



**New Jersey Department of Health
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2015 (ratified)**

Council Members Present

Michael Aquino, M.D., Senate President Appointee

Elizabeth K. Bell, BS, volunteer and independent contractor with Autism Speaks,
Autism Organization Representative

Caroline Eggerding, M.D., Healthcare Organization Representative and Chairperson of the
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Susan P. Evans, Ed.D. Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program,
Commissioner of Health Appointee

Ketan Kansagra, M.D., FAAP, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical
Center, Academic Institution Representative

Gary Weitzen, BA, Executive Director, Parents of Autistic Children (POAC) Autism Services,
Organization Representative

Absent

B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA, Founder/Director of the Noah's Ark Children's Association,
Autism Organization Representative

NJ Department of Health (DOH) Attendees

Martin T. Zanna M.D., MPH
Acting Executive Director
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Linda N. Boclair, M.Ed., MBA
Executive Assistant
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Mary Ray, Contract Administrator 2
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Commission on Brain Injury Research
Commission on Spinal Cord Research

Daphne Robinson, Ph.D., Consultant
Scientific Planning Consulting

Public Attendees

Audrey Mars, M.D., Hunterdon Medical Center, Regional Autism Center

Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University and Principal Investigator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Karen Hood-Kasim MPH, Project Coordinator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Eileen McKeating, Ph.D., Research Associate, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Cecilia Feeley, Ph.D. Rutgers CAIT

Jill Harris, Ph.D., Children's Specialized Hospital

I. Welcome - Council Chairperson, Dr. Caroline Eggerding called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and welcomed everyone with a special welcome to Dr. Michael Aquino, the newest member of the Council. Dr. Aquino is the Senate President's Appointee to the Council.

II. Public Meetings Act Announcement- Dr. Eggerding read the Public Meetings Act, followed by roll call.

III. Approval of the December 1, 2014 Council Meeting Minutes

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the minutes. MOTION by Ms. Bell to approve the minutes was seconded by Dr. Evans. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the minutes was passed with all five voting members in favor. Dr. Aquino attended the meeting as a non-voting member as he completes the requirements to join as a voting member.

IV. Report of the Acting Executive Director, Martin T. Zanna, M.D. MPH

Website- The resource guide entitled *Autism: Navigating Through the Maze, A Family Guide to Navigating the New Jersey Service Systems for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities* was released by the NJDHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Office on Autism on January 21, 2015 and posted on the Autism Council's

webpage. This was a project of the Interdepartmental Workgroup on Autism Spectrum Disorder. Drs. Susan Evans, Sandra Howell and Zanna represented the DOH as members of the Interdepartmental Autism Work Group.

Update on Council membership. The Commissioner's recommendations for appointments and reappointments to the Council were sent to the Governor's Appointment Office in late April. It is anticipated that appointments are to be made prior to the September 21, 2015 Council meeting. Dr. Zanna welcomed Dr. Aquino as the newest member of the Council.

FY15 Funding. Eleven applicants were recommended for funding including three Autism Health Needs Medical Homes, a new program. Dr. Zanna was pleased that \$2M was added to the original \$4M available for funding to support funding the new program.

Annual Ethics Requirement. On March 23, 2015 Council members were sent an email requesting them to complete the annual ethics requirements by May 15, 2015. Linda will follow-up with a reminder to those who have not completed the requirements.

National Recognition Dr. Zanna noted that NDAR (National Database for Autism Research) staff offered additional access to the NDAR database and he will coordinate with Dr. Costa to ensure grantees take advantage of the opportunity. As previously mentioned NDAR accepts data directly from the Council's grantees and enables the grantees to access data from researchers nationwide.

Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC): Dr. Stewart Mostosky was unable to continue to serve as a member of the SAC and resigned effective march 24, 2015. Dr. Zanna is actively recruiting a replacement for Dr. Mostosky.

V. NJ ACE Grantees-Progress Report-Dr. Costa

Discussion: Dr. Costa presented a summary of grantees' progress through the third quarter (March 31, 2015). He highlighted the progress of each grantee and noted challenges including subject recruitment. He is looking forward to continuing to work with Dr. Zimmerman-Bier whose research was on hold as she transferred from Saint Peter's University Hospital to Rutgers University. Dr. Costa discussed (1) the ongoing strategic planning at the CC-MSU, (2) pursuing additional options for the use of the NDAR, (3) the CC-MSU website revisions allowing users to easily access the website from various devices such as iPhones and iPads, (4) the no cost extensions requested by the five 2013 grantees (5) the June 11, 2015 multi-site meeting of grantees and (6) the 2015 and 2017 autism summits.

