



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: September 12, 2014
1:30 p.m.

Carson City: Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Room 2135
Carson City, NV 89701

Las Vegas: Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington Avenue
Room 4406
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Elko: Great Basin College
Room 137
1500 College Parkway
Elko, NV 89801

- I. Ms. Jan Crandy called the meeting for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jan Crandy, Mary Liveratti, Keri Altig, Korri Ward, Shannon Crozier

Guests: Scott Harrington, Betsy Aiello, Shannon Sprout, Michele Tombari, Amy Coyne, Stan Cornell, April Carroll, Julie Ostrovsky, Toni Richard, Kelli Walker, Kim Alberti, Erica Chu, Erin Snell, Linda Tache, Mark Olson

Staff Present: Brook Aide, Julie Kotchevar, Carol Reitz, Michele Ferrall, Nohemi Montes

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)

Jan Crandy informed the committee that Social Entrepreneurs will be meeting with all of the subcommittees on the following dates: Adults and Aging on September 19; Youth and Transition on September 23; Early Childhood on September 24; Rural and Adult on October 1.

Ms. Crandy also informed the committee that the Board of Psychological Examiners is proposing that BCBAs (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) be regulated to only supervise a staff of 14. Ms. Shannon Crozier said their next meeting is in November but was unsure if it was a public hearing as well or of their timeline.

Ms. Mary Liveratti proposed this be discussed at our next meeting and be added to our agenda.

Ms. Korri Ward sent the strategic planning consumer and provider surveys to all the school district special education directors. Ms. April Carroll confirmed the survey was sent out to Washoe County School District and other related service providers.

- III. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2014; June 20, 2014; July 1, 2014; July 11, 2014 **(For Possible Action)**
Jan Crandy, Chair

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

- IV. Presentation by Washoe, Clark and Other School Districts
Amy Coyne, Clark County
April Carroll, Washoe County

Ms. Amy Coyne, a coordinator for the Clark County School District (CCSD), informed the Committee of the following data statistics and services they provide in Autism:

As of June 2, 2014, there were 4934 students enrolled with primary or secondary eligibility of Autism. This is an 11% increase from 2013. They have over 135 early childhood programs, over 150 elementary programs, over 50 middle-school programs, over 40 high school programs, which total over 380 center-based programs on comprehensive campuses. The Variety School has 10 programs dedicated to students with Autism. The Variety School programs utilize the Cleveland Clinic Model which is an intensively high-structured ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) model that is intended to get student behaviors under control so they can transition to a less intensive environment.

Ms. Coyne reported that at the beginning of the 2014/2015 it was estimated that there are about 30 to 35 openings in the Autism programs and approximately 90% of the programs have licensed teachers.

The LINKS team was dedicated to continue school support of programming for students with Autism. The Autism area of the LINKS team is currently comprised of administration, instructional specialists and Autism interventionist specialists. The LINKS team provides the school-based individual intervention services for students in the classroom. They also provide appropriate Autism support training for staff. The training is for school teams to gain behavioral control as well as develop an effective behavior plan.

Additionally they provide parent training opportunities as well as Autism survival skills training. Last school year, over 300 families accessed the Connection campus center. It is designed to work individually with parents and their child to teach ABA skills that they can use with their child at home and within the community.

The LINKS team also provides extensive professional developmental opportunities and Applied Behavior Analysis for administration. They continue to offer two-day didactics, four-day hands-on training, behavior training, administrator training, and social skills training.

The Autism specialists address individual classroom or teacher concerns. They have seen great return on investment for the model they use for the Autism program and support. They would like to expand these programs and support but are unable to do so at this time due to the limited staff and space. With the additional space, they would be able to expand the Connection Center parent training and offer more professional developmental opportunities. Additional staff would also allow them to expand all of their professional development and support services.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Coyne if the 90% of licensed teachers have the Autism endorsement. Ms. Coyne did not know the answer and will get the information from Human Resources.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Coyne if they're proposing the additional staff and space for the LINKs team to the legislature. Ms. Coyne responded that they need additional space.

Ms. Crandy asked how they're going to offer the one-to-one in the classroom. Ms. Coyne responded that it's happening within the school day and it is not a related service. They have about 20 students currently receiving the service in the classroom. They are estimating about 100 students will be receiving the service in the classroom by the end of the school year.

Ms. Crandy asked if they are pulling the students out and Ms. Coyne responded that they are doing both. It's individually serviced and they're addressing the behavior and the needs. She commented that every student is different.

