



**NEVADA COMMISSION ON
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING
DRAFT**

**Minutes of Friday, December 27, 2013
Meeting held by teleconference**

1. Roll call of Commission Members

Jan Crandy called the meeting to order at 3:12 PM.

Members Present: Jan Crandy, Mary Liveratti, Ralph Toddre, Keri Altig

Others Present: Angela Friedman, DHHS, Executive Assistant
Fatima Taylor, Early Intervention Services, Health Program Manager 3

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. *Discussion on Governor's Report (Attachment A)

Ms. Crandy worked on the Governor's Report but was unable to complete it. She suggested the members email their edits to the draft report without discussion between the Commissioners. Ms. Crandy described the contents of the binder that she will be sending as the Governor's Report next week, including all data presented to the committee, an overview of the ATAP plan types. The cover letter will include an update on the prevalence of autism in some western states. She noted the ratios in Nevada (1/50), Utah (1/47), Arizona (1/67), and will obtain the ratio for California. She noted that Autism Speaks and the Centers for Disease Control funded a study of Minnesotan children showing a ratio of 1/38. It was contributed to the high Somalian population. Ms. Crandy will send to the commissioners the link to the study. Ms. Altig noted prevalence in children from African Nations.

Ms. Crandy questioned whether greater public awareness with minorities may be a factor in the increased ratios. Mr. Toddre discussed the Autism Speaks, NAIH, and Canadian government's study of 55,000 South Korean children who were interviewed and in which the study showed that after three years of increased awareness, the ratio increased from 1/1000 to 1/37. Ms. Crandy will forward the phone survey study of school children in which the ratio resulted in 1/50 Nevada school children. Mr. Toddre suggested mentioning in the Governor's report the proper evaluation method used in South Korean study. Ms. Crandy and Mr. Toddre discussed the improvement in Nevada's data over the years due to the changes in the methods and criteria used, but noted the need for further improvement.

Ms. Altig noted Child Find proper cannot keep up with the referrals which are mostly preschoolers and children transitioning from NEIS. Twenty-five outsource Afterschool Child Find sites assess globally for developmental delays and specifically for other

disability concerns of the parents. Ms. Altig believes about 60% of the referrals to Child Find come from these outsource sites.

Mr. Toddre believes a large number of children over 6 are not being identified in the data. Ms. Altig noted the majority of the children over 6 should be counted for. The Commissioners discussed the situations in which children older than age 6 are not identified: parents not electing county services, and children in private schools and homeschools not being tracked, children whose parents chose to decline IEP development. Ms. Crandy will note the shortage related to the counting of older age children.

The Commissioners discussed the importance of noting the lack of services needed to help increase independence, the limited studies available on adolescents and young adults, and the need to highlight the data on low full time employment rates of persons with autism.

Ms. Liveratti suggested placing the Commission's priorities in bullets at the beginning of the letter. Ms. Crandy will move the concerns listed at the end of the letter to the beginning of the letter as bullets.

Mr. Toddre suggested the Commissioners encourage the Governor to read the report. Ms. Liveratti suggested forwarding a copy of the report to department heads and agencies mentioned in the report. Ms. Altig will provide a list of contacts within the Clark County School District. Ms. Crandy will recognize the programs for autism in the School District in the report.

The Commissioners discussed the great lack of qualified autism specific or trained teachers, substitutes in the classrooms, lack of data regarding teachers in school districts other than Clark County, and the CABI program being developed by UNLV which may help the workforce.

Mr. Toddre commented on the deficiencies both in Nevada and in the nation in regard to support for persons with autism and the use of monies going toward research rather than making services the key. The Commissioners discussed the need for self-determination of community living options to youth and young adults transitioning toward independency, and the need for support to the families and their children who will need lifelong support. They discussed the need for financial assistance and a state plan for these individuals and families. Ms. Crandy will add to the report wording to represent these concerns, including the fact that 90% of the children not receiving services and 50% of those receiving treatment will need lifelong support. She will also include the Community Living Subcommittee's report which supports these concerns. The Commission discussed the extent to which the services are being implemented and the lack of identification of autism. They expressed a need for urgency and financial support with a better understanding of how program funds should be used efficiently to serve this population with better outcomes. The Commissioners discussed the need to include in the report the concerns related to insurance barriers, such as insufficient amount of services covered by insurance, and the responsibility of the state and federal government to advocate for the parents and children.

Ms. Liveratti moved that the Commission give the authority for the Chair to revise and finalize the report with the incorporated comments made during the meeting, and submit the report to the Governor

Motion: Mary Liveratti
Second: Ralph Toddre
Action: Motion passed unanimously

4. Public Comment

Ms. Taylor commented on the progress on making diagnosis and acknowledged it was time to concentrate on services. Mr. Toddre thanked her for the good work they've done. Ms. Crandy mentioned the report will include the progress of NEIS. Discussion occurred regarding keeping communication ongoing with the pediatricians.

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:14 PM