Conclusion: To address subject recruitment, the Coordinating Center (CC-MSU) staff is working with the grantees and has developed strategies such as web-based videos to highlight the projects for the purpose of recruiting subjects. Two videos have been completed and a third is in production.

VI. Vote for Continuation Funding for a Pilot Project grant

Council was requested to vote for approval for continuation funding for year two of Grant # CAUT14APL004, Principal Investigator Amy Learmonth, Ph.D.

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

MOTION by Dr. Evans to approve the Progress Report for year two continuation funding was seconded by Mr. Weitzen.

Discussion: Dr. Costa presented an overview of the grantee's Progress Report. Dr. McKeating commented that while the study is being done well there has been a delay with securing the equipment and with subject recruitment. Both issues are being addressed. Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

MOTION to approve continuation funding for Grant #CAUTAPL004 was approved with all voting members in favor.

VII. NJ ACE 2015 Grant Applications

Twenty-nine grant applications were submitted for consideration for funding by the Council. Dr. Eggerding described the long and labor intensive process preceding Council's voting to fund grants.

First the Request for Application (RFA) was written, distributed via email to potential applicants and posted on the state's and the Council's websites. With an additional \$2M available for funding in FY15 the Autism Health Needs Medical Homes grant program was added to the RFA. Dr. Eggerding suggested that the Department of Health consider these pilot projects as a way to determine how a good medical home model should function in New Jersey with the goal to establish a therapeutic model for statewide implementation.

Following distribution of the RFA, applicants submitted their applications within three months through SAGE, the state's electronic grants management system. As a result of the number and diversity of applications three review panels were scheduled in April with a total of 40 reviewers. Reviewers were selected for their areas of expertise specific to the applications they were asked to review. Each application was reviewed by a primary, a secondary and a reader reviewer. The last step leading up to the Council meeting was to convene the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC made specific recommendations, including considering funding only applications with scores below 5 using the NIH scale of 1-9 with 1 being the most meritorious score. Prior to the Council meeting members are sent leaderboards with scores for each of the applications and key discussion points from the panel meetings. Members are also given access to SAGE to review the applications and critiques.

Dr. Eggerding referred to the Conflict of Interest declaration and asked members to complete the forms and return them to Mary Ray. Members were asked to leave the room when specific grants that they have listed on the forms are discussed to avoid any conflict of interest. Specific applications were assigned to each of the three review panels based on content: (1) Interventions; (2) Biomedical and (3) Autism Health Needs Medical Homes.

(1) Intervention Applications

CAUT15APL021

Using SMART Treatment Design to Evaluate Applied Behavior Analysis Interventions on Communication in Preschool Children with Autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the reviewers recommendation to fund CAUT15APL021.

Following a brief discussion the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL021 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL012

Development of Early Markers of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded Ms. Bell by to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL012.

Following a brief discussion the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL012 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL038

Bridging behavior and genetics through sensory-motor electrophysiology

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL0038.

Following a brief discussion the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL038 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL014

Exploring the experiences of diverse families of children newly diagnosed with ASD in New Jersey

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Ms. Bell to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL014 with conditions as defined by the reviewers.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the statewide applicability of the study given the cultural differences among Spanish speaking individuals in various counties. While members expressed support of the project, it should be noted that the findings will reflect the experiences of families locally and should not be generalized to families statewide.

MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL014 with conditions as defined by the reviewers was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL015

Characterizing long term risk of Emergency Department visits/hospitalizations among individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder in New Jersey

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Ms Bell to accept the recommendation to not fund CAUT15APL015.

Following a brief discussion regarding the importance of this project the MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL015 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL029

A Multi-Pronged Approach to Teach Adults on the Autism Spectrum Pedestrian and Safe Street Crossing Skills

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation to not fund CAUT15APL029. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL029 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL019

Senso-Routines: Using a tablet application to reduce adverse behavioral responses of children with ASD to novel environments or routines

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Ms. Bell to accept the recommendation to not fund CAUT15APL019. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL019 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL043

Is Cerebellar Dysfunction A Biomarker for Early Signs of Autism and Related Disorders ?

