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### MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: January 17, 2019  
4:00 p.m.

Las Vegas: DRC/ATAP  
1391 S. Jones Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 4:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Korri Ward, Ms. Ostrovsky, Ms. Dean

A quorum was declared.

#### **Approval of the Minutes from the December 17, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Tache gave a quick announcement for the Legislative Commission budget Sub-Committee hearing coming up. Post Legislative session they do have meetings on the proposed budgets before going in to session. Ms. Tache advised this was coming up on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am, in the south, at the Grand Sawyer building room 4401 and in Carson, the Legislative building, room 4100. Ms. Tache

believes it's important to have Providers, educators and families available to be there to show support.

Ms. Portnell missed last meeting due to a death in the family and just want to let everyone know that she's been checking and there are no new bills with information, but she should have more information in February and will send it out then.

Ms. Ostrovsky piggy backed off what Ms. Tache said. A lot of the non-profits are trying to get people to testify at the hearing. It is important for everyone to make it to this hearing.

Mr. Cohen said that there are a few bills with updates and asked Ms. Portnell and Dr. Gaspar de Alba if he should speak on them now, or wait until the appropriate agenda item?

Ms. Portnell and Dr. Gaspar de Alba answered to wait until the Legislative update.

Mr. Cohen asked Ms. Ellis if this Conference line was available to others?

Ms. Ellis answered, she didn't believe it was, that it was ATAP's conference line, but she can confirm.

## **Discuss Subcommittee Report**

### **Funding and Insurance**

Ms. Tache said that they had a great meeting the other day and heard from some of the Managed Care Organizations, which is one part of Medicaid that they haven't been able to get communication from them and ask questions. So, everyone understands, there's three Managed Care Organizations that serve kids with Medicaid if they're not doing Fee For Service. Ms. Tache stated that the thing they have been trying to figure out is what their number are. If they're servicing 80% of our state, why are families still not being served? So, the sub-committee heard from Anthem, Silver Summit and HPN. She advised that it was very interesting that the numbers are still not lining up, so there are still some questions. For example: Anthem has 96,000 eligible children enrolled in youth with services, that they didn't know how many of them was diagnosed with ASD. The sub-committee is getting this information from them because they said out of the 96,000, they're only serving 21 kids getting ABA services, which is concerning.

Ms. Tache gave another example, this time with Silver Summit: They have 111 kids enrolled and diagnosed with ASD in their business and only 6 are receiving treatments. Silver Summit has 9 Providers in the South enrolled and 3 in the North. This is the first time anyone has ever asked about this information, so Ms. Tache is accepting all questions from anyone who has them.

Ms. Tache stated that HPN was the largest one, with bigger numbers. HPN has 14,000 claims, 401 referred for Autism related, and 193 members receive services. The sub-committee asked each MCO what the time line is to get the service to the Provider getting paid and they found out that the time frame is not that long, which

were under 30 days as long as they're submitting paperwork timely and following up. Some barriers that they talked about were reaching out to Provider's, who first have to be Medicaid FFS licensed first, then can accept Managed Care. Each MCO said they're very proactive to talk to the Providers and work with the Providers They're trying to have dedicated staff that will contact parents with new diagnoses, which the current number is off, and the goal is to find out why this is happening. Ms. Tache stated that there's a problem here in Nevada with older youth/young adults getting services, meaning that a lot of Providers do not take certain insurances, and Providers that do accept these insurances, there's a huge waiting list. Through the day Autism court as well, a lot of the older kids that didn't have early intervention, are falling through the cracks, which is a serious problem. Ms. Tache is unsure if this is something their committee would address, or if the Workforce committee would address, but suggests that a committee should look into this.

Ms. Dean asked Ms. Tache if the MCO's had any information as far as invoices being returned to Providers if something wasn't done correctly?

Ms. Tache said that they didn't address that, and she can ask about this; however, sometimes the Providers are not submitting the claims in a timely matter, which delays it.

Ms. Dean asked about the numbers given for each MCO's, and what the problem is and why the they're so low?

