



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

Administrative Office
3416 Goni Road, D-132
Carson City, NV 89706

(775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0574
adsd@adsd.nv.gov

RICHARD WHITLEY
Interim Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: April 4, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services
3427 Goni Rd. #102
Carson City, NV 89706

- I. Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba called the meeting for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:03 p.m.

Members Present: Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Korri Ward, Sarah Dean, Julie Ostrovsky,

Guests: RJ Larrieu, Shannon Sprout, Lori Follett, Andrea Neal, Robert Johnson, Dan Dinnell, Denise Robinson, Janisa Macon, Sarah Summers, Jay Summers, Dana Aronson

Staff Present: Brook Aide, Carol Reitz, Megan Wickland

A quorum was declared.

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

There was no public comment.

- III. Approval of Minutes from February 29, 2016.

Ms. Partos made a motion to pass the minutes as written for the February 29, 2016 meeting; Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- IV. Review and Make Recommendations to the 2016 Objectives of the Five-Year Strategic Plan

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if the strategies that were listed on the grid that was provided were strategies that were brought up by the subcommittees or strategies that came from the Commission. Ms. Ostrovsky said they were strategies that came from both in order to accomplish the goals.

Ms. Ostrovsky said the first thing that needs to be done is getting the subcommittees going since that is where the work will take place. She added that the report to the Governor is due in June and then they can work on the legislative sessions.

This item will be tabled until the subcommittees are formed and are progressing through the goals.

V. Discuss and Make Recommendations for New Subcommittees

Dr. Gaspar de Alba reminded the Commission of the subcommittees that were mentioned during the last meeting as State and Federal Funding, Resource Development, Workforce Development and Community Education. Ms. Ward told the Commission that there was so much overlap with the previous subcommittees that were divided with age groups.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba made the following suggestions for the Funding and Insurance subcommittee: Jan Crandy, Shannon Sprout from Medicaid, and Eric Lloyd who is the CEO of Amerigroup.

Ms. Ward told the Commission that Objective 1.4 is to establish a self-directed care option for individuals in Nevada. She suggested having someone from the Rural Regional Center such as Robin Williams.

Ms. Brook Adie informed the Commission that the last time they had subcommittees, the Commission had identified the chairs and then identified the voting members.

Ms. Ostrovsky suggested to the Commission that there should be a parent on every subcommittee. Ms. Partos also suggested having parents of children of different ages on each subcommittee. Ms. Ostrovsky said having two parents on each subcommittee would be beneficial but the ages of the children that the parents will represent should be based on the committee itself.

It was decided that the subcommittees should consist of a chair, two parents, a state representative, and a school district/provider/professional.

Ms. Sprout from Medicaid told the Commission that they will participate however the Commission would like.

Ms. Ostrovsky told the Commission that they should have a rural person on each subcommittee so that they are diverse statewide.

The Commission discussed having the Workforce Development Subcommittee having more voting members than the rest of the subcommittees. The Workforce Development subcommittee should have a chair, state representative, two parents, two providers and a professional.

Ms. Ostrovsky said the professional should be someone that schedules the classes and testing. She added the Workforce Development subcommittee should be addressing that there is testing for licensure infrequently at non-accessible locations.

Ms. Denise Robinson said she would like to chair the Community Education subcommittee. She is the parent of a 16-year-old boy with autism and a retired school teacher. She added that she would like to see a PSA (Public Service Announcement) done in the state of Nevada on where parents can go for help. She also said that they need to work with the School Districts.

Ms. Partos suggested having a provider that is not affiliated with autism help with community outreach for the Community Education subcommittee. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested having two chairs with two different rules. One would be the chair of media and PR and the other with educating doctors and other providers.

Ms. Adie read the following provision in the bylaws to the Commission: "The Commission shall establish subcommittees that focus on specific subject matters and make findings and recommendations to the full commission. The Commission chairperson selects chairpersons for subcommittees as well as commission members to serve on subcommittees. The Commission may select noncommission members from interested members of the community including subject matter expert to serve on the subcommittee."

Ms. Adie told the Commission that other commissions have their members serve on their subcommittees. Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Commission that they can decide whether they want to serve on a subcommittee. He added the chair of the Community Education subcommittee can recommend a subchair that can focus on either the media relations or the professional education and information.

