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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: October 13, 2020 4:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Commission members will be attending telephonically and via Microsoft TEAMS. Members of the public will also participate via teleconference

Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Lozano called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 4:01 pm.

Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Lenise Kryk, Korri Ward, Julie Ostrovsky, Antonina Capurro

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 29, 2020 Meeting (For Possible Action)

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

Workgroup Updates to Include Discussion and Possible Approval of Strategies Addressing the Lifespan of People Diagnosed with Autism (for possible action)

Ms. Kryk updated everyone on the Insurance and Funding workgroup. On the Medicaid side, they're hoping to hear from a representative from Medicaid today to answer the last of their questions for the commission to decide if they would like to move forward with the Medicaid part (try to get the 6% back or possibly changing the rate).

Ms. Ostrovsky would like to try and find out any numbers for the Medicaid budget. She suggests taking all the data collected from the workgroup to keep Autism in the heart of our legislators. Ms. Ostrovsky does not believe the RBT numbers are important right now but may be helpful for the report the commission will be submitting.

Ms. Kryk mentioned that ATAP has been very helpful with explaining NRS vs policies. There are a couple 'hot topics' this workgroup would like to present to this commission to look at, to ensure efficiency and they are hoping to get some more information with the ATAP presentation in today's meeting. Another thing discussed with ATAP is a possible vocational program. Yes, they go to DRC when they are 19 years old, but what about prior to that, since that is such a long window.

Ms. Ward gave an update for the adult side of the Insurance and Funding workgroup. Ms. Ward stated that she has been advocating legislators since 2007, where they were moving forward to getting insurance to pay for Autism treatment. Then in 2009 it went through but had a cap on age and a cap on the amount. Now, with the passing of the Mental Health Parity could come no age cap and no cap for what can be billed. Ms. Ward mentioned that this workgroup has been looking at what other states have been doing. This workgroup collected the following data: A lot of states have been treating adults and making recommendations to improve their treatment protocols for adults. Ms. Ward would like to ask the commission if they can seek out legislators to ask them to remove that cap in the NRS, as it conflicts with the Mental Health Parity, which says autism treatment should have no age limit or funding caps.

Ms. Capurro thinks there could be an opportunity to clean this language up. She not sure if it would be the LCB or input from another division that can guide us.

Ms. Ostrovsky is going to research and see if this fits in any proposed bills.

Ms. Ward will assist Ms. Ostrovsky with the research.

Ms. Capurro made a motion to investigate the age cap and maximum benefit cap listed in NRS689A section 0435. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Capurro updated everyone on the Workforce workgroup. They have not met since the commission last met, as they are waiting for the presentations in this meeting to gain more information before meeting again.

Ms. Lozano stated she was able to meet with the Nevada Department of Education, who is researching some items for the commission, such as: Number of teachers that have autism and general endorsement in Nevada, number of teachers that are working on their autism endorsement for options and programs, students in post high school graduate programs that have autism as their primary and secondary eligibility. This information will be for Clark/Washoe/Rural area. Ms. Lozano mentioned that they can present this information if the commission would like them to at a future meeting.

Legislative Updates to Include General Discussion and Approval of Commission Strategies to Introduce or Propose Legislative Recommendations to Legislators (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky stated that there are about seven legislators that have BDR's that are titled with something in healthcare. Senator Ohrenschall has a Medicaid healthcare bill. Senator Gansert has BDR154, workforce development. Ms. Ostrovsky suggests the commission to reach out to these legislators to possibly be a part of a bill. Ms. Ostrovsky is still communicating and receiving information.

Approval of Topics for the Biennium Report to the Governor Office (Make recommendations / For Possible Action)

Ms. Lozano would like to add the following: How the commission was out of service for over a year and now meeting twice a month, recruitment letter that the commission worked on, update on the delay on filling the vacant seats on the commission, letter to DHHS for the effects of the reimbursement reductions of 6% for Medicaid providers, goals and highlights for both of the current workgroups, reports on ATAP/NEIS/ABA provider/Nevada Department of Education numbers.

Ms. Ostrovsky thinks this should not only be an update but be a call for action for the Governor. Talk about and go into detail about the impact to our community by the Medicaid rates and what that means to a certain population in our community.

Ms. Jayme suggested for the commission to gather all specific questions needed for the report to each agency, so the agencies can provide that data in a timely manner.