Ms. Julie Ostrovsky asked if there is an age limit. Ms. Coyne responded that is the same process as a referral, which is determinate by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team. Ms. Ostrovsky asked if they're looking to replace long-term substitute teachers. Ms. Coyne responded yes.

Ms. Kerri Altig asked Ms. Coyne if there's a lack of staff. She said currently they are 500 teachers short.

Ms. Crandy asked if the 90% included the long-term substitute teachers. Ms. Coyne responded that only 10% are long-term substitutes in the classrooms.

Ms. Korri Ward asked what the options program was. Ms. Coyne responded that through the options program the teachers have a degree in special education but have to complete their coursework in Autism within three years.

Ms. Crandy asked if Clark County School District (CCSD) is still having difficulty maintaining teachers. Ms. Coyne said that they still have a high turnover of teachers and that most only stay three to four years. This is partially due to teachers moving out of state or family issues. Ms. Coyne said it's more in part due to burnout on the job.

Ms. Crandy asked if there are incentives that the Commission can support to keep teachers and paraprofessionals. Ms. Coyne responded there are contractual issues and all teachers are equal no matter what are they teach.

Ms. Crandy commented that there is no reason to be a paraprofessional in an Autism classroom unless you love students with Autism. She went on to say other states have Autism mentors and they provide higher pay and additional training. Ms. Coyne commented that CCSD does provide training for paraprofessionals.

Ms. Crandy asked if they are proposing any bills in the legislative session that the Commission can support. Ms. Coyne was unsure.

Ms. Ward asked about the three years to complete the coursework and at what level. Ms. Coyne responded it's whatever coursework that they need for the Autism endorsement for the state licensure.

Ms. Crandy asked what happens if they don't get the Autism endorsement. Ms. Coyne answered that they would be moved to a classroom that meets their license endorsement. She said that this has happened in the past.

Ms. Julie Ostrovsky asked if there is a financial incentive for the three-year coursework. Ms. Coyne responded that the education helps on their pay scale. The more education, the higher their pay schedule. Ms. Ostrovsky asked if they receive that pay regardless if they're in the Autism classroom. Ms. Coyne said yes.

Ms. Crandy commented how we all need to work together with the school districts and help build the staff within the community. She suggested the Links team explore and promote the training of Registered Behavior Technicians within the high school programs. There should be magnetic school programs that offer a career path/vocation for registered behavior technicians. This could provide training in autism classrooms which could also benefit CCSD autism classroom paraprofessional demand.

Ms. Carroll informed the committee that Washoe County School District (WCSD) is similar to CCSD but on a smaller scale. The numbers for WCSD are as follows:

Currently there are 744 students with Autism which includes early childhood through high school. Last year there were 612 students with Autism. They have specialized programs for students that need them. There are several programs but they are not in every school. The challenge that WCSD faces is transportation to the school sites. Most of the programs for Autism opened full this year by state guidelines so WCSD is looking to open more programs. They opened two new middle school programs.

Ms. Crandy asked what state guidelines are and to define what a Strategies program is. Ms. Carroll responded that a strategies program is for students with Autism or students that have similar needs. They provide discrete trials, alternative communications, positive behavior support, while accessing general education but are still in the small and structured classroom. They also have social resource programs for students with Asperger's or similar needs. These students are in general education classes but are also in social classes to help with executive function and organization skills.

Ms. Carroll talked about the new social resource program that was just opened this year at the middle school level. It was opened to address concerns from parents for the transition to middle school. The students that are in the program are academically capable but they are not doing well socially. The program allows the students to receive grade-level academics but in a smaller environment.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Carroll to talk about transition programs and how the students are being prepared for the workforce. Ms. Carroll said WCSD has a goal to expand on transition. Currently, students receive transition services and vocational services through their high school program. WCSD has a transition consultant and they have a Vocational Opportunities for Inclusive Career Education (VOICE) program. It's a vocational program with Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) support which started last year. Once the students are done with high school, they are placed in jobs with the goal of gaining employment.

There is also a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Truckee Meadows Community College and University of Nevada Reno to develop post-secondary options for children with disabilities. They'll have a dual enrollment in college and high school taking college courses.

Ms. Crandy asked about the state guidelines. Ms. Carroll informed the Committee that in the strategies program they try not to exceed eight students in the classroom. They are staffed with a teacher and two program aids. There also may be more staff depending on the individual needs of the program.

Ms. Altig asked about the 17% increase in the student count. Ms. Carroll responded that the count is not the official count.

