

Autism Commission 14-22 Year Old Sub-Committee Minutes
September 15, 2016, 500 Harrison Ave
1pm-3pm

The Chair of the Sub-Committee, Carolyn Kain, Executive Director of the Autism Commission called the meeting to order at about 1:10pm and welcomed the members of the Sub-Committee. Ms. Kain stated that the meeting was subject to the Open meeting Law and that the Sub-Committee members present needed to vote to approve the remote participation of some members because of their geographic location. The members present; Maura Sullivan, Jeff Gentry, Melissa Guyer (DDS), Kathleen Kelly (MRC), Carly Sebastian, David Tack and Carolyn Kain. Ms. Kain made a motion to allow others to participate remotely because of their geographic location, the motion was seconded and approved unanimously, and others who participated by phone were; Michael Plansky, Melanie Chandonnet and Tina Fitandes.

Ms. Kain opened the meeting with brief introductions since there were new individuals attending from DMH. Ms. Kain asked the state agency representatives from DMH to explain their work with individuals with autism spectrum disorder who are 14-22 years old. Carly Sebastian and David Tack gave a description of services available for eligible individuals from DMH, with Carly explaining children's services and David explaining adult services.

The group then discussed that DDS and DMH have an MOU regarding services for individuals with ASD to deal with mental health type issues and that the two agencies are working together to look at the issue of eligibility and appropriate services.

Carolyn mentioned that depending on an individual's location transportation can also be a barrier to services. Kathy Kelly talked about ways to go as a transportation resources and that there are also regional transportation entities and BCIL all work on transportation access.

Jeff gentry talked about the work of Triangle and that they have been able to place individuals into 234 jobs in the community. They receive referrals from schools and DDS.

Melanie Chandonnet talked about her work through CLASS and the need for transition services and adult services including ABA for this population.

The group also talked about the community colleges and state universities and the various work being done at some college campuses. Michael Plansky talked about his work on college campuses through "You're with US", and working on social skills for individuals with ASD and other developmental disorders through his work with college students, and that this includes data collection.

Maura Sullivan mentioned the ICEI program and described her work with the ARC and its governmental affairs division.

Carolyn explained to the group that since many of the issues being discussed by the 14-22 year old sub-committee and the employment subcommittee were the same topics that she was combining the groups and that there would be opportunities for break out groups where the issues differed but that it would be beneficial to have DESE at the table for both since both involved transition work by public schools and they were not part of the employment sub-committee.

The Sub-Committee then discussed the date of its next meeting, and it will be on Wednesday, October 19th with the employment subcommittee. There being no further business, upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, Ms. Kain adjourned the meeting at 2:45pm.