

**The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism
Task Force on Early Identification & Intervention
Tuesday, November 14, 2006**

Attachment D

Agenda Item VI: Identification of Priority Problems & Gaps

All participants of the meeting were requested to consider the various issues and problems that were identified in the course of the preceding presentations and roundtable discussions. Dr. Firestone requested that the group bear in mind the specific mandates that will guide the Commission’s final report to the Governor and Legislature in September 2007 and that they review the “Rules of the Road” handout that was distributed at today’s meeting. Problems and gaps were allocated to either “Early Identification” &/or “Early Intervention” category and each participant was requested to vote for only three issues that they deemed the “most important” in each category. The results of this process are summarized as follows:

EARLY IDENTIFICATION CATEGORY

OVER-ARCHING ISSUE	TOTAL VOTES	FACTORS	RELATED ISSUES /VOTES (not included in total votes)	COMMENTS
Evaluation: Pediatric (MD)	14	Time constraints; lack of “tools”: comfort level, knowledge/medical education, screening instruments. Barriers to reimbursement (Medicaid/Medi-Cal).	-failure to follow. -HIPPA (privacy) -screenings at multiple sites (2) -eliminate “wait & see attitude” -reduce waiting lists/trained professionals/funding (3) -train childcare professionals -co-morbid medical problems as potential barriers	Votes were about equally distributed among the “factors”; no single issue dominated. Importance of “systems approaches” to universal screening
Screening by non-MDs	4			
Transition from “Early Start” to Preschool	12	Lack of interagency agreements/collaboration; need for “systems reform”	-parental information -parental rights -issues related to diversity & equity	The roundtable discussion reflected that this seems to be a major area of concern.
Lack of Services to Underserved Communities	11	Lack of information; lack of healthcare, misdiagnosis	-problems overlap across many issues. Lack of information; and Lack of professional training are important.	Importance of equity and cultural diversity; training of workforce. Consider “promotora model.”
Lack of Data	8	Community outreach~EI works; cost/benefit	-info available in all languages	Comments reflected that the data and information systems are not only inadequate but also complex and fragmented.
Public Information	6	Early warning signs & develop milestones; >brain-science awareness		
Parental Factors & Rights	1	Consistency & understanding of diagnostic criteria for ASD	-fear of diagnosis -standard statewide phone number -the spectrum of ASD -info available in multiple languages	These issues and comments may underscore the importance of effective case management for individuals with ASD.

IID_Prioritization of Barriers & Problems (Second Meeting)

EARLY INTERVENTION CATEGORY

OVER-ARCHING ISSUE	TOTAL VOTES	FACTORS	RELATED ISSUES /VOTES (not included in total votes)	COMMENTS
Inconsistent Quality of Care	14	Lack: Standards, Enforcement, Training, Reimbursement, Access	-training of teachers, administrators etc (1) -“presumptive eligibility (2) -unequal access including transportation issues (2) -inconsistency among RCs	This issue impacts and is related to other factors such as established best practices, professional standards and development.
Inadequate Teacher Training & Preparation	14	Teachers need specific instructions on “goal writing” & outcome measures. Credentialing. Paraprofessional training. Childcare provider training.	-inadequate training on relationship between parents & service providers -leverage UC system	Importance of identifying “models that work.”
Fragmented Systems	10	“from IFSP-IEP”	No other issues identified	Suspicion that impacts virtually all systems; both diagnostic and therapeutic. Probably also applies to funding & eligibility criteria.
“Best Practices” need more funding	5	Lack of effective models that work.	-lack of community standards on what’s appropriate (2) -science on bio-medical interventions	Important to connect this issue to “ASD: Guidelines for Effective Interventions Project”
standards & outcome measurements	4			