

# AGENDA

## Educational Outreach to Underserved Minority Subcommittee of the Task Force on Autism

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Friday, December 20, 2013

12:00 p.m.

Room 151, State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas

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Karan Burnette, Chair

Loretta Cochran

Denise Ennett

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- A. Call to Order
- B. Adoption of Minutes from October 25, 2013 **[Exhibit B]**
- C. Update on Activities and Goals of Act Early Team
- D. Discussion of Needs and Strategies for Outreach
- E. Other Business
- F. Adjournment

**Notice: Silence your cell phones. Keep your personal conversations to a minimum. Observe restrictions designating areas as "*Members and Staff Only*"**

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED MINORITY**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**TASK FORCE ON AUTISM**  
**DECEMBER 20, 2013**

The Educational Outreach to Underserved Minority Subcommittee of the Task Force on Autism met Friday, December 20, 2013, at 12:00 p.m., in Committee Room 150, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in attendance were Karan Burnette, Chair, Loretta Cochran, and Dennis Ennett. Pam Marshall and Tonya Williams was also in attendance.

Ms. Burnette opened the meeting.

The Minutes from October 25, 2013, Educational Outreach to Underserved Minority Subcommittee meeting were approved by acclamation.

**Update on Activities and Goals of Act Early Team**

Ms. Burnette provided samples of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "Learn the Signs. Act Early" brochures. The brochures are printed in different languages and being disseminated to churches and Health Department Units in rural areas around the state. The Act Early Team's goal is to target minority families who live in rural communities where technology is limited to access developmental services. She said the brochures lists disability services that are available including hotline numbers. Ms. Burnette explained (CDC) has also printed posters that lists each milestone of a child's growth including information on what to do of parents suspect their child is showing signs of a developmental delay. Hotline numbers are also printed at the bottom of the posters. The subcommittee discussed placing the posters in the baby departments of Wal-Mart stores, grocery stores and Goodwill. The subcommittee discussed making a request at the next Autism Task Force meeting, approval to merge with the Arkansas Act Early Team.

**Discussion of Needs and Strategies for Outreach**

The subcommittee discussed ideas on making the Act Early materials accessible to young mothers by placing the materials in Head Start/Early Head Start centers and with licensed childcare providers. Other entities include the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), Child and Adolescents Service Systems Program (CASSP), Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) seminars, entities that promote Black History month, and the Arkansas Home Visiting Network.

Ms. Williams explained how DHS-Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, have developed a web-based resource guide that maps all licensed, state funded Early Childhood programs available in each community. The material includes a component for families seeking special needs services and autism resources in their community. Ms. Williams said the information will be listed by county, city, school district, and legislative school district. The mapping project should be available to the public by January 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED MINORITY SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**TASK FORCE ON AUTISM**

The Educational Outreach to Underserved Minority Subcommittee of the Task Force on Autism met Friday, October 25, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., in Committee Room 130, State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members in attendance were Karan Burnette, Chair, Loretta Cochran, and Senator Uvalde Lindsey. Representative Randy Alexander was also in attendance.

Ms. Burnette opened the meeting.

Ms. Burnette explained the Arkansas State Act Early Team is an initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) "Learn the Signs. Act Early" Program. She explained the state received a \$15,000 CDC "Act Early" grant with the assistance of Dr. Peggy Schaefer-Whitby, Assistant Professor of Special Education at the University of Arkansas Fayetteville, who is also a member of the CDC's Arkansas State Act Early Team. Ms. Burnette said the Act Early Team's goal is to provide information about the need for early diagnosis and early intervention services to minority families with a child with autism in underserved communities around the state. The families they target are Marshallese, African American, and Latino population. Ms. Burnette said the Act Early materials provide an overview to help parents track their child's developmental milestones and recognize signs of developmental delay. She said the materials will be printed in diverse languages and will include a hotline number families can call to receive information on available services. The University also received a "Project Connect" grant to fund the salary of a position to answer the hotline number. Once the individual is in place, Dr. Whitby and the Act Early team will begin disseminating the Act Early materials to media outlets across the state.

Ms. Burnette stated most rural areas do not have developmental pediatricians or even general pediatricians where families of a child with a disability can receive diagnostic services and support. Subcommittee members discussed locations where families in rural areas can access the Act Early materials such as a church where they are a member, family practice clinics, free health department offices, and Head Start/Early Head Start Centers. Ms. Burnette suggested attending Pediatric and Family Practice regional conferences to ensure pediatrics around the state receive the Act Early materials to disseminate at their clinics. Ms. Burnette said churches in underserved communities can provide free autism workshops as an outreach to ensure minority families with children with autism are made aware of developmental services and support. Ms. Burnette also stated that bilingual professionals are needed in order to offer evidence-based interventions to children who are non-English speaking, since these interventions cannot be conducted via a translator.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.