



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: July 21, 2020 1:00 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 1:10 pm.

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

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

Ms. Ostrovsky wanted everyone to know that there was just a Legislative Session and many programs with children and adults with Autism were cut or reduced. So, Ms. Ostrovsky was disappointed the Commission could not send a letter or do something for the group we represent. She suggests calling a Commission meeting in the future when this happens, just to let them know the Commission is here as a resource and do have a voice.

Ms. Caparro agreed with Ms. Ostrovsky and mentioned that ATAP services were cut by five million dollars, Medicaid was cut with 6 percent rate reductions across the board and many more issues that our focused population is dealing with right now. Ms. Caparro thinks the Commission needs to be vocal that we are here and let them know we are going to advocate for them.

Approval of the Minutes from the May 27, 2020 Meeting (For Possible Action)

Ms. Kryk received the minutes from the last two Commission meetings but is missing the ones from April 15th and April 29th.

Ms. Samantha Jayme said she knows they were approved in the previous Commission meetings but will make sure they are posted online for everyone to access.

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

ABA School District Services and ABA Medicaid Billing Codes Updates

Resignation of Commission Member and Make Recommendations on Recruitment Strategy (For Possible Action)

Ms. Lazano thanked Ms. More for her dedication to advocate for individuals with Autism and all her service with the Commission.

Ms. More thanked everyone and said she will continue to advocate from Illinois.

Ms. Kryk confirmed that the Commission now needs two members to fill – 1. A member with a child under 4 years old with Autism. 2. CCSD Committee Member

Ms. Caparro asked what the process is for recruiting new members and how are people notified to apply.

Ms. Ostrovsky said they will need to go to the Governor's website to see if they qualify and then apply like the rest of the members.

Ms. Lazano thinks word of mouth is best and possibly using the Commission Listserv to spread the word.

Ms. Caparro suggests that the Commission puts together a short blurb for people about what the Commission is, how many times the Commission meets and how they can apply through the website. Then, that could be emailed out to Autism organizations, Teachers, etc. Ms. Caparro offered to type up the blurb.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to create a short blurb for the community about what the Commission is and how to apply. Ms. Caparro seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Jayme reminds members that no discussion between Commission members can take