Ms. Dean suggested looking at other organizations that currently have education in place such as PBIS or PEP. Ms. Ostrovsky said the Community Education subcommittee should look a little different. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said this subcommittee should bring together the statewide education and outreach plan from community partners that are already doing the work.

Ms. Partos told the Commission that she is glad they are considering different people with other backgrounds beyond behavior analysis. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested they look at diversity within Community Education subcommittee and chose someone that is bilingual.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked the Commission about the workforce services for individuals with ASD as a goal. She said there are many job training programs but the employers have not been developed.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read some of the objectives that would possibly address developing employment options. There are no objectives that specifically address employment for adults within the strategic plan. Ms. Adie told the Commission that Aging and Disabilities Service Division is working on an integrated employment plan with the CSPD or Independent Living Council and other commissions as well. She said it could fit under the second goal of the strategic plan.

Ms. Dean told the Commission that the following objectives address adult services for individuals with ASD: 2.2.3, 2.2.4, and 2.3.1. Ms. Ostrovsky told the Commission that she had chaired the Youth and Transition subcommittee that addressed the issues of the school district starting transition plans at age 13.

The members of the subcommittee decided that there should be a separate subcommittee to address adult services that include job development. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested that Mark Olson chair the Adult Services and Resources subcommittee since he runs a nonprofit that works on workforce job development and self-directed person-centered services for adults.

The Commission had decided on the following chairs for each of the subcommittees:

- Jan Crandy to be the chair of the Funding and Insurance.
- Ken MacAleese to be the chair of the Resource Development.
- Mark Olson to be the chair of the Adult Services and Resources
- Shannon Crozier to be the chair the Workforce Development.
- Denise Robinson to be the chair of the Community Education.

It was decided that the chairs of the subcommittees will be the ones that will contact the subcommittee members.

Ms. Partos made a motion to approve the subcommittees that were listed. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Review and Approve Letter to the Legislative Committee on Healthcare

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked the Commission members if they had a chance to review the letter that was written by Ms. Ward to the Legislative Committee on Healthcare. Ms. Ostrovsky informed the Commission that the Legislative meeting that was originally scheduled for April 20th has been postponed until June 29th.

Ms. Follett reported to the Commission that the numbers should be provided soon and the State Plan Amendment had been approved. She added that a provider had already been paid and the data should be coming in soon.

Ms. Adie told the Commission that they need to clearly identify what information they want to include in the letter. She added it can be time-consuming to gather the data so it is recommended that the information that is needed from ATAP be clearly outlined ahead of time. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said they would like to know how many children are receiving ABA therapy under Medicaid and how many providers are enrolled and being paid.

Ms. Partos told the Commission that there are some providers that have not signed onto Medicaid because they were waiting to see how it was going to work.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked how ATAP was making policy changes based on Medicaid but not all children being served under ATAP are moving to Medicaid. Ms. Adie informed the Commission that the children that don't have Medicaid will continue to be served under ATAP. After July 1st, ATAP will require RBTs to work with individuals. She added ATAP is shifting towards an agency provider model since the BACB is requiring RBTs to provide the one-on-one therapy under the direct supervision of a BCBA. ATAP has also increased the hourly rate from \$25 per hour to \$31.31 for RBTs. Interventionists will have six months to complete the RBT certification training.

Ms. Adie told the Commission that providers cannot bill families above what Medicaid reimburses but families with ATAP, insurance or private pay can pay whatever they have negotiated with the provider.

Ms. Partos said it may be difficult to complete the RBT training within the six months since they have to take a test at particular sites. Ms. Adie said that may be an issue that is looked at within the Workforce Development subcommittee and addressed with the BACB. The BACB is setting the industry standard and ATAP is adopting them.

Ms. Ostrovsky commented that if the providers are being mandated to provide the service that it should be made accessible. Ms. Adie said the professional needs to go back to the licensing board and address that with them since that was the standard that they set.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if ATAP can provide the number of interventionists that will be mandated to become RBTs. Ms. Adie said she can talk to the administrators on how to move forward to address the testing sites that is required within the RBT certification. She added that ATAP providing the 40-hour online RBT training for free has been really helpful.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked that the letter be tabled until the next meeting so that updated numbers from Medicaid can be included in the letter. He asked Ms. Adie to report on the number of interventionists that need to be RBTs.

