



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 23, 2016  
12:00 p.m.  
Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services  
3416 Goni Rd., Ste. D-132  
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 12:01 p.m.

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

Guests: Brian Evans, Lori Follett, Steven Cohen, Stephanie Christianson

Staff Present: Carol Reitz, Brook Adie, 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)

Mr. Steven Cohen introduced himself as a self-advocate and informed the Commission that he has an issue with the Regional Center's SLA (Supportive Living Arrangements) waiver. He inquired about how to alternatively obtain the services, cut the waitlist, and choose what options are available. Ms. Adie said she would follow up with Mr. Cohen.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the May 23, 2016 and June 1, 2016 Meetings

Ms. Partos made a motion to accept the May 23, 2016 minutes as written. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the June 1, 2016 minutes as written. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### IV. Update on ATAP's (Autism Treatment Assistance Program) Current and Projected Numbers

Ms. Adie informed the Commission that the report was based on caseload numbers in May. She presented the PowerPoint which included the following information:

- 45 new applications
- 15 new children received services
- Currently serving 657 active children; average age 8
- 581 on the waitlist; average age 7
- Average wait time is 236 days

Ms. Adie told the Commission that ATAP has remained close to meeting the legislative caseload. She added the waitlist fluctuates with no pattern. She also said that by the end of this fiscal year, ATAP is slated to serve 692 children; By the end of the next fiscal year, they are slated to serve 852 children.

Ms. Adie informed the Commission that the majority of the children that are currently being served are between the ages of 4 and 8 years old.

Ms. Adie introduced the PowerPoint slide that showed the different coverage types that are being served. ATAP is serving 57% with Medicaid. 35% under insured and 3% uninsured are being fully funded; 5% of children have private insurance which are helped with copayments and deductibles.

Ms. Adie told the Commission that ATAP is currently serving 69 children that have been referred from Early Intervention (EI). Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if those kids were also being co-served with EI. Ms. Adie said she didn't have that information and the two-year-olds that were shown does not mean that they are still being served by EI.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Adie asked how long the process was from the time they are referred to the time that they receive services. Ms. Adie said it varies but the average is 236 days. She added that it varies month to month by the budget and the case mix, but they do try to expedite the children coming from Early Intervention.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if the 57% that are Medicaid eligible and are being transferred will open up the slots for additional children. Ms. Adie replied that

once the Medicaid provider chooses to bill independently, it will definitely free up slots.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked how many of the caseload has transitioned off ATAP that are Medicaid eligible. Ms. Adie said there have been a few cases where families have closed with ATAP because their provider is with Medicaid and will be billing directly. She did not have that number and stated she could provide that number. She said it works to the benefit of the providers to continue to work with and bill through ATAP until the Medicaid system is worked out. She added that it has taken other states an average of 18 months to get the system moving.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked Ms. Follett if Medicaid requires the RBT certification. Ms. Follett told Dr. Gaspar de Alba that it is a requirement in order to bill for services.

V. Review and Approve the Biannual Report to Governor Sandoval

There was discussion about the contents of the report to the Governor. Suggestions of edits to the report were made by Commission members.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the gap of services from the transition of Medicaid-eligible children currently receiving ATAP to Medicaid providers. The Commission members suggested that the concern be added to the report.

Ms. Dean told the Commission that she did not agree with some of the recommendations that were made in the report. She felt that interventionists should be RBTs and it could be a detriment to a child's progress if interventionists are not trained properly. She thought it was a waste of time and money if they are working with children and not sufficiently trained.

Ms. Ward made a motion to approve the report to the Governor with the noted changes. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. Ms. Dean did not agree with some of the recommendations that were noted in the Governor's Report. The motion passed by a majority vote.

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)

Ms. Ostrovsky suggested that the Commission work on issues nationally with the Interagency Autism Committee as well.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Commission there was a suggestion that ASD become an agent where BCBA's can be the supervisors of RBTs. He asked Ms. Adie if she had spoken to administration about essentially becoming a provider for DETR. Ms. Adie said the conversation should involve DETR that will attend the next meeting along with Dr. Crozier. She added ASD is currently not in a position to do that.

Ms. Partos told the Commission that she would like to discuss the Read by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade bill that is currently being discussed in legislation. She said it would include decisions to be made without parental involvement. Ms. Dean told the Commission that the advocacy attorney for the School District is willing to speak to the Commission to interpret the recommendations for that bill.

V. Adjournment

Dr. Mario de Alba adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m. |