



Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – February 02nd 2016

Minutes

Attendance:

Joe Mckenna, President	Susan Goold, At Large
Suzanne Kenny, Vice President	Angela Decker, At Large
Matthew Dove, Treasurer	Darrin Tulk, At Large
Victor Shea, Secretary, South Central Rep	Tom Jackman, Self-Advocate
Chad Perrin, At Large	Scott Crocker, Executive Director
Roger Kennedy, At Large	Tess Hemeon, Advocacy & Communications
Mark LaCosta, Western Region Rep	

Regrets:

Kim Maher, At Large Derrick Hanrahan, At Large Connie Robertson, Eastern Region Rep

1. The Agenda

The meeting came to order at 7:10 p.m. There were two items are on the agenda: 1) Senior Management's Recommendation to the BOD about priorities from the 26 recommendations to be adopted and become part of ASNL's strategic plan moving forwards; and 2) Senior Management's finalized plan for the public release of the Needs Assessment Survey Report (timing, participants and format).

2. The Public Release

a) Plan Approved for Public Release on January 19, 2016

The plan is to release the survey report and its 10 key findings/recommendations on **Wednesday, March 16, 2016**. Dr. Rick Audas, Principal Investigator, and Devonne Ryan, Researcher, from the research team at Memorial University will accompany ASNL's President of the Board of Directors and Executive Director at the launch and press conference.

The purpose of the public release is to highlight the strong research base, its quality and validity, and publicly share the survey report key findings and recommendations as an important starting point for evidence-based decision-making around the promised "provincial autism strategy".

b) Venue

The venue will need to be accessible and capable of hosting 50+ observers. Proceedings will be video-recorded and posted on ASNL's website for those unable to attend. The Fairview Hotel on Kenmount Road has been scheduled for the press conference from 10:30 am – 11:15 am.

c) Format

The standard format will be used: earlier press release; press conference; perhaps an in-depth presentation at the end for any who wish to stay and see it. Follow-up activities by ASNL will include presentation of the research findings at the Autism Research Exchange Group meeting; round tables for stakeholders to have discussion and present ideas on the key themes arising from the Needs Assessment Survey Report; visits to each region for presentation of report's findings and ASNL's strategy moving forward with prioritized recommendations.

Moved by Joe McKenna, seconded by Suzanne Kenny, carried that Senior Management proceed with final preparation of any materials for public release (**Motion 0202-001**).

3. The Strategic Plan

The Executive Director presented Senior Management's 7 prioritized recommendations that will comprise ASNL's 'public' response to the Needs Assessment Survey Report. Discussion also highlighted the immediate-term recommendations for action by ASNL and the actions to be requested of government.

Priority 1:

- a) Provide information that helps families 'navigate' systems and access services and supports (ASNL)
- b) Improve professional development of healthcare practitioners, mental health services across the lifespan, and other supports and employment opportunities for adults (Government and ASNL)

Priority 2:

- a) Formal review of inclusive education, including: student assistant allocation model and criteria; transition planning into, between grades, between schools, and out of schools into adulthood; OT in schools; educator training (Government Taskforce on Education)
- b) Develop comprehensive plan for professional development of educators on ASD (Government Taskforce on Education)
- c) Improve program and service delivery across the province and investigate use of technology to offer programs, outreach, services and supports more cost effectively (Government and ASNL)

Priority 3:

- a) Early identification (screening of all before 36 months); diagnosis within 6 months of referral; rapid follow up intervention therapies within 3 months (Government)
- b) Monitor the promised elimination of the IQ 70 criterion for service provision and its replacement with adaptive function measure (ASNL)

4. Actions from Government – Immediate Term

The demands from government following the public release of the report will be framed in the context of the ‘Provincial Autism Strategy’ committed to during the election campaign and in the public mandate letters.

Within that context, priorities that will help make life better for persons with ASD and their families, and which will be highlighted for immediate action by government are:

1. Develop and implement ASD public education campaign, including television, radio, print and social media, to increase awareness levels amongst the public.
2. Improved mental health supports and services for those with ASD, across the lifespan, including an adult clinic in each of the regional health authorities
3. Formal review of inclusive education, the needed supports and services, and professional development for educators and others in school settings

NOTE: In discussions this morning, Tess and I strongly recommend the public awareness campaign be added to the list of action items for ASNL rather than government.

5. Actions from ASNL – Immediate Term

1. Provide information that helps families ‘navigate’ systems and access services and supports
2. Assist with transitioning adults into post-secondary education, employment opportunities and community volunteerism.
3. Work to meet programming needs across the lifespan in urban and rural areas on the island and in Labrador

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.