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## MINUTES

**Name of Organization:** Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

**Date and Time of Meeting:** April 15, 2020 12:00 p.m.

**Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Board members attended telephonically.  
Members of the public also participated via teleconference**

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

Ms. Lozano called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:01 pm.

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

A quorum was declared.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **Commission Member Introductions**

**Trisha Lozano** – Ms. Lozano works for the Washoe County School District as an Instructional Coordinator and oversees special Education programs.

**Antonina Capurro** – Ms. Capurro is the State Dental Health Officer with the Division of Public and Behavior Health and has a son who was diagnosed with Autism when he was three. Ms. Capurro is also a member of the Families for Effective Autism Treatment. Ms. Capurro is excited to meet the members and see what they're able to accomplish together.

**Julie Ostrovsky** – Ms. Ostrovsky had the pleasure of serving on the Commission for several years, and prior to becoming a Commissioner, she was on a sub-committee, where the initial strategic five-year plan was created. Ms. Ostrovsky worked with Legislation last session. She has a twenty-two-year-old son with Autism and is the volunteer executive director for Autism Community Trust in Southern Nevada. Ms. Ostrovsky believes she is filling the Commission position of a parent with a child with Autism over 18.

**Korri Ward** – Ms. Ward lives in Elko Nevada and believes she is filling the Commission position of Rural Nevada. She had the pleasure helping and developing Autism Treatment in Nevada and was an original member to the Autism task force. Ms. Ward also worked with Ms. Ostrovsky on the Autism Commission board, as well as developing the five-year strategic plan. Ms. Ward was one of the original Autism Treatment Assistance Program Care managers. Ms. Ward has a twenty-six-year-old son with Autism that is non-verbal. Lastly, Ms. Ward has a charity for families affected with Autism in Elko.

**Lenise Kryk** – Ms. Kryk is filling the Commission position of a BCBA. She's been in the field of Autism and ABA for more than eighteen years. Ms. Kryk is currently the Clinical Director for the Lovaas Center in Las Vegas and a Licensed Behavior Analyst. Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Ms. Kryk is excited to serve on the Commission and to be a part of our continued growth in our community.

**Cori More** – Ms. More is a Professor at UNLV and teaches inner Autism programs that help teachers become certified. Ms. More is also a BCBA but is filling in the Commission position as a parent with a child with Autism under 4.

### **Review of Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Statute**

Ms. Samantha Jayme is excited to get this Commission up and running again. Ms. Jayme wants to briefly share the changes in legislation, duties and the overall intent of the Commission. As well how ASD is meant to support the Commission. The Commission was an executive order prior to June and during legislation through SB216 it became a Nevada Statute 427A.8801 and 8802. Ms. Jayme mentioned posting this to the website and getting things updated once things get back to normal, as currently they're telecommuting.

Ms. Jayme advised that there are currently appointments for six of our seven Commission members, with one vacancy for another school district member, so if anyone on the call is interested, it's three-year appointments with annually change of the Chair and Co-Chair. Duties are to meet at least eight times annually. Ms. Jayme suggests setting multiple future dates, as it makes it easier to prepare for meetings and get them posted in a timely matter.

Ms. Jayme advised that Ms. Tiffany Ellis, the Administrative Assistant for the Commission will be going on Maternity leave next week, so Ms. Jayme will be filling in that roll while she's out.

Other duties of the Commission are establishing sub-committees, as there were sub-committees prior and advising and making recommendations to the Governor regarding needs of the Autism community and submitting an annual report to the Governor. Lastly, Ms. Jayme advised that DHCS and ASD programs report to the Commission, for example, Medicaid, the Autism Treatment Assistance Program, the Applied Behavior Analyst board and Nevada Early Intervention Services.

The last thing that came out this last session was the Commission looking at an evaluation and access to an evolution, so an education vs medical model and how we can access for our community moving forward.

## **Review of Bylaws and Open Meeting Laws**

Ms. Linda Anderson represents Health and Human Services within the Aging office and has been doing it for twenty-seven-years.

Ms. Anderson stated that Open Meeting Laws are intended for the public to participate and give notice through agendas about what type of actions will be taking place.

Looking at this agenda, you'll see public comment can be done in the beginning and end of the meetings. Ms. Anderson mentioned how a meeting location is usually needed for all meetings to take place, as well as posting meeting agendas at all State facilities, but due to the current circumstances, COVID-19, these things are not able to be done and agendas are just being posted on the website.

Ms. Ward asked if public comment can be added to certain items, rather than just beginning and end.

Ms. Anderson answered yes, with every action item. It's the preference of the group.

