



**NEVADA COMMISSION ON  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING  
Tuesday, April 1, 2014  
1:30 – 4:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**MEETING LOCATIONS**

Public and Behavioral Health

4126 Technology Way, Room 201  
Carson City, NV 89706

Teleconference

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

VIDEOCONFERENCE TO:

Public and Behavioral Health—HCQC

4220 S. Maryland Parkway, Ste. 810, Bldg D  
Las Vegas, NV 89801

Early Intervention Services

1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 102  
Elko, NV 89801

**#1--Roll call of Commission Members**

Jan Crandy called the meeting to order at 1:42 PM  
Commissioners Mary Liveratti, Jan Crandy and Keri Altig were present.  
Ralph Toddre was absent.  
A quorum was present.

**#2--Public Comment**

No one from the public at any location offered to comment.

**#3--Approval of December 19, 2013, December 27, 2013, & January 10, 2014 minutes**

**Motion for approval December 19, 2013 as written.**

**Motion:** Ms. Liveratti  
**Second:** Ms. Altig  
**Action:** Motion passed

**Motion for approval December 27, 2013 as written.**

**Motion:** Ms. Liveratti  
**Second:** Ms. Altig  
**Action:** Motion passed

**Motion for approval January 10, 2014 as written.**

**Motion:** Ms. Liveratti  
**Second:** Ms. Altig  
**Action:** Motion passed

## **9. Report from Clark County School District (CCSD) regarding IIS and the final Corrective Action Plan (CAP)**

Michael Harley, CCSD Compliance Officer

At the Chair's direction Agenda Item 9 was taken out of order.

Mr. Harley (Attachment E) gave background on the autism services at Clark County School District (CCSD) since 1999. He emphasized changes were made to address the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) complaint (See Attachment E) using best practices, FAPE standards, recent research, current literature, and expert advice as required by IDEA and No Child Left Behind, as well as the involvement of parent focus groups and annual reviews. Mr. Harley noted CCSD has been on the cutting edge in regard to the quality of home services, parent training center, and the age of children served. Mr. Harley suggested the public contact, Cynthia McCray, Director of Clark County LINKS, with questions about type of programs offered.

Mr. Harley and Ms. Crandy discussed the concerns related to the District's change of payment process and parents' perception that they were employers. He stated that parents were always employers and that the majority of the parents have accepted the change.

They discussed the need for hours to be available to all children with autism in both the school based program and the supplemental IIS program. They discussed the parents' concern that the IIS program was going to end in 2015. He suggested parents wait and see as plans are submitted and change constantly. Mr. Harley stated that the District is always willing to work to find new programs and work with the parents. Parents should contact Ms. McCray with their concerns and ideas. He noted that it is the IEP teams that determine if a child will continue in the IIS program. Parents may challenge the decision of the IEP team. Mr. Harley clarified that he does not create or drive policy, as the Compliance Officer he ensures compliance with state and federal law regarding policies and programs.

They discussed the marketing and availability of the programs. Mr. Harley explained that the parents made aware of the programs by the IEP teams, Child Find, FEAT, and other parents. Ms. Crandy suggested that the method of making the programs known was insufficient, especially since the IEP teams were unaware, and that funding is keeping some children from the programs. He noted that he and Assistant Superintendent Charlene Green are addressing those issues and are still working to find funding for the eligible children.

Public Comment: Kimberly Spline, a parent, commented that she was never informed of the programs available. Mr. Harley and Ms. Crandy suggested Ms. Spline contact them.

Ms. Crandy and Mr. Harley discussed Option B, which intensifies services for each individual child in the classroom. Mr. Harley had no details, and suggested contacting Ms. McCray.

Public Comment: Gayle Benton stated that her child was pulled out of the classroom as part of Option B, and was provided services every other day.

Mr. Harley explained that the intensified services may differ based on the individualized needs of each child. Ms. Crandy noted the discrepancy on an earlier comment about

hours needed. Mr. Harley explained the District is still working to find appropriate ways of meeting the needs. Ms. Crandy asked if the District's consultant, Autism Partnership is involved. Mr. Harley responded the District's LINKS team provides the services. Mr. Harley said Autism Partnership is involved in every area but he does not know the extent of the involvement. He explained that Ms. McCray would be best to address the details of Option B.