Ms. Altig asked how the MOU for those post-secondary college courses was going to work. Ms. Carroll was unsure of the details.

Ms. Carroll commented on the retention of teachers and the District is trying to partner with the University in teaching the teachers. They are looking at providing incentives for programs for teachers to teach students with Autism. All of WCSD Autism programs are taught by a licensed teacher. Currently there are 50 open aid positions. There is going to be a mandated training for all new aids.

Ms. Crandy asked if the 744 number included students with multiple eligibilities. Ms. Carroll responded that is purely students with Autism. Ms. Crandy asked if that number was only students with Autism that had IEPs and Ms. Carroll said yes.

Ms. Crandy asked if the 744 number was broken down by age group. Ms. Carroll responded that she can get the information to the Committee.

Mr. Scott Harrington commented that the VOICE program is to get students to have experiences out in the community. They have been very successful in the goal. This allowed the District to generate the four to one federal match through the Rehab Services Administration.

Ms. Crandy asked how long the program has been running. Mr. Harrington said they are in year two.

Mr. Harrington informed the committee that the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disability (NCED) received a grant to train teachers to become BCBA's. The first cohort is just finishing the program. He said that they are putting out a request for applications to Clark County teachers. The program pays for seven students to become BCBA's.

Ms. Crandy asked how many have become BCBA's. Mr. Harrington said that the program requires 1500 hours and two years of classwork.

Ms. Shannon Crozier asked Mr. Harrington if Clark County teachers would have to leave their jobs to receive the BCBA education. Mr. Harrington responded that this is a distance education. They would have to come to Reno for three Saturdays. Their transportation is paid for. Their BCBA supervision hours would include Mr. Harrington going to the South to do the supervision hours or it can be done remotely.

Ms. Carroll advised the Committee that WCSD has created two new allocations for BCBA's this year.

Ms. Altig asked Mr. Harrington when the applications for the BCBA's begin. Mr. Harrington responded that he'll send the information to Ms. Crandy and Ms. Coyne. The applications will be ready in two weeks. The classes will begin January 1st and will begin advertising soon.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Coyne if there was any follow-up or if there's anything legislatively that the Commission can be supporting. Ms. Coyne responded that they need more funding for teachers and resources. CCSD wants to increase access to technology. They are in need of occupational therapists and BCBA support.

Ms. Crandy advised the committee that the bill that was passed supported grant funding for professional development. The committee needs to ask if that grant money can be used for professional development for the school districts. CCSD and WCSD will need to write a proposal to present to the legislative body within a month.

Ms. Crandy asked how CCSD is addressing the transition programs. Ms. Coyne responded that CCSD's high school program incorporated community-based instruction for students. Some of the programs partner with local businesses such as Goodwill. They are also working at the warehouse for the school district.

Ms. Crandy asked if the transition program is for all functioning levels. Ms. Coyne responded that it's individualized based on the needs.

Ms. Crandy asked if CCSD do any job training onsite. Ms. Coyne was not aware if they do.

Ms. Ward asked who was funding the program. Ms. Coyne responded that the Variety program is a special school and some of the funding comes from community partners.

Ms. Ostrovsky commented that the program at Variety is for all students and not just students on the spectrum.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Coyne if she knew how many students with Autism are in the Variety school. Ms. Coyne responded that there are 10 programs and there are 70 students.

Ms. Crandy asked if the school district is changing to ensure programs are within the community since the Employment First incentive is going forward. Ms. Coyne was unsure.

Mr. Harrington commented that if the program is onsite in the school, it's very difficult to generalize in the community. Moving from school-based to the community, the outcomes aren't very good. It's much better if they do the programs in the community.

Ms. Carroll told the Commission that there are 76 students aged three to five with Autism on IEPs. There are 43 students in kindergarten with Autism which totals 119 students in the WCSD.

- V. Presentation and Discussion by the Department of Health Care Financing and Policy Regarding the Possible Vote of Support for the State Plan Amendments (DHCFP)
Betsy Aiello, Deputy Administrator (DHCFP)

Ms. Crandy explained that this agenda item is about Medicaid covering children through the age of 21 for treatment.

Ms. Betsy Aiello introduced Shannon Sprout who is working on the Applied Behavior Analysis Autism services that they are assembling. There are several public workshops to gather information on developing programs for Nevada. The workshops will include coverage and limitations, treatment plans, documentation, level of care, reimbursement, billing codes, units of care, rates and provider qualifications.