Ms. Ostrovsky said the Workforce Development subcommittee needs to figure out when the RBT testing is taking place and where.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if the numbers that were provided by ATAP at the last meeting had changed. Ms. Adie said they change monthly and she can provide an update.

Ms. Adie suggested to the Commission that the letter be written with a problem and then a recommendation. She said she felt the letter provided a lot of information but did not offer a stance on where the Commission stands.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba suggested that Ms. Ward rewrite the letter to include the problem and then ideas for solutions. The letter will be reviewed at the next Commission meeting. Ms. Ward will be provided with the current data numbers from Medicaid and ATAP.

VII. Discuss and Make Recommendations Concerning SB 391 Sometimes Referred to as Read by Third Grade

Ms. Partos informed the Commission that she wanted to bring attention to it since it applies to students enrolled in kindergarten at this time and going forward to future students. She reported that the law stipulates for funding and different trainings for teachers in reading instructions which she applauds. She added it also requires notification to parents if students are not reading at the level they should be.

Ms. Partos said her concern is that students who don't achieve reading proficiency by third grade can be retained. She said students who do not take the Nevada Alternative Assessment but still have an IEP can potentially be retained. A good cause exemption can be applied for by the principal but the parents are not a part of the decision-making process.

Ms. Partos said it would be based on achievement on the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) testing which the results are not received until the summertime. She said she is unsure how it is compliant with the

Special Education law. She said it was well intended but there are some unintended implications.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if a recommendation should be made that parents be included in the decision for good cause exemption as they are in the IEP.

Ms. Dean added that there are other aspects to the law before it gets to the point of retention. She said there are strategies that are implemented before it gets to that point. She suggested contacting someone from the state or special education to better understand the law. Ms. Dean said that the federal law states the Individual Education Plan has to follow the student's needs and the state law cannot trump federal law.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked who the Commission should talk to in order to clarify SB 391. Ms. Dean said she will look into who they can speak to in order to get more information and a better understanding. Ms. Adie said they can invite someone to come and talk to the Commission about the law and then they can decide if they would like to write a letter to the author.

Ms. Partos said what she sees in terms of notifying the parent is how the progress is all along with the child and if they are at risk. A parent should also know if the good cause exemption is approved. She added she wants to know who is making the decision about applying for the good cause exemption.

Ms. Dean will find out who it is the Commission needs to talk in order to better understand SB 391. She believes her name is Anne Alexander.

VIII. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if the May 23rd meeting is still okay with the Commission. Ms. Ostrovsky asked if they should meet prior to May 23rd to establish the subcommittees.

The Commission decided to meet on May 9th to finalize the members of the subcommittees and will ask the Chairs of those subcommittees to be on the teleconference.

The meeting on June 23rd will be to review and approve the report written to the Governor.

The following is the list of future meetings:

- Teleconference meeting on May 9th at 12:00 p.m.
- Videoconference meeting on May 23rd at 1:00 p.m.
- Teleconference meeting on June 23rd at 12:00 p.m.

- Videoconference meeting on September 12th at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Partos made a motion to accept the dates and times of the future meetings. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide secretary with written comments.)

Ms. Andrea Neal said she is glad there is a change to RBTs so we have qualified individuals but she is concerned if there are not enough providers and what will happen to the therapy and services the children receive.

Ms. Janisa Macon asked if it was looking like there aren't enough RBTs, if it was possible to push the deadline further down the road. Ms. Adie said every time a new interventionist starts, they have six months to complete the 40-hour training.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked who created the six-month rule to complete the RBT training. Ms. Adie responded that the BACB expanded the time allotted from 90 days to 180 days in order to give people enough time to complete the training.

Ms. Larrieu said a lot of the discussion had been focused on ABA. She asked what other therapy options were available to families if they have been unsuccessful with ABA.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba said they can add that topic to the next meeting as an agenda. Ms. Dean asked if they were talking about services that were covered by Medicaid.

It was suggested that they have a panel of speakers present on the therapies and resources that were available to families and if they are covered by Medicaid. The following are the list of speakers that will be invited: Dr. Crozier, Dr. Brown from the Sierra Regional Center and Kim Redick can talk about services that are available. Ms. Follett said she can speak as to what services are covered by Medicaid.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Mario de Alba adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.