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Ms. Bell to accept the recommendation to not fund CAUT15APL043. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL043 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL035

Neuromodulation for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Kansagra moved and seconded by Mr. Weitzen to approve the recommendation to not fund CAUT15APL035. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL035 was passed with four voting members in favor and one recusal.

CAUT15APL006

The Effectiveness of "Get FIT": A Health Promotion and Weight Management Program for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL006. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL006 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL009

Association of Baseline Diagnostic Factors and Intervention with Long-Term, School-Age Outcomes in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL009. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL009 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL031

Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder: Assessment of Need and Implementation of Professional Development within the State of New Jersey

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Ms. Bell to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL031. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL031 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL037

Parent's Health Insurance Choices and Impact on Care among Families Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL037. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL037 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL016

Transition to Adulthood Interprofessional Assessment and Intervention PRT Program

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Kansagra moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL016. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL016 was passed with all voting members in favor.

(2) Biomedical Applications

CAUT15APL041

Neurobiology of idiopathic autism: Cellular and molecular phenotypes of common copy number variant (CNV), 16p11.2

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Kansagra moved and seconded by Mr. Weitzen to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL041. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL041 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL026

Identifying Sequence Variants Related to the Core Behavioral Domains of Autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL026. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL026 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL022

Metabolic Perturbations With Autism Induced By Plasticizers

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL022. No discussion.

Following a brief discussion confirming the study is a continuation of a previous study funded by the Council the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL022 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL013

Sulforaphane in autism. A treatment trial to confirm phenotypic improvement with sulforaphane treatment in a NJ population of individuals with autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL013 with conditions as determined by the reviewers.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the importance of the study and the specific conditions defined by the reviewers, the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL013 with conditions as determined by the reviewers was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL023

Normal-Range Genotypic And Phenotypic Variation As Tools For Therapeutic Optimization

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL023. A comment was made about the innovative nature of the project.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL023 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL007

Autism Spectrum Disorder-Inflammatory Subtype: Biomarker Analysis

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Kansagra moved and seconded by Ms. Bell to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL007.

Following a brief discussion the MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL007 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL024

Cellular and molecular analysis of autism and SLI language phenotypes

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Mr. Weitzen to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL024. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL024 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL044

Immunometabolomic profiles in autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL044.

A comment was made about the importance of this field of study (i.e. a soaring field).

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL044 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL036

Multimodal neuroimaging study of sex differences in children with autism spectrum disorder

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Kansagra moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL036. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL036 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL033

Telomeres in Autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL033. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL033 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL040

Neurobiological Basis for Motor Impairment in ASD

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL040. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL040 was passed with all voting members in favor.

(3) Autism Health Needs Medical Homes Applications

CAUT15APL027

Enhancement of Service and Technology Coordination to Establish a Medical Home for Autism

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL027.

Following a brief discussion, MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL027 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL025

Enhancement of Service and Technology Coordination to Establish a Medical Home for Autism at the Institute for Child Development (ICD), Hackensack University Medical Center (HackensackUMC)

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Ms. Bell moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL025.

Following a brief discussion the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund CAUT15APL025 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL020

Children's Specialized Hospital Pediatric Primary Care ASD Medical Home

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation to fund with conditions as determined by the reviewers CAUT15APL020.

Following a discussion regarding the conditions the MOTION to approve the recommendation to fund with conditions as determined by the reviewers CAUT15APL020 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL034

Community-Based Specialty Medical Homes and Neighborhoods for Autism Spectrum Disorders

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Dr. Evans moved and seconded by Dr. Kansagra to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL034. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL034 was passed with all voting members in favor.

CAUT15APL008

Autism Health Needs Medical Home

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion.

Mr. Weitzen moved and seconded by Dr. Evans to accept the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL008. No discussion.

MOTION to approve the recommendation not to fund CAUT15APL008 was passed with all voting members in favor.

VIII. Report of Revenues and Expenditures

In response to a question Mary Ray responded that she does not foresee significant changes in the line items for the 2016 budget.

IX. Election of the Council Chair

Dr. Evans nominated Dr. Eggerding. There were no additional nominations. Ballots were distributed; members voted and elected Dr. Eggerding as Chairperson for 2015. Dr. Zanna congratulated Dr. Eggerding as she continues to chair the Council. Dr. Eggerding thanked the members.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Eggerding asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION to adjourn by Dr. Evans and seconded by Dr. Kansagra was approved with all voting members in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.