

**Division of Long Term Care  
Treatment Review Committee (TRC): Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities**

**MEETING NOTES**

September 2, 2011  
9:00 to 11:00 am  
Waisman Center, UW-Madison  
1500 Highland Avenue  
Madison, WI

**Welcome and Introduction to the TRC**

Committee members gathered shortly after 9 AM, present in the room were Mike Axelrod, Roger Bass, Maribeth Gettinger, Linda Tuchman, and Jenny Asmus, and on the phone was Christine Peterson. Lana Collet-Klingenberg was unable to participate this meeting, and Craig Albers left the committee. Prior to this meeting, Jeff Tiger also had to resign. Tom Kratochwill serves as a resource to the committee but will not attend meetings. Bill Murray from DHS reviewed the reasons for the formation of this group per DHS 107.

**Introductions**

Committee members went around the room and introduced themselves, sharing a bit about their background, current position, and relevant interests.

**Discussion and Creation/Approval of Mission Statement**

Bill agreed to draft a mission statement for committee review and editing. This follows:

**DRAFT Mission Statement:**

*The mission of the DLTC-TRC is to advise DHS on the evidence supporting behavioral treatments so that resources are used most effectively. The committee will review evidence-based research to determine proven and effective treatments for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities, and share this information with DHS to help improve the lives of Wisconsin citizens through ensuring quality treatment services are available.*

**Overview of Committee Procedures**

The need for a Committee chair was discussed, primarily to work with DHS on the formation of agendas and working through meeting protocols as they occur. It was thought Lana might be interested and Linda and Bill agreed to talk with her. (*note: Lana has since been contacted and agreed*)

Roger agreed to put together some initial thoughts and a framework for reviewing treatments as they come to this committee and get this out to people early next week. Committee members thought some type of grid or rating scale in terms of evidence might be most appropriate to start with, acknowledging the work of

other national review committees and the categorizations they have already created.

In reviewing the creation of categories, Bill reviewed other DHS committees and their protocols. When committee members are unable to agree on a determination for any particular treatment (acknowledging this will be very unlikely given the establishment of criteria for each category and subsequent standards for placement of a treatment under any category), majority “votes” cast on a particular treatment will prevail.

Bill mentioned the option of rotating subcommittees reviewing the efficacy of various treatments and then reporting back to the larger committee for determinations.

### **Overview of Immediate and Longer Term Needs**

Bill reviewed the need for this committee to make a determination prior to the end of October on at least one particular treatment (RDI), given an appeal currently in progress with DHS.

Jenny asked for a list of those treatments for which funding is being requested. Currently, questions center around RDI, therapeutic horseback riding, music therapy and the PLAY project.

Linda briefly mentioned those treatments which may appear promising but do not yet have the research to support them, as well as the fact that a great deal of research has not been done with older children. *(note: to some extent, DHS 107.035(4) comments on this as follows, emphasizing point-in-time determinations: (4) REVIEW OF EXCLUSION FROM COVERAGE. At least once a year following a determination under sub. (3), the department shall reassess services previously designated as experimental to ascertain whether the services have advanced through the research and experimental stage to become established as proven and effective means of treatment for the particular condition or conditions for which they are designed. If the department concludes that a service should no longer be considered experimental, written notice of that determination shall be given to the affected providers. That notice shall identify the extent to which MA coverage will be recognized.)*

### **Discussion of Next Steps**

Bill will send out a Doodle invitation for the next meeting to be held in person in late September or early October.

The meeting ended at 10:55 AM.