

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 15, 2016

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism met Friday, January 15, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., in Room 151, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas. Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Senate co-chair, and Representative Mary Broadaway, House co-chair, presided.

Task Force members present were: Senator Uvalde Lindsey, Representative Mary Broadaway, Ms. Jennifer Belt, Mr. Seth Blomeley, Ms. Traci Harris (*for Ms. Melissa Stone, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services*), Ms. Karan Burnette, Ms. Tina Davis, Dr. Richard Frye, Ms. Lisa Haley, Ms. Teresa Hardin, Ms. Diane Holitik, Dr. Steve Kahler, Ms. Leslie Kita, Ms. Karen Massey, Dr. Tyra Reid, Ms. Dianna Varady, and Ms. Nancy Wells.

Representative Broadaway called the meeting to order.

Adoption of Minutes from November 20, 2015 [Exhibit C]

The minutes from the November 20, 2015, meeting were approved by acclamation.

Presentation on Genetic Aspects of Autism [Exhibit D]

Dr. Stephen Kahler, Professor of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, (UAMS), was recognized to give a PowerPoint presentation regarding how family genetics are contributing factors in children with autism. Dr. Kahler's observation found milder forms of autism in parents of autistic children, the child's siblings and other relatives. Many of Dr. Kahler's slides came from Dr. Brad Schaefer, section head of Genetics and Metabolism, UAMS Department of Pediatrics.

Summary of University of Arkansas Medical Sciences (UAMS) Developmental Pediatrics/Dennis Developmental Center Clinical Activities [Exhibit E]

Dr. Tyra Reid, Clinical Assistant Professor, UAMS College of Medicine, was recognized to give a PowerPoint presentation regarding the collaborative work between UAMS Department of Pediatrics, Section of Developmental-Behavioral and Rehabilitative Pediatrics, and the James L. Dennis Developmental Center (DDC) at the Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Reid said DDC is the primary referral center for diagnostic evaluations of developmental disorders. DDC receives between 300-400 referrals per month. The UAMS Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics has a network of 8 autism Outreach Clinic sites across the state. Through UAMS' Community Based Autism Liaison and Treatment Project (CoBALT), 10 mini-teams have been trained to perform Tier 2 diagnostic assessments. Dr. Reid said five of these teams are active. UAMS Department of Pediatrics received two grants; the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) and the Autism Treatment Network (ATN). Both programs are designed to improve outcomes for all children with autism by improving the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disabilities, promoting family centeredness, increasing community outreach activities and fueling new research efforts. Dr. Reid gave a brief overview of autism Standards of Practice used by professional medical organizations and researchers in their collection of analyses data regarding autism interventions and outcomes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.