Community of Practice on ASD/DD  
Practice Group on Policy Meeting, August 13, 2009

Members present:  
Nissan Bar-Lev, CESA #7  
Dan Bier, UW-Waisman Center  
Kelly Brodhagen, ASW  
Jo Cauley, DRW  
Crystal Cayemberg, UW-Waisman Center  
Maureen Durkin, UW-Waisman Center  
Liz Hecht, UW-Waisman Center  
Bill Murray, DHS  
Eden Schafer, DHS  
Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, DRW  
Meg Steimle, Southeast Regional Center for CYSHCN  
Dawn Wians, WI FACETS

The group decided to take further steps on the issue of data sharing between DPI and DHS, which would require an MOU between the two State agencies. This issue is at a critical juncture at this time because Dr. Durkin will be preparing the competitive application for future funding of the ASD surveillance project in December or January, and without the MOU, funding will be denied.

At DHS, Claude Gilmore (Youth Policy Director) and Dr. Seth Foldy (DPH Division Administrator) are already aware of this issue. At DPI, there is a new Superintendent (Dr. Tony Evers). Jeff Spitzer-Resnick believes that it will be possible to get a meeting with Dr. Evers soon to discuss this issue with him.

The group decided on using several different approaches together, with the following action steps:

1. Continue with the grassroots approach of letter writing already talked about and in the white paper.

2. Jeff and Nissan will work together to schedule a meeting with Dr. Evers, the new Superintendent at DPI. Emphasize what will be lost without DPI’s support. Dr. Durkin will attend the meeting as well to answer any questions. Need to make sure that if DPI’s main objection is protecting families, then we also need to have parent/family representation of some form.

3. Nissan and Jeff will also work to keep key legislators informed through contacts they already have, and to gain their support.
4. Dr. Durkin and Dan Bier will draft a letter of support that can be signed by key stakeholders, either as individuals or as representatives of their agencies or organizations. Once ready to go, the letter will be distributed via our CoP listserv.

5. Sharon Fleischfresser and Claude Gilmore will follow up within DHS to move this forward.

6. Liz Hecht and Dawn Wians will tailor information for parents and parent groups that can be sent out through various avenues, including potentially Family Voices’ listserv.

Additional issues discussed that the group will consider for future meetings:

1. working to improve the systems around the waiver to better serve families – Liz Hecht will send out information for discussion at our next meeting

2. Seclusion and restraint issues, including draft of new legislation from Jeff Spitzer-Resnick.

The next meeting will be November 30, 2009, in Milwaukee.