Ms. Crandy reiterated that every child with autism should have access to IIS not only the usual 100 children. Mr. Harley explained that not all children with autism qualify, but they are assessed for the need. He explained the NDE complaint was that there was no time table in writing on when to perform the assessment. CCSD had been following the IDEA time table, although it was never in writing. They followed comprehensive assessment dates set forth in the NAC and IDEA, aligned with the FAPE standard.

Public Comment: Ms. Benton questioned that documents state that Option A will discontinue in 2015-2016.

Mr. Harley responded that the district is always looking for better ways to improve service delivery.

Public Comment: Joe noted a UCLA study comparing special education services to early intensive behavioral treatment based services conducted by a federally funded research project, Central Valley Autism Project. He is concerned about the criteria to get into the IIS. He used the achievements of an audience member as an example of the benefits of the continuity of the home based program.

Mr. Harley urged the importance of the community to raise the issues and make their concerns heard at board meetings, and that the District always welcomes discussion. Ms. Crandy was grateful for the services provided but would like to see more children being able to access the program. He mentioned the lack of services for and the work to help Spanish speaking children, especially the undocumented immigrants.

Public Comment: John Paul Saunders asked if the programs going to be supervised by board certified behavioral analysts which align with best practices.

Mr. Harley answered with a nationwide shortage of certified and licensed teachers in the area of autism, CCSD is partnering with UNLV to provide intensive training to licensed teachers, and CCSD annually recruits for teachers. He expressed the difficulties teachers are having communicating with parents and lack of civility. Although there has been improvement, Mr. Harley pleaded with parents to understand that everyone has their child's best interest in mind. Ms. Crandy noted untrained aides and lack of help in the classroom also contribute to teachers leaving.

Ms. Crandy asked if teachers with the autism endorsement get paid a stipend. Mr. Harley did not know. Ms. Crandy said it will need to be looked into.

Public Comment: Mr. Saunders offered if Option B will not be using certified credentialed behavioral analysts, then parents need to be provided Option A so that parents can use outside providers who are certified. He asked if supervisors are certified behavioral analysts.

Mr. Harley responded the state has different criteria and are authorized to use District staff as supervisors, and substitute licensed teachers, not endorsed in the area of autism but who have been intensely trained. The District attempts to employ best practices but it's not mandated under the NAC or the IDEA, but still try to employ the best staff.

Mr. Harley is willing to come and talk with the Commission anytime and anywhere. Ms. Crandy reiterated her appreciation of the home based program and desire to keep the program.

Public Comment: Valerie Soto expressed her frustration with her IEP team's decision to reduce the hours for her 2 children provided in Option A. She remarked on her son's diminished communication skills since the transition, and noted research states the diminished hours would have negative effects on communication level.

Public Comment: Gordon Gilbert stated parents new to Las Vegas should know prior to an IEP meeting what services are available. He suggested creating a single point of contact or a list of programs for which children might be qualified.

Public Comment: Greg Ivie, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, gave background on why the complaint was filed. Legal Aid challenged the home based program being outside the scope of FAPE. He suggested the program is being cut because of the complaint. Mr. Ivie noted that the CAP notes by 2015 – 2016 all services will be provided in the school.

Mr. Harley reiterated that the District will always be looking for better ways to provide services. He was saddened that some parents were not informed about the programs available.

Public Comment: Mr. Ivie did not believe that the number of children receiving services, about 2%, is comparable to the greater number that would qualify if they had known about the service. With respect to the two options, he consulted with a tax attorney, the district's general counsel and assistant general counsel who agreed that using the 3<sup>rd</sup> party payer exposed parents to the liabilities of being employers.

Mr. Harley reiterated that parents have always had the responsibility of employers since they hired their own providers and tutors.

Ms. Crandy questioned whether the program was provided by FAPE and by the school district if the parents should have the responsibility of employers.

Public Comment: Mr. Ivie implored the district to keep the home based program and make it an equitable program.

Mr. Harley asked that all suggestions be sent to the district for consideration to the attention of the Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services, Kristine Minnich and copy the Superintendent.

Public Comment: Anne Drew, Legal Aid Center, commented on the lack of response from the school district over two years prior to the filed complaint.

Mr. Harley provided his phone number: 702-799-1020 to those who would like to contact him.