Ms. Kryk mentioned including the following: Updated information from Medicaid/NEIS/ATAP/DRC/Regional Centers, data from the audit, any movement on legislation letters that that commission is supporting.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to include the following on the Governors report: How the commission was out of service for over a year and now meeting twice a month, recruitment letter that the commission worked on, update on the delay on filling the vacant seats on the commission, letter to DHHS on the effects of the reimbursement reductions of 6% for Medicaid providers (go into detail on the affect it has in our community), goals and highlights for both of the current workgroups, updated information on Medicaid/DRC/Regional Centers/ATAP/NEIS/ABA provider/Nevada Department of Education numbers. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Presentation from Clark County School District on Reopening Plan Regarding Supports for Students with Autism Workgroup Updates

Ms. Sly, the director of LINKS and her administrative team shared and went over a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation can be found online on the ADSD website.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked how many teachers have reached out for help?

The LINKS team answered, 162 service request – a combination of student and teacher support. About 146 that are teachers. The LINKS team also has office hours, so the teachers can pop in during office hours as well, without doing a service request.

Ms. Kryk asked - How does the dynamics work as far as an aide supporting a teacher?

Ms. Coyne answered that they have been working closely with teachers, support staff and parents to help parents understand the technicalities of Applied Behavior Analysis. Through the center, they have been working with families directly and teaching them how they can best support their child at home. Then through consultation with classroom teachers, they have been discussing with them how they can help their parents with guidance. These are ways to help since there is not a physical person from the school district at their homes and everything is virtual. The best thing they can do is educate the parents.

Ms. Kryk asked - As far as trainings, do you have BCBA's to do these? How many BCBA's do you have to support these children?

The LINKS team answered that they contact with autism partnership and they provide ongoing training for the LINKS staff as well as mentoring and coaching.

Ms. Barber answered that several of their staff have their BCBA, but as far as the trainings, that comes from the partnership.

Ms. Sly stated that CCSD does not employ BCBA's, there are just several staff members who decided to obtain that, but they are highly trained in autism with the autism partnership.

Ms. Kryk stated they have done an amazing job supporting and she and the community are grateful.

Medicaid Updates to Include Discussion of Service Utilization of ABA Services

Ms. Follet has the data she provided the commission with last time and she understands there are some questions on that. As far as the 6% reduction update, Ms. Follet said it was submitted to CMS and Medicaid is working with CMS to finalize all that. The only data Ms. Follet has is the data that she provided the commission last time with one more spreadsheet with provider data. If there are any other questions, Ms. Follet will have to note them and get back to the commission once she finds the answers.

Ms. Kryk asked about the ABA providers and how many clients each provider is serving and an average of the waitlist?

Ms. Follet answered that Medicaid does not maintain a waitlist for providers. Ms. Follet shared the following data on her chart: Total FFS providers is 378 Total MCO providers is 203. (These numbers are all combined – groups and individuals). She can try and get this ran differently for a clearer understanding and back before the commissions next meeting. Ms. Follet asked the commission to continue emailing over detailed questions they need answered but just wants them to know it does take some time to retrieve Medicaid data.

Ms. Kryk will re-email over the first set of questions that were emailed to Medicaid but will remove the questions that have already been answered.

ATAP Presentation

Ms. Jayme let everyone know that they are still giving data for the audit, as they reached out last week for additional data points. Ms. Jayme does not know when this will be completed.

Ms. Jayme went over a PowerPoint presentation. This presentation can be found online on the ADSD website.

Ms. Jayme did not complete her presentation as the commission members decided to postpone the rest of the presentation for the next meeting because of the time.

Ms. Lozano followed up on the parent that spoke at public comment at the last meeting and asked Ms. Jayme if there is a process that parents can take file a complaint with a provider?

Ms. Jayme answered, yes. If ATAP cannot resolve internally, then ATAP works with the Children Service Quality Assurance team as that neutral party to reach out to the parent and hear their concerns. Then if an audit is needed with the providers services, then QA can come in and take a look.

Discuss and Approve Agenda Items for Future Commission Meetings (For Possible Action)

The next meeting is set to be on October 27, 2020 at 4pm.

The commission members agreed that the agenda items for the next meeting and future meetings should include: Finalized topics for the Biennium Report, ATAP presentation, NEIS presenting, Regional Centers presenting.

Ms. Ward made a motion that the next meeting will be on October 27, 2020 at 4pm the next agenda should include: Finalized topics for the Biennium Report, complete the rest of the ATAP presentation and NEIS presenting and Regional Centers presenting. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 5:50 pm

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