

**ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON AUTISM**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**JULY 20, 2012**

The Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Autism Subcommittee met on Friday, July 20, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 130, at the State Capitol, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Members of the Task Force Subcommittee in attendance were Mr. Eric Moxley, (*Chairing for Dr. Cheryl May*), Ms. Dianna Varady, (*sitting in for Steve Varady*), Ms. Martha Kay Asti, Ms. Robin Lockhart, and Representative Uvalde Lindsey.

Other invited guest was Ms. Ratha Tracy, Division of Childcare Services.

Mr. Moxley opened the subcommittee meeting. The minutes from the November 30, 2011 subcommittee meeting were approved by acclamation.

**Update and Discussion of Outgoing and Upcoming Autism Training Activities for First Responders**

Ms. Dianna Varady, Partners for Inclusive Communities, explained the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) has selected three training sites in the state to provide autism training classes for law enforcement officers. CJI submitted a proposal to Partners for Inclusive Communities to provide autism training classes and help CJI develop an online autism training module. The autism training was developed to teach School Resource Officers about special education, the interplay between school safety and IDEA laws and the IEP process.

Ms. Varady explained Partners and AAROC strive to maintain objectivity so Partners can provide training and technical assistance without conflict of interest.

Representative Lindsey suggested Partners and CJI's contract include ALETA, 911 responders, fire department, etc in their training program. Representative Lindsey suggested making AAROC the repository and the dispenser for the autism curriculum training, programmatic delivery, and a line item budget for UAMS for sustainability.

Mr. Moxley said ALETA continues to include a block of developmental disability training, Dennis Debbaudt's autism training, and the dispatcher training in their basic curriculum training program. Mr. Moxley said ALETA held five tele-communicator classes for 150 students. Their next class is scheduled in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

Representative Lindsey said ALETA has 115 public answering points (P-SAPS) around the state. P-SAPS received \$120,000 from the 65¢ monthly cell phone charge to fund training. The 65¢ phone charge generates \$20 million each year.

Subcommittee members suggested asking the State Auditor's Office to use their recourses to advertise for the Smart911 system. Subcommittee members suggested volunteering at the state

library to help individuals who do not have a home computer enter their personal information into the Smart911 website using the state library's free computer services.

Ms. Ratha Tracy, ABC, Division of Childcare, was recognized for her comments. She said her Division strives to have a close and personal working relationship across the board with all early childhood programs. She said the Division's block grant was funded by the beer tax. The grant was used to provide vouchers for families needing financial help with childcare services.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.