Ms. Tache answered that she believes part of the problem is Silver Summit only having 9 Providers in the South and 3 up North which causes waitlists. Another thing that was brought up, is that the MCO's contract their own rate, so they can negotiate a higher rate, but the Providers must be Medicaid FFS before they can accept the MCO's.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if they talked about getting contracted with any more Providers?

Ms. Tache answered that they said they reach out to stakeholders personally and hold quarterly meetings that Providers can come to, to educate them.

Ms. Dean asked if they were able to speak to any of the MCO's about why the time decreases at a certain age?

Ms. Tache said that they didn't ask that and that is a great question to ask. Ms. Tache didn't know if this was a Provider issue or a Medicaid issue.

## **ATAP Update**

Ms. Jayme stated that yesterday's Sub-committee meeting was very productive with the MCO's and something she wanted to add was that ATAP have been

sending the MCO's monthly lists with referrals, and the MCO's respond back about their outreach to them. One of the biggest barriers that they're seeing is Providers enrolling in the Managed Care, so ATAP's going to use the contacts that Ms. Tache used on the sub-committee yesterday to present at one of ATAP's Provider meetings. Ms. Jayme mentioned that they just hosted a Providers meeting this morning and Jamie Hutchison from Medicaid joined them and gave an update. ATAP will look in to having the MCO's at their next Providers meeting to present that information. The Provider meeting this morning was very productive. Providers were talking and sharing their concerns and what's working for them, as well as connecting with other Providers. Ms. Jayme feels like they're starting to move in a positive way with the connection piece. ATAP will be sharing their provider lists every other month at the Provider meeting so that the Providers can connect with each other more to create that positive collaborative community, so that if one Provider can not accept someone, another one can.

Ms. Jayme did provide a presentation that was posted to the website but apologizes because the numbers are from November. One thing she would like to highlight is the RBT's; as of December, they were at 617 and continuing to grow with Registered Behavior Technicians as well as Consultants. Ms. Jayme mentioned a lot of providers reaching out to get in network with ATAP which brings ATAP to have almost 50 Providers statewide. Most Providers are in Southern Nevada, but ATAP is currently doing some outreach in the Northern and Rural areas, as well as right outside of Nevada, to try and get some over. Ms. Jayme said that they're currently working with Early Intervention, so instead of a child that is referred to ATAP from Early Intervention and going on our waitlist, ATAP will be starting them right away by assigning them a Developmental Specialist to provide case management. ATAP is hoping by starting these kids earlier, the need will not be as great when they get older. ATAP is also in the process of starting new children, now that all their Providers are direct billing Medicaid. ATAP is also opening Developmental Specialist positions, so if anyone knows anyone who is interested, please reach out to Ms. Jayme. ATAP will be hiring in all offices; 1 in Carson City, 1 in Reno, 1 in Elko and 3 in Las Vegas. Overall, ATAP is very excited about the growth, getting new Providers and to start new kids.

In February, the first ATAP newsletter will be going out. This will be a general newsletter, with ATAP information and they will tailor the newsletter for each region. Ms. Jayme asked for anyone wanting to provide information, to please reach out to Ms. Ellis so they can get that in their newsletters as well.

Ms. Jayme touched on the Insurance Assistance Plan and special considerations. ATAP has received some special considerations and are currently working with Providers. There was a little miss-communication at the beginning where Providers were sending ATAP an estimate and then sending the families a different one, so they're currently working to finalize these details. Ms. Jayme advised that there are a couple that ATAP will be approving for the special consideration, and ATAP has also been working with their Quality Assurance team through the Aging and Disability Services, to develop that audit on the back end to really see how those dollars are being spent.

Ms. Jayme ended her presentation by advising that ATAP is really listening to the community in trying to make changes that are impactful in a positive way.

Ms. Partos asked for numbers of submissions for the special consideration?

