

**NEVADA COMMISSION ON  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING**

**January 10, 2014  
1:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**TELECONFERENCE**

Dial In: 877-848-7030  
Access Code: 1072746

**MEETING LOCATION**

Department of Health and Human Services  
Director's Office  
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100  
Carson City, NV 89706

**1. Roll call of Commission Members**

Jan Crandy called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM  
Commissioners Mary Liveratti, Jan Crandy and Keri Altig were present.  
Ralph Toddre was absent.  
A quorum was present.

Others Present:

At the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)-Director's Office  
Laura Valentine, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)  
Angela Friedman, DHHS

By teleconference

Megan Wickland, Sierra Regional Center  
Julie Kotchevar, ADSD  
Michelle Merrill, Vocational Rehabilitation  
Susanne DeVere, IDEA Part C  
Mark Olsen, LTO Ventures  
Stephanie Christensen, parent

**2. Public Comment**

Ms. Kotchevar commented that the number of referrals from EI to ATAP referenced in the Governor's report (see Attachment A) as nine is incorrect, and much greater. She noted the limited use of the recent tracking form. She will provide data from the Elko and Las Vegas offices. She noted policy mandates that every child diagnosed with autism be provided information on ATAP. Ms. Crandy will update the number with that which will be provided by Ms. Kotchevar by the end of the day, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Kotchevar commented on the recommendation that children receive assistance through ATAP rather than EI. She described the differences in behavioral services provided by the programs and the clients that are served, as well that EI services are

comprehensive providing more than behavioral services. In response to Ms. Crandy, Ms. Kotchevar suggested revising that statement to reflect the collaboration between EI and ATAP in providing behavioral services at the research levels and also ensuring children are receiving other necessary EI services.

Ms. Crandy indicated she received edits from commission members and asked that members state edits the publicly.

Mr. Olsen noted a suggested change in a sentence related to the outcomes of individuals in prevocational programs.

Mr. Olsen commented that two hours before the meeting the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued their final rule which was referenced in the Community Living Subcommittee report (see Attachment B), CMS-2249-F, which may affect the recommendations as stated in the Governor's report. He had not fully read the 371 page report and does not have an analysis yet.

Ms Crandy stated that the five year strategic plan will focus on the Community Living Subcommittee report. She suggested those interested review the Task Force's 146 recommendations of which 11 were prioritized and #5 focuses on adults.

Mr. Olsen noted a change on page one of the letter, in regard to CDC's autism prevalence which differs from the report's data. Ms. Crandy explained she had written a footnote (see Attachment C) which will elaborate on the differences in data.

Mr. Olsen referred to page one of the letter, the seventh bullet, in regard to services he added "...how to obtain and how to pay for them." He also suggested adding a bullet to the major concerns, "lack of meaningful employment, pre-vocational and vocational training, and funding."

Mr. Olsen stated that on the fourth page, last paragraph in reference to employment outcomes and sheltered workshops, he wasn't sure he agreed as it lends a negative light to programs, such as Easter Seals and Opportunity Village. He thought it was important to look at the full spectrum of employment and potential for individuals in the workforce.

On the last page, Mr. Olsen would like to add that a commissioner working with ADSD in Southern Nevada be added to the membership.

### **3. Discussion on the Governor's Report**

Ms. Crandy read the typographical and grammatical errors as recognized by Ms. Liveratti. Ms. Crandy had made the corrections in the revised report.

Ms. Crandy and Ms. Liveratti discussed Ms. Liveratti's data pulled from the ADSD slide presentation regarding Autism specific funding through Regional Centers.

Ms. Liveratti also commented on the need for a footnote or reference to the study from which data was used. She commented that the study helps promote that the state needs more options, not just sheltered workshops.

Ms. Altig noted that generally the content of the report was good and would accept the report with the changes as noted, including the confusion of the use of “analysis” and “analyst.”

Ms. Crandy and Ms. Liveratti discussed additional comments regarding maximizing use of the federal funds through Medicaid and ABA.

Ms. Crandy and Ms. Liveratti discussed additional comments regarding the lack of prevocational and vocational training, adding a reminder of the 146 recommendation of the Autism Task Force. Ms. Crandy and Ms. Liveratti discussed adding comments to the letter regarding the ASD’s Strategic plan, recent integration and interfacing of programs.

**Motion to accept the Governor’s Report with the changes as discussed at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**Motion: Mary Liveratti**

**Second: Keri Altig**

**No discussion was offered.**

**Action: Motion passed unanimously**

Ms. Crandy will send the final report to the Governor and to the commissioners. Ms. Friedman will post the report on the website.

**4. Public Comment**

Ms. Crandy opened the meeting to public comment.

No public comment was made.

**5. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

**Motion: Mary Liveratti**

**Second: Keri Altig**

**Action: Motion passed unanimously**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 PM