.

Motion moved by Mr. Ziegler and seconded by Ms. Bell.

Vote

All in favor: 9

Oppose: none

Discussion

- Dr. Meyer asked Dr. Evans what is meant by “functional evaluation”. Dr. Evans said a complete evaluation that is helpful to a family at all standpoints; lead to functional outcomes. Ms. Bell added it is how the individual is functioning.
- Dr. Garg noted in reading statement #1 that the wording is not precise in that it is not clear what is being researched. Ms. Bell said it is not intended to read that way.
- Ms. Bell also asked Council members their thoughts on the word promote or if the word advance is preferred. It was agreed that the word advance is preferred and all areas are to be advanced so that the statement reads “...advance research, promote and apply best practice ...”
- Ms. Bell noted she developed an additional mission statement which she read:
 - 6) The mission of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to research, apply and advance best practices in the understanding, prevention, evaluation and treatment of individuals with autism.
- The statement was well received by the Council members and it was noted that research could include causes, prevention, evaluation and treatment systems. Dr. Garg asked about biomedical research. Ms. Bell said that is the understanding.
- Dr. Meyer asked if it includes across the life span. Ms. Bell asked if across the life span part of a mission statement or is it implied. Dr. Meyer added quality of life is part of a vision statement with goals.
- Dr. Eggerding read mission statement #6 to include the above:
 - 6) The mission of the NJ Autism Center of Excellence is to research, apply and advance best practices in the understanding, prevention, evaluation and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, enhancing the lives of individuals across their life span.

Motion to approve by Dr. Sprott and seconded by Ms. Bell.

Vote

All in favor: 9

Oppose: none

II. Next Council Meeting

- The next meeting of the Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism is scheduled for August 2, 2010 at the Division of Developmental Disabilities, 5 Commerce Way, Conference Room 199A, Hamilton, NJ.
- Dr. Eggerding asked members to send any items for the agenda to her.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.