Ms. Anderson brought up a question that comes up a lot: can we have a work group? The answer is, when there are other sub-committees, they must abide by the Open Meeting Laws as well, like agendas, minutes, etc. which tend to slow things down. A suggestion Ms. Anderson made was to try and do the work in this meeting, rather than dividing it up into a lot of sub-committees. Assigning tasks to the individual members, seems to get answers back to the group in a timely matter to discuss in the next meeting.

Ms. Capurro asked if Ms. Anderson can speak on communication with other members before meetings.

Ms. Anderson advised this is the mostly likely law to be violated. You're unable to email or speak about Commission items with any other board members outside of scheduled meetings. The point of these Open Meeting Laws is to include the public. It is encouraged to work in the meetings, rather than communicating through emails and phone calls.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if there's a question the Commission had on a specific agency, who would they contact? The chair, or Ms. Ellis or Ms. Jayme?

Ms. Anderson advised that either the chair or supporting staff, as long as it avoids contacting any other board members.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Lozano how she would like them to submit agenda items?

Ms. Lozano asked Ms. Ellis for recommendations.

Ms. Ellis stated that in the past the Commission added 'Future Agenda Items' to the agenda so that they can be discussed as a group or emailing the chair as well, because the chair has the final review of the agenda before approval.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked about time frames when suggesting agenda items.

Ms. Anderson answered that all agendas must be posted at least by 9am, three working days prior to the scheduled meeting and no further changes are allowed once posted.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if all Commission members will be able to review the agenda prior to posting?

Ms. Anderson answered, no, as this violates the Open Meeting Laws. Therefore, it's best for the chair to be the only one to review. Ms. Anderson advises all members to go through the chair only with any suggestions or concerns.

Ms. Kryk asked what if there are a lot of agenda items the Commission members are sending to the chair, who decides and prioritizes what goes on the agenda?

Ms. Anderson answered, the chair does. Also, as Ms. Ellis stating previously, having an agenda item for all future agenda items, will be beneficial so that all members can discuss as a group and decide together.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if ADSD can cancel meetings or if the Commission can just move forward? She mentioned in the past, they've had meetings cancelled, but not by the Commission.

Ms. Anderson advised that meeting cancellations can happen when the meeting does not have a quorum or location get cancelled.

Ms. Jayme, representing ADSD and ATAP also answered that in the past, there were unique situations where support to the Commission was not available, but she ensures that these unique situations are no longer an issue. As Ms. Ellis is on leave, Ms. Jayme will be the point of contact and has support from other Commission units.

Ms. Anderson provided the members with her contact information for any further questions, [landerson@ag.nv.gov](mailto:landerson@ag.nv.gov) – 702-486-3077.

Ms. Capurro asked if the members can get copies of the Open Meeting Laws and trainings?

Ms. Anderson advised she will send the link to the website to Tiffany to email out.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked what they do about reports to the Governor?

Ms. Anderson answered to check with the Governor's office to see when they want it.

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

The board members would like to meet again in two weeks and would like to discuss some agenda items for the next meeting.

Ms. Capurro would like to add what the objective plan is for the Commission.

Ms. Ostrovsky would like updates with ATAP and NEIS.

Ms. Ward would like to add an update on the Regional Centers.

Ms. Kryk would like to add, what services children are currently accessing now that school is out. Also, with the Governor issuing State cuts during this crisis, she's wondering how this might impact programs that are related to Autism and how they can be a part of some solutions to get access to our kids.

Ms. Ostrovsky would like an updated from the ABA Board as well.

Ms. More, agrees with Ms. Kryk on seeing how families are being impacted with COVID and if there's anything that we should be examining as a board.

Ms. Ellis asked if the members can please email all agenda items to her, so she can put together the agenda for the Chair to prioritize.

Ms. More mentioned how it may be challenging for presenters to put together updated presentations in less than two weeks

Board members agree to schedule another meeting, two more weeks. April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee decided their next three meetings would be on April 29, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and May 13, 2020 at 12:00 pm. Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the dates and times of the next meeting. Ms. Capurro seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Jennifer Thomas stated that she was on the Adult Services Sub-Committee last year and was wondering if the sub-committees were going to be re-authorized.

Ms. Ms. Ostrovsky advised that Ms. Thomas just got that sub-committee up and going, before it ended.

Ms. Jamie Hutchison with Medicaid advised that she would be happy to be added to the next agenda, to share what they're doing during the crisis.

Ms. Cameron from UNLV Autism Center asked if she can be added to the email list. Ms. Ellis provided her email address, [tiffanyellis@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:tiffanyellis@adsd.nv.gov) for anyone who would like to get added.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 12:59 pm