

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

This memorandum provides a summary of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force recommendations presented to the Human Services Committee on May 31, 2012.

Rank	Description	Explanation	Estimated Biennial Costs
1	Add a state autism coordinator and assistant	Two new full-time equivalent positions responsible for implementing a "one-stop shop" for information and services for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder, developing a state outreach plan, holding regional meetings, holding an annual conference, and developing a protocol for use after screening	\$494,135
2	Provide comprehensive training funds	A statewide training effort, including physician training, regional training, and parent training, led by the state autism coordinator in coordination with key agencies	\$158,032
3	Expand and refocus the autism spectrum disorder Medicaid waiver	Expansion of the department's autism spectrum disorder Medicaid waiver to cover individuals from age 3 through end of life and to provide services, such as evidence-based practices, intervention coordination, in-home support, equipment and supplies, home monitoring, residential supports and services, extended vocational supports, and behavioral consultation	The department's current DD traditional waiver is budgeted on each person's services and support costing an average of \$27,239 per year for waiver services.
4-5	Increase behavioral analysts	Increase the number of professionals delivering behavioral analyst services by providing funding support for 16 people (two in each region) to complete the St. Paul online board-certified behavioral analyst program to include the required supervision up to the point of taking the certification	\$198,872
4-5	Establish dedicated diagnostic, evaluation, and service planning teams	Provide funding for evaluation, diagnostic, and service planning teams comprised of a physician, occupational therapist, physical therapist, certified behavioral analyst, and family support member. The teams must interact with regional coalitions, state agencies, and the Autism Spectrum Disorder Task Force and provide timely referral and outcome reports.	Evaluations and screenings currently range from \$1,725 to \$5,045 per child. The estimated cost of screening eight children in each of the eight regions would range from \$110,400 to \$322,880. The estimated cost of screening 16 children in each of the eight regions would range from \$220,800 to \$546,760.
6	Mandate private insurance coverage for autism care and treatment	Eliminate the exclusions for autism care and treatment in health insurance policies	Senate Bill No. 2268 (2011) as introduced provided for this recommendation. The fiscal note submitted for this bill estimated a cost of approximately \$5.8 million for state government for the 2011-13 biennium.
7	Establish an autism spectrum disorder registry	Develop and implement an autism spectrum disorder registry	\$200,646