

ND Seclusion and Restraint Task Force Meeting

"Keeping Everyone Safe in Our Schools"

Meeting #5 – December 22, 2016

Draft Meeting Summary

Shared Task Force Values:

- Collaborative and Integrated Stakeholder Participation
 - Safety-Based - "Keeping Everyone Safe in Our Schools"
 - Student-Focused
 - Best-Practices-Based
 - Uniform Implementation and Monitoring
 - Adequate Resources
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Task Force Members Attending: Nicole Watkins (Family Voices of ND), Joan Heckaman (State Senator and Senate Minority Leader), Teresa Larsen (ND Protection & Advocacy Project), Kirsten Dvorak (The Arc of Bismarck), Cory Pederson (ND Juvenile Court), Carlotta McCleary (ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and Mental Health America of ND), and Penny Veit-Hetletved (ND Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation).

Task Force Members Unable to Attend: Sarah Jordan (Teacher, Bismarck Public Schools), Mike Yantes (School Social Worker, Bismarck Public Schools), Jennifer Fremstad (Principal, West Fargo HS), Rosalie Etherington (Superintendent, ND State Hospital), Jason Stugelmeyer (Bismarck Police Youth Bureau SRO), Debra Follman (ND Association of Elementary School Principals), Roxane Romanick (Designer Genes), Dotti Dixon (ND School Counselors Association), Kathy Blohm (Private Practice Psychologist), Robyn Lang (ND School Counselors Association Board Member), Virginia Long Feather (Principal, Standing Rock Elementary), Mary Schultz (ND Parent Teachers Association), Kyle Davison (ND State Senator, ND Regional Education Associations), Don Two Bears (Director of Security, Standing Rock Schools), Bradley LaRoque (Director of Career and Tech Education, Turtle Mountain Community High School), Mark Doerner (ND Psychological Association), Doug Sullivan (ND Association of School Administrators), Tamara Waters-Wheeler (ND Association of School Psychologists), Linda Greenwood (Teacher, Dickinson Public Schools), Vicki Peterson (Family Voices of ND), Peg Wagner (ND Department of Public Instruction), Lori Garnes (ND Center for Persons with Disabilities/Minot State University), Carl Young (Parent Representative), Aimee Copas and Russ Zeigler (ND Council of Educational Leaders), John Porter and Tracy Klein (Special Education Directors Study Council), Pam Sagness (ND Department of Human Services), and Jaylia Prussing (University of Mary).

Welcome and Introductions: Task Force members were welcomed to Meeting #5 and provided self-introductions. In spite of the small number of participants, Task Force members agreed to move forward, based on the agreements reached at the meeting of August 25, 2016.

Brief Meeting Overview: The facilitator briefly reviewed the consensus-based decision-making process and posted the ground rules agreed to at the first Task Force meeting:

1. It's your show.
2. Everyone is equal.
3. No relevant topic is excluded.
4. No discussion is ended.
5. Respect opinions.
6. Respect the time.
7. Silence is agreement.
8. Non-attribution.
9. Keep the facilitators accurate.
10. Have fun!

Stakeholders ***agreed*** to proceed with the rule of consensus and the ground rules, and then reviewed the draft agenda. Task Force members were encouraged to review and provide feedback or corrections to the (draft) meeting summary from the August 25th meeting. The facilitator reminded participants that meeting materials and information of interest to the Task Force is readily available on the Consensus Council website: <http://agree.org/seclusion-and-restraint-task-force/>.

Report & Discussion of the Interim Education Committee with Respect to Seclusion & Restraint; Review of Prior Agreements Reached by the Task Force: There was discussion regarding the Interim Education Committee's decision not to take formal action or make recommendations regarding the issue of seclusion and restraint. It was noted that the Education Committees in both the House and Senate would consist of new leadership and several new committee members in 2017. Senator Heckaman has had a bill drafted by Legislative Council that is based on the agreements reached by the Task Force. The Task Force members reviewed the draft legislation and several revisions and clarifications were recommended, none of which substantively changed the language from the Task Force agreements. Senator Heckaman will have the Legislative Council re-draft the bill, after which it will be sent to all members of the Task Force and posted to the website (address included in this document footer). In the meantime, she is seeking co-sponsors for the legislation and is hopeful of gaining bi-partisan support.

Data elements that are new for the school year 2015 – 2016 were referenced by the Task Force from the OCR Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) and can be found here: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/2015-16-crdc-data-elements.pdf>

Support/Advocacy During the 2017 Legislative Session: It is asked that Task Force members be prepared to testify in support of the legislation on behalf of themselves, their constituency and/or their organization. It is also requested that any Task Force members no longer supporting the agreements reached, notify the facilitator so that the Task Force can be made aware, differences addressed through consensus building, and documents revised to reflect accurate information.

The facilitator was asked to gather information regarding the number of school districts in the state who currently have written policies for seclusion and restraint (to prepare to respond to a likely question from Legislators). The facilitator will also review the revised legislative bill draft with staff from the ND School Boards Association to determine whether they will support, oppose or stay neutral on the bill.

Task Force members should feel free to contact the facilitator if there is other background information needed or desired, prior to the bill being heard in committee.

It was reported that there might be some technical assistance available for work in the area of seclusion and restraint from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) from the ND Mental Health Block Grant. Carlotta agreed to continue working with the ND Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding the purpose and extent of the assistance.

Discussion & Agreement of Next Steps: The facilitator will share the draft legislation, once finalized, with all Task Force Members. It will also be posted to the website. Updates regarding the bill status, throughout the Legislative Session, will also be shared routinely with Task Force members, by the facilitator. There is not a date set for another Task Force meeting. However, should a meeting or conference call be seen as necessary during the Legislative session, the facilitator would contact Task Force Members with as much advance notice as possible.

Adjourn and Public Comment: The Task Force Meeting was adjourned by consensus of the group at 11:00 a.m. with **best wishes for the holidays**. There was no public comment offered.

The Seclusion and Restraint Task Force, a non-partisan, non-legislative group of stakeholders, representing a comprehensive body of invested constituencies, has been assembled and challenged to develop and provide specific recommendations to assist the Interim Education Committee of the North Dakota Legislature in codifying policies and procedures regulating the use of seclusion and restraint in North Dakota schools.