Ms. Sprout is the policy specialist that is working on the Applied Behavior Analysis. She talked about the White Paper that was a handout. It is a guidance, but does not lay out a plan for each state. Nevada Medicaid is creating the coverage under the authority of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). They have been working with other states to gather information. One of the challenges that other states have come across is the policy language. Another challenge is tracking utilization management because of the billing codes. The billing codes are not Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) specific. Temporary billing codes that are ABA specific will be available in January. ABA is an extension of services.

Ms. Sprout talked about the timelines. It takes between 90 and 180 days to get CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) approval. There are three different tracks as outlined on the handout:

- Track 1 is the Agency Recommendation with effective date of 10/1/15
- Track 2 which is Fast Track with effective date of 7/1/15
- Track 3 which is New Code Track with effective date of 8/1/15

Ms. Crandy asked if the children on ATAP (Autism Treatment Assistance Program) can have a different track. Ms. Aiello responded that the program has to be the same for all eligible for Medicaid.

Ms. Sprout informed the Committee that Medicaid is looking at an interim plan separate from the long-term plan.

Ms. Aiello informed the Committee that once the program is available any eligible provider would have to enroll and bill with the standard billing codes in the system, the utilization management would occur.

Ms. Crandy said the federal government gave directive in July that Medicaid should be providing this service. Ms. Aiello responded that they didn't give that directive but they said that they should develop a program. They won't just approve everything.

Ms. Sprout commented that they are not mandating any particular service but that there needs to be a comprehensive menu of services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. There is no timeline associated with it but every state needs to move forward in developing the policy and submitting for a state plan approval.

Ms. Crandy asked about comprehensive services and why the workshop was focusing only on ABA. Ms. Aiello responded that all other services are already covered. The child has to meet medical necessity.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Aiello if they were going with Track 1. Ms. Aiello responded that Track 1 is the recommended track but is not sure if that's the one they'll use.

Ms. Crandy asked what is Medicaid expecting from the public and do they know the current number of children with Autism and if they've been informed of the pending coverage. Ms. Aiello responded that the workshops have been noticed as any other Medicaid policy change workshop. They didn't run the data to find out every child that has a diagnosis of Autism and may not even have that data. Medicaid only has claims data which is not based on the diagnosis.

Ms. Crandy asked if Medicaid is using the Department of Education numbers of children with Autism and looking at a percentage of those students on Medicaid. Ms. Aiello responded that she believed that they took a percentage of population of the children.

Ms. Crandy asked if they broke it down by age. Ms. Aiello said yes. They used the information from ATAP.

Ms. Altig asked if school districts submitting for ABA would impact the overall number of hours of treatment. Ms. Aiello responded that other states are allowing school districts to bill and be a provider.

Ms. Sprout commented that they are trying to take the lessons learned from other states in what has worked. They want to create a plan for all stakeholders. They want to make informed decisions for the best outcome.

Ms. Altig asked if the billable hours through the school district impact the overall number of hours for ABA therapy. Ms. Aiello responded that is where utilization management needs to be determined: who do you want providing the services and what are the provider qualifications.

Ms. Sprout commented that all of the concerns are what need to be addressed and considered when Medicaid builds the policy. Ms. Aiello also commented that what the policy covers in utilization management cannot be duplicated.

Ms. Crandy asked if billing did occur through the school district, it can affect the services a child receives outside of the school. Ms. Aiello responded that is true. Each service is slightly different and there are boundaries where it constitutes duplication.

Ms. Crandy asked if Medicaid is looking at the continuity of care across the lifespan through the age of 21. Ms. Aiello responded that they haven't written the program and are unsure.

Ms. Crandy commented that the EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment) is up to age 21. Ms. Aiello said that it is for anything medically necessary up to the age of 21.

Ms. Crandy asked about the age breakdown in hours. Ms. Sprout said that it is a topic of a workshop. Ms. Aiello responded that they did their financial analysis based on ATAP's hours.

Ms. Crandy commented that ATAP is providing the bare research level amount of hours due to funding that's available. As children get older services need to be individualized based on if they have life-threatening situations. Ms. Aiello responded what is developed has to have some financial restrictions.

Ms. Mary Liveratti asked what the eligibility is for these services. Ms. Aiello responded she is unsure and that is why they're gathering information from everyone. Medicaid services need to show outcomes with services.

Ms. Crandy commented that medically necessary is hurting us under insurance coverage. Ms. Aiello commented that waiver programs were only for the children that met an institutional level of care. They're now finding out that that policy wasn't the right policy or the right provider isn't serving it.