Ms. Jayme answered that there were currently 5 applications. She has had a couple parents call and ask for more information, but 5 full applications were submitted total. Two applications ATAP is working with their Providers to get more details on the estimate, then can approve. One has Managed Care, so ATAP is currently working with them to find them a Provider that accepts their private insurance. One applicant's income was too high unfortunately, so ATAP is working with them to help transition them out. There's another family were ATAP is looking at an insurance issue to see if the Provider did a Prior Authorization for that and once it's figured out, they're able to move forward. ATAP is working closely with Providers to see what barriers they're running in to with the insurance companies. A Provider even mentioned a problem over the Provider meeting this morning with the new codes and insurance companies not being clear of their rates. So, providers are going to start sending documentation of what they're billing insurance, that way ATAP has it for auditing purposes and aware of what the rates they are billing. ATAP is grateful for Providers trying to get in network with insurances to help their clients and willing to work with them.

Ms. Partos asked if families are having issues with the timeline given to submit paperwork for the special consideration?

Ms. Jayme said that families are getting their information in very fast. All five applications were submitted before the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and what the delay seems to be is the Providers submitting the estimates, so working with the insurance companies and getting that PA approved, which in order to do services, the PA needs to be approved. So, Ms. Jayme believes this is what is causing the delay. PA and treatment plans are required before ATAP can commit to pay any additional funds outside of the \$500.

Ms. Ward mentioned receiving calls from parents asking for iPads and asked if ATAP provides funding for this?

Ms. Jayme answered, that at this time, ATAP does not have iPads written in to the budget for this fiscal year, but they still do have Protocol gift cards left over. So, if some of the non-profits are providing those iPads, ATAP is still providing those gift cards. One of the things ATAP tried to do is reach out to see if they can make their app Android acceptable too, which would reduce the cost if they had a contract with Apple.

Ms. Dean advised that there are apps that work off Android, especially for kids in the school district, by contact the IT Consortium, which has a linking library. They also do assessments for the school districts, because part of it is State funded.

Ms. Jayme asked Ms. Dean to please forward that information to her.

## NEIS Update

Ms. Julie Steadman is reporting data from July 2018 – December 2018.

### Screener Information:

Total Number of Initial Screeners completed: South Region =1049, NW Region= 519, NE Region = 70, Statewide = 1638

Total Number of 18M Failed screeners: South Region = 139, NW Region = 48, NE Region = 3, Statewide = 190

Total Number of 24M Failed screeners: South Region = 186, NW Region = 62, NE Region = 3, Statewide = 251

Total Number of 'other' Failed screeners: South Region = 70, NW Region = 16, NE Region = 2, Statewide = 88

Total Declined M-Chats: South Region = 12, NW Region = 7, NE Region = 3, Statewide = 22

### Reasons for Failed Screenings:

Total Global Delays: South Region = 127, NW Region = 19, NE Region = 3, Statewide = 149

Another Diagnosis total: South Region = 35, NW Region = 16, NE Region = 1, Statewide = 52

Total Autism Concerns: South Region = 174, NW Region = 82, NE Region = 1, Statewide = 257

Total Behavior Concerns: South Region = 36, NW Region = 0, NE Region = 2, Statewide = 38

Total Social/Emotional Concerns: South Region = 4, NW Region = 2, NE Region = 0, Statewide = 6

Other: South Region = 15, NW Region = 6, NE Region = 1, Statewide = 22

### Diagnosis:

Total Diagnosed FY19: South Region = 81, NW Region = 31, NE Region = 5, Statewide = 117

Total Average Age at time of Diagnosis (months): South Region = 31, NW Region = 29, NE Region = 31, Statewide = 30

Total Children Pending Diagnosis: South Region = 48, NW Region = 10, NE Region = 0, Statewide = 58

Total Children waiting for Assessments: South Region = 38, NW Region = 18, NE Region = 0, Statewide = 56

Total Children waiting for Assessments (Not yet scheduled): South Region = 42, NW Region = 20, NE Region = 0, Statewide = 62

Ms. Steadman advised that this was all to report.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if NEIS has a waitlist or how long does it take to get screened?