#### **4. Update from Nevada Early Intervention Services and Part C**

Julie Kotchevar, NEIS Director

Ms. Kotchevar stated all wait lists for EIS have been eliminated except for Las Vegas which has a list with 30 children waiting longer than 30 days for services. Autism teams have been created to improve diagnosis and identification of children. One hundred EIS staff members will be attending a second round of ADOS module training in Las Vegas and Reno. Staff attended a conference on children with autism and infant feeding issues. She explained the benefit of EIS's the statewide use of the new M-CHAT-R/F, which is being used by the community partners.

Ms. Kotchevar commented on the information provided by Part C. (See Attachment F.) She noted that the number 69 represents new diagnoses but year to date 155 children were diagnosed. She clarified that the data provided in the Governor's report was the August report which covered the previous year. The handout covers Nov. 2013 to February 28<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 40 children being served and 115 have exited.

Ms. Kotchevar explained that EIS is hoping by using M-CHAT-R/F to be better able to differentiate children with failed screenings which have nothing to do with autism from those children who need to get to ADOS sooner.

Ms. Kotchevar clarified that some of the children could be duplicated in the screening data, as the data notes each time a child was screened. She explained that if pediatricians and developmental specialists are aware that a failed screening is due to autism, the child will be referred to ADOS; they are not required to wait for two failed screenings. Ms. Crandy stated that Clark County School District reported that 565 children under the age of three have an eligibility of autism.

There are increased numbers of referrals than in the past, due to increased awareness of ATAP.

If Medicaid was available for children with ADA, this would be of help. Planning for next biannual budget. Intake process – there is a need to help families with process and what their concerns are. Staff to manage intake process needed, double of original projections. Clinical expertise needed for behavioral plans as a consultant. To address the demand, families will not be satisfied with a wait list. Looking for realistic ways to help families while waiting needs to be addressed. There is a shortage of interventionist which has not been addressed. Goal- The comprehensive percentage would be doubled.

**A motion to target 70% of children to be in the comprehensive plan, with budget going towards that goal.**

**Motion: Mary Liveratti**

A discussion followed regarding budget.

A revised motion was presented ADSD projects caseload budget at 70% of kids going forward on the comprehensive plan.

**Second: Keri Altig**

**Action: Passed**

Proposals to be presented at the next meeting. Plan to include plan/areas/ roles and a time frame. Would like to involve adult's community living/ parents/ self-advocates/representatives from other state agencies. It was suggested to have a public meeting involving just this topic something like a public workshop. Would like to put together work groups to focus on certain issues and start working right away. Would like to look at some dates within the next 3 weeks and have a public meeting set up. Mark has some proposal ideas and structure for the next meeting. Would like to bring in experts from other states for input. Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> @9:30 was agreed on for Public Workshop for Five Year Strategic Plan. Funding will be discussed. Volunteers will be needed to begin with to staff. Would like Jane Gruner to attend.

Public Comment- Please keep those that live in rural areas in mind

Critically important to have the endorsement. Final decision in the works. Committees are meeting right now. Washoe County has not yet voted. More information will be gathered before final decisions are made. There will be a future vote on any changes.

**5. Discussion and recommendations regarding the timeframe between failed screens, diagnosis and access to evidence-based treatment for children with Autism currently served by Nevada Early Intervention.**

Agenda Item Not Discussed

**6. Commission work on 5-year Strategic Plan**

May include public comment from advocates and experts from the community.

Agenda Item Not Discussed

**8. Discussion of ABA coverage under insurance mandate and Medicaid.**

Agenda Item Not Discussed.

**10. \*Discussion of Autism Endorsement for Teacher Licensure**

Agenda Item Not Discussed

**Adjournment**

This is a public meeting being held in conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law

AGENDA POSTING LOCATIONS

NV DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES– 4126 Technology Way, Carson City

NEVADA STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES - 100 Stewart Street, Carson City

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT (WCHD) - 9th and Wells, Reno

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT (SNHD) - 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas

NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES – 1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Ste 102, Elko

GRANT SAWYER BUILDING, 555 E. Washington, Las Vegas

ELKO COUNTY LIBRARY - 720 Court Street, Elko

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting to notify Angela Friedman, in writing at DHHS, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706 or by calling (775) 684-4000 no later than March 13, 2014.

Persons who wish to be placed on a mailing list to receive copies of meeting notices must submit a written request to Angela Friedman, in writing at DHHS, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706. A request for notice lapses six months after it is made.