



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: June 1, 2016
12:00 p.m.
Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services/ATAP
3427 Goni Rd. #102
Carson City, NV 89706

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba called the meeting for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Brian Evans, Renee Portnell, Lori Follett, Shannon Sprout

Staff Present: Carol Reitz, Erin Gardner, Brook Adie

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. Review and Make Recommendations to ATAP (Autism Treatment Assistance Program) and Medicaid Concerning ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Services

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked the Commission for their suggestions on the recommendations that were produced. Ms. Ward asked if the recommendations should be quantified. Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Commission that according to

the numbers that were provided by Ms. Crandy, there would need to be 1,000 RBTs just to cover the active children being served by ATAP. There was discussion among the members in regards to time limit and quality of intervention being provided.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked Ms. Adie if the number of kids that are being served would drop their services if they lose their interventionists. Ms. Adie said there are 350 kids that are active and about 350 kids that are on the waitlist that have Medicaid. She added there are about 130 kids that are having to transition from a non-Medicaid provider to a provider that accepts Medicaid.

Ms. Ward made a motion for the Commission to recommend that ATAP continue to allow payment to interventionists working under the supervision of a BCBA, without requiring an RBT credential, until there is an RBT workforce ready to serve a minimum of 50% of the kids in ATAP and Medicaid that reside in Rural Nevada, Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. Ms. Dean did not agree and wanted more clarification. The motion passed with 4 yeses and 1 no.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the recommendation that was made for the parent's ability to hire their own interventionists to be retained. Ms. Adie told the Commission that ATAP will be moving forward with interventionists being hired by providers.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion that parents maintain the current ability to hire their own interventionists with the assistance of a fiscal agent. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. Ms. Dean did not agree and wanted more information. The motion passed with 4 yeses and 1 no.

Ms. Ward made a motion to make a recommendation to the Legislative Committee that ATAP continue to delay the transfer of ATAP Medicaid-eligible children to Medicaid until there is a Medicaid provider ready, willing and able to seamlessly accept and treat the child. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yeses.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to make a recommendation that ATAP continue to ramp up its efforts to serve children as a Medicaid provider, utilizing the children's current interventionists as much as is practicable. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yeses.

There was discussion on gathering data from Medicaid. Ms. Sprout informed the Commission that they gather data for the service utilization, the count of recipients receiving services, and the claims data. She added that mid-July is when they'll have the first 180 days of claims data.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba brought up the recommendation to increase the RBT rate to \$43.88. He told the Commission that he feels better about the rate that was proposed initially since there are no limits on the number of hours where other states do have limits on the hours. He added that Medicaid also allows overlap between the RBT and BCBA billing simultaneously which could be about \$150 per hour. Ms. Dean said she was in agreement. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Ms. Sprout informed the Commission that they had requested a rate sheet from providers. They were not provided with a rate sheet. The research that they had done showed that the national average for an RBT was \$17.33 per hour, but they found through different job sites that RBTs in Nevada were being paid \$11 to \$15 per hour. She told the Commission that if individuals became BCaBAs which is a bachelor level, the rate increases to \$72.24 per hour.

Ms. Ward made a motion to make a recommendation to the Legislative Committee to support the efforts to grow our BCBA and BCaBA and RBT workforce through our higher education system and encourage DETR to include the BCaBA and RBT in their programs. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed with 5 yeases.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked Ms. Adie her thoughts on the recommendation of having ATAP become an agent under which BCBAAs can become trainers/supervisors for RBTs. Ms. Adie said she would talk to the administration about it. She added ATAP does pay the BCBA to do the supervision on a child-by-child basis. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Ms. Ward made a motion to recommend to the legislative committee to better plan for collaboration between NEIS, ATAP and Medicaid to allow children under three a fast-track to ABA programming at recommended levels. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Ward asked the Commission members if they had read the following letter:

“Dear Autism Commission,

“I have an adult son with autism and I am concerned about the work force which provides essential supports for adults over 21 who are significantly impacted by autism and are seeking to live in their community in Nevada.

“In order to be integrated in the greater community, some adults with autism will require the services of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to develop habilitative treatment plans and behavior plans. Adults with autism that responded favorably to behavioral interventions as children are likely to respond to similar interventions as adults allowing them to engage and live in their community. Neither private health insurance nor Medicaid fund consultations with a BCBA

when the client is 22 years old or older. However, these adults may receive services through the Home and Community Based Waiver and the HCBW does allow for BCBA consultations.

“The costs of HCBW staff participating in consultations with a BCBA are not covered. The costs of training the HCBW staff to successfully implement behavioral interventions and habilitative treatment plans recommended by the BCBA are not covered.

“The HCBW staff are responsible for promoting the adult’s safety during perilous situations, implementing habilitative treatment plans, assisting during medical appointments, providing supports for employment, and engaging in community life outside of the supervision of the parent. To successfully engage in these activities some adults with severe autism are going to require the expertise of a BCBA and the supports of specially trained staff.

“The providers of Home and Community Based Waiver services are challenged with maintaining a workforce that is skilled and capable of implementing behavioral and habilitative plans for full grown adults severely impacted by autism. They are competing for a workforce with other similar businesses that have a higher rate and can offer employees a less stressful environment and better pay.

“Please support raising the current rate of \$19.33/hr to a rate that allows providers to provide quality services by a skilled workforce for adults significantly impacted by autism, so that they may successfully integrate into the greater community.”

There was discussion on the recommendations.

Ms. Ward made a motion to support raising the current rate of \$19.33 per hour to the Medicaid state rate to allow providers to provide quality services by a skilled workforce for adults significantly impacted by autism, so that they may successfully integrate into the greater community. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. 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.)

There was no public comment.

V. Adjournment

Dr. Mario de Alba adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m. |