Ms. Sprout commented that there is a concern in Louisiana that the primary service is occurring during the school day and not leaving any hours outside for the community. The question of what about the educational hours is asked. The state of Washington's approach was the outside behavior analyst would be the one providing the service and the service billing will go to the analyst and not the school district.

Ms. Crozier asked if all children in Washington must go through one centralized center for assessments. Ms. Sprout responded that there's multiple centers. Ms. Aiello commented that it might be called provider qualification for the person that does the assessment.

Ms. Aiello commented that Medicaid would need to thoughtfully develop the coverage in Nevada from the beginning.

Ms. Altig asked how they are certain that they have the best stakeholders at the workshops. Ms. Aiello said the information was sent out to all interested provider groups.

Ms. Crozier asked when and where the decision would be made for the track. Ms. Aiello said this would be done by the Administrator. Tribal notifications went out August 4th for all tracks.

Ms. Crozier asked if at this point they are going with Track 1. Ms. Aiello responded that they have not been told which one but they have Workshop 1 scheduled.

Ms. Crozier asked if at any point in time the administration can tell them to change course. Ms. Aiello responded that anything can happen at any time and they change directions all the time.

Ms. Crozier asked since there are four workshop topics in Track 1 would each workshop be a further elaboration on getting more information on all topics. Ms. Sprout responded yes. Ms. Aiello commented that if they're told to develop something in two days, they'll develop something in two days and they'll get posted for public hearing.

Ms. Liveratti asked what was the financial eligibility for the children. Ms. Aiello responded that they're Medicaid eligible. Ms. Liveratti asked if Check-Up children will have access to ABA. Ms. Aiello responded yes. They are the same codes for Medicaid and Check-up.

Ms. Ward asked if Louisiana or Washington had a Katie Beckett program. Ms. Aiello responded that she was unsure but Katie Beckett is Medicaid eligible so they're eligible for coverage.

Ms. Aiello commented that Katie Beckett can lose their eligibility if the Medicaid spend is over what would be spent on the child to live in an institution. Katie Beckett has a spend maximum. Adding a Medicaid service does not change the Katie Beckett or any of the Medicaid eligibility rules. Services that are provided to children on Katie Beckett have to be monitored and managed so the child does not lose Medicaid eligibility.

Ms. Ward asked if Medicaid requires electronic billing. Ms. Aiello responded yes. That's the provider training component. It's not a grant-funded program, but a medical service following Medicaid rules. They use standardized billing forms and standardized billing components. In the last legislative session, it was decided that the billing had to be electronic.

Ms. Crandy commented that she would like to see under a medical necessity that children under a certain age that it is just medically necessary to receive dosages/levels of treatment and supervision, based on following the BACB Guidelines for Healthcare Plan Coverage. Ms. Aiello responded that they have to build parameters.

- VI. Presentation of Behavior Analyst Certification Board Guidelines of Healthcare Plan Coverage of Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of ASD
Charles Marriott, Autism Care West

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VII. Presentation by the Department of Education on Teacher Licensure of Landscape of Issues Addressing Students with Autism

Marva Cleven, State of Nevada Department of Education

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

VIII. Discussion, Nominations and Possible Vote on New Chairperson
Jan Crandy, Chair

Ms. Crandy informed the Committee that her term as a Commission member ends in July and would continue as chair to complete the Five-year plan if that was supported by the group. However, because new members have been appointed, she would entertain a motion to elect a new chair if anyone felt strongly about becoming the new chair. Members can think about it and we can add it to the next agenda for further discussion and a vote.

IX. Discussion and Possible Nominations and Vote on Key Informants for Strategic Plan
Jan Crandy, Chair

Ms. Crandy made the following suggestions for the key informants: Mike Wilden who is the Governor's chief of staff, Ron Leaf from Autism Partnership, Charlene from GovCHAV, Barbara Buckley, Senator Ben Kieckhefer, Robin Kincaid from Nevada Parents Educating Parents (PEP), Dr. Julie Beasley who is a pediatric neuropsychologist who does the Early Denver Start model, works with social skills for older children, does diagnosis, provides treatment, worked with Early Intervention statewide, provides counseling to parents.

Mr. Olson explained Adults and Aging subcommittee nominated Jane Gruner because Ms. Gruner sits over the Regional Centers, the programs that are dispensing the funding but if they're going to get the same information from the informal process then they can go with someone else. Ms. Crandy suggested having Medicaid. Mr. Olson responded that the alternate to Ms. Gruner was Lori Squartskoff or Betsy. Ms. Crozier commented she wasn't sure if Medicaid would have any answers if they were added during this timeframe. Mr. Olson responded that many of the Medicaid programs would remain the same beyond the changes that were discussed today. Mr. Olson said that Medicaid's contribution is just as critical as ever.