Ms. Steadman answered that the screening, they do not have a waitlist for and is completed at 18 and 24 months.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked to see what the numbers are for those who are actually receiving services.

Ms. Steadman did not have this information and will follow up on this.

Ms. Dean mentioned, back in October that the Commission asked for some data concerning that same information, once they receive diagnosis, what are the services that they are receiving before entering the school districts? Ms. Dean asked if she happen to have this information?

Ms. Steadman did not have this information but will follow up on this as well.

### **Report the progress in moving Commission into Statute**

Ms. Partos stated that she did not have any additional information at this time about specific language, but it will be important if people support this to make sure that they're letting their Representative know.

Ms. Ostrovsky wanted to remind everyone that they can always go to the Nevada Legislature website which has a link that will take you to NELIS and you can have personalized legislative tracking up to 10 bills through session. Ms. Ostrovsky suggests everyone to take advantage of the resources our state provides. As soon as they have something in writing, they will give an update, but nothing yet on any of the bills.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Renee Portnell stated that the person before her said most of it. Ms. Portnell confirmed that on the Legislature website you can follow up to 10 bills for free. Ms. Portnell advised that there has not been any changes or updates right now but hoping they will kick in next month.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Hutchison with Nevada Medicaid made one quick announcement: She spoke this morning at the ATAP Provider meeting and announced the Nevada Medicaid is working on removing the Prior Authorizations for ABA Services, Ms. Hutchison reached out to a couple of Providers directly, but Medicaid is also having a public workshop on February 12<sup>th</sup>, to go over what this is going to look like and get some further feedback from Providers. Ms. Hutchison is very excited for this change and it is really going to remove a huge barrier for services and to put the focus back on these kiddos who need ABA Services.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked that we all have a coordinately effort in supporting services on rates and things that will provide access and better services to children and adults with Autism.

Ms. Portnell suggested for parents and self-advocates to reach out to the Governors office on a personal note and let them know what you must deal with daily to help with this.

Ms. Suzan Anderson would like to bring up and look at is families are not getting access to therapy, as mentioned early, a lot of families are diagnosed but not accessing the services and it's not because of the income, but because of the cost to utilize their insurance. Ms. Anderson has spoken with a lot of families and she is actually the family that Ms. Jayme is referring to for being taken out because of income and now her families is faced with her son losing services completely, unless she can pay out of pocket now for all the services. Ms. Anderson believes that there's a lot of families out there that have diagnosis but can not pay their financial deductible, which she thought ATAP was there to help with, but she believes it should be something that needs to be looked at. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she is doing everything she can as a parent to get more Legislative funding, but any direction given will be greatly appreciated. Ms. Anderson says the reason for only being four other families that submitted for special consideration is because of the situation that her family is in, which if they show their complete income, they can be forced out of the program also.

Ms. Bailey Bortolin has been working as a full-time lobbyist for the session and wanted to point out a few things on Managed Care and the data that was received in the sub-committee meeting is a fire and concerning. Ms. Bortolin stated that they've been trying to get this data for a long time. The difference between a normal health care and Managed Care is that those companies said they can and will provide the services and have a legal obligation to do so. Not having the Providers is not an acceptable answer and they would need to forfeit the contract, or the State would need to pull the contract and give it to somebody who can provide the services. Medicaid Managed Care should be services about 2,550 kids with ABA and the fact that they're servicing about 30, is a big problem. Ms. Bortolin thinks we need to continue to ask our legislatures to bring Managed Care in front of us and get some more data about why this program isn't working. Ms. Bortolin plans to have Legislatures bring in Managed Care and answer some questions on the record.

### **Confirm Dates for Future Commission Meetings (for possible Action)**

The Committee decided their next three meetings would be on February 6, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., February 21, 2019 at 4:00 pm and March 7, 2019 at 4:00 pm. Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the dates and times of the next meeting. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.



**Public Comment**

Ms. Portnell advised she will give the Commission members all the Legislative information before those three dates and will send them to Ms. Ellis.

**Adjournment**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.