



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

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**MINUTES**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: May 9, 2016  
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services/ATAP  
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 12:01 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Korri Ward

Guests: Lori Follett, Dan Dinnell, Denise Robinson, Lisa Watson, Renee Portnell, Jan Crandy, Stephanie Hill

Staff Present: Carol Reitz, Megan Wickland, Julie Kotchevar

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 April 4, 2016.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to pass the minutes as written for the April 4, 2016 meeting; Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- IV. Review and Discuss the Five-Year Strategic Plan

Ms. Lisa Watson from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. introduced herself as the client services manager to the Commission who was contracted by the State to develop the five-year strategic plan.

She informed the Commission that the Steering Committee was made up of the Commission, the chairs of the subcommittees as well as leadership from the State. There were three phases to developing the plan which included being clear about what needed to be learned and confirm the needs associated with people who have ASD over the spectrum of their lives as well as identify where gaps were. This was accomplished through a variety of outreach efforts which included key informant interviews, subcommittee focus group discussions, distributed consumer surveys and provider surveys.

There were seven critical issues that were identified through the efforts. Four corresponding goals were determined and there were specific objectives for each goal. The document was accepted December 14, 2014.

Ms. Watson told the Commission there was an implementation timeline as well as what success would look like within the Plan. She also informed the Commission that the intent was to keep the four subcommittees: Adults and Aging, Youth and Transition, Early Childhood and Rural and Adults and three additional subcommittees to include Workforce Development, Resource Development and Data Subcommittee. They would be tasked with implementing the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked what the Data Subcommittee would be tasked with. Ms. Watson replied that the Data Subcommittee would develop a feasibility methodology collection of data elements across the systems and making the data useful for both the Commission as well as the legislature to understand what it means for everyone.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked what would happen if the timeline in the Strategic Plan is not followed since it was submitted to the Governor. Ms. Watson said she was unsure how to answer that but the Plan was structured so that it can be used as a framework for the reports made to the Governor. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said moving forward the reports made to the Governor will be made in that framework.

Ms. Denise Robinson asked if the Plan should be looked at as a living document. Ms. Watson said the document was created with that in mind. The purpose is to revisit the progress made on a quarterly basis but doing an annual review and modification because things do change. She suggested documenting the changes so that what gets planned gets done.

Ms. Ostrovsky suggested reaching out to the subcommittees that helped with the Strategic Plan in order to provide the information so they may share their intent behind each of the goals set.

Ms. Watson suggested to the Commission that the Implementation Plan is an important component. She suggested looking at Pages 19-20 where the key needs were identified across the different outreach approaches that were conducted.

#### V. Discuss and Make Recommendations for the New Subcommittees

Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Commission that the subcommittees that are listed below are in place and the subcommittee members will be chosen by the chairs of those subcommittees.

Funding and Insurance will be chaired by Jan Crandy. The members will include Stephanie Hill, Kim Everett, Jane Gruner, Shirley Gaw, Robert Johnson, Eric Lloyd and Gwynne Partos. Ms. Crandy said she would talk to the one of the big insurance companies such as United Healthcare in order to get representation from them.

Resource Development still needs a chair and Dr. Gaspar de Alba has not heard back from Jan Marson in regards to chairing the subcommittee. Ms. Dean will be the Commission member that will sit on the Resource Development Subcommittee.

Adult Services and Resources Subcommittee also needs a chair. Mark Olson has not committed to chairing the subcommittee. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested having Mr. Olson co-chair the subcommittee. Ms. Renee Portnell said she would be willing to help. Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked Ms. Portnell if she would co-chair and she accepted.

Workforce Development Subcommittee will be chaired by Dr. Shannon Crozier. Dr. Gaspar de Alba will be part of the Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Community Education Subcommittee will be chaired by Denise Robinson. Ms. Robinson told the Commission that she has had a lot of interest. She named the following as potential members: Lovaas Center, Dr. Ken Cole, Metro Police, Henderson Police, Chris Mathews, Jon Sasser, Molly Michelman, Stephanie Patton, Jennifer Strobel, Robin Kincaid, Michelle Scott-Lewing, Debra Vigil, and Art Reitz.

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba asked the Commission members for their thoughts about the Data Subcommittee. Ms. Robinson suggested having someone on each subcommittee that was responsible for the data for each subcommittee

that came together to compose a report. Ms. Dean said the goal is very specific on the data that is being collected. They agreed a Data Subcommittee would be useful to report to the Governor and to the Legislature.

Ms. Crandy told the Commission there is specific data by law that is supposed to be reported to ATAP from the Department of Education, VocRehab and from Early Intervention. There are five targets that need to be reported as well such as does the child have imitation, Vineland scores, cognitive and language scores in order to track outcomes.

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba said he will think about who will chair the Data Subcommittee which will be a smaller size than the rest of the subcommittees.

#### VI. 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. Stephanie Hill asked the Commission if it would be challenging for the Data Subcommittee to know what is intimately involved with the other subcommittees. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said they will have to think about how that subcommittee interacts with the other subcommittees and the other part would be how the State gathers the information and if there's a more efficient statewide way of gathering the data that can be used to educate the Governor and Legislature.

Ms. Hill suggested one of the first tasks of the Data Subcommittee should be for someone to identify how the material is taken in and who will disseminate it.

#### VII. Adjournment

Dr. Mario de Alba adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.