Ms. Ostrovsky agrees that they should have Nevada PEP (Parents Educating Parents) interviewed since the Committee ended up with a lot of professionals and they don't have the parent's voice.

Ms. Michele Tombari agrees with having Nevada PEP interviewed and she feels very strongly about Barbara Buckley.

Mr. Olson agrees with Nevada PEP but would like to see Santa Perez from People First who is a self-advocate.

Ms. Crandy asked Mr. Olson if he would consider replacing Ms. Gruner with the self-advocacy group and Mr. Olson agreed.

Ms. Liveratti suggested approaching Senator Ben Kieckhefer or Barbara Buckley and if one cannot do it maybe the other could.

Ms. Ward commented that she wasn't sure if Santa Perez could speak on the issues of Autism.

There was additional discussion about who will be the three key informants. The nominations were Ron Leaf with Dr. Beasley as the alternate, Mike Willden with Barbara Buckley as the alternate and Senator Ben Kieckhefer. Jan Crandy made the motion to accept the nominations; Kerri Altig seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

- X. Presentations from Aging and Disability Service Division (ADSD) on Autism Treatment Assistance Program, Brook Adie, ADSD Nevada Early Intervention Services, Julie Kotchevar, ADSD Regional Centers, Michele Ferrall, ADSD

Ms. Julie Kotchevar presented the PowerPoints that were a handout for the meeting.

Ms. Liveratti asked where ADSD was with the policy changes. Ms. Kotchevar responded that they are trying to make more seamless integrated services. As a way to make NEIS (Nevada Early Intervention Services) and ATAP collaborate, the programs have been moved under Ms. Kotchevar so people are more consistently served.

Ms. Crandy asked Ms. Kotchevar to talk about the plan changes for NEIS. Ms. Kotchevar responded that they've been working on how to shorten the length of time for early identification. The average has gone down to 28 months. They have made a commitment to do the ADOS before they transition at 36 months.

They are starting to contract to implement Early Start Denver model. They are planning on training about 100 staff at two different trainings.

Ms. Crandy asked if it's just parent training or interventionists delivering treatment of Early Start Denver. Ms. Kotchevar said it would be for any child that presented with behavioral concerns. If the behavior is more significant or

there are concerns for Autism, they will start using more intensive parent training to get them familiar with ABA and more complex behavioral objective.

Ms. Kotchevar talked about once a child has a diagnosis, they'll be assigned to a BCBA and they'll get an actual behavior plan and a more intensive in-home therapy. There are 42 children in Early Intervention that have Autism. They are already getting assigned to a BCBA and will start intensive in-home ABA. They can use the same providers between Early Intervention and ATAP.

Ms. Crandy asked about what hours a week are going to be provided. Ms. Kotchevar responded that it is individualized and they are using evidence-based plan development.

Ms. Crandy asked about the Early Start Denver model. Ms. Kotchevar responded that the 20 hours and five for the parents is for all the kids prior to a diagnosis. Once they receive a diagnosis, they are assigned to a BCBA that has a specialized plan that is specific to them.

Ms. Kotchevar commented on the psychiatric fellows that have been utilized for screening. They are doctors in their second-year fellowship that are being paid \$40 per hour. They also expanded their genetic clinic in Vegas.

Ms. Crandy asked why there has been an increase in referrals. Ms. Kotchevar suspects that people found out that they have received more funding and more people are finding out about ATAP.

Ms. Kotchevar commented that the average wait list time for ATAP funding is 236 days. There are 506 children waiting to receive ATAP funding.

Ms. Michele Ferrall talked about the waiver wait list. The children currently receiving autism funding from regional centers are aging out of the program. The Regional Center is now providing respite to children receiving ATAP. If people are waiting for the ID waiver, they can still get services. There are 135 individuals waiting for waiver funding and out of the 135, 78 are getting services.

Ms. Crandy asked how many of the children that are getting the waiver have Autism. Ms. Ferrall responded that the Regional Centers don't discriminate on the waiting list by diagnosis.

Ms. Crandy asked if they had to have a dual diagnosis to be on the wait list. Ms. Ferrall responded that they had to have an intellectual disability or related condition.

XI. 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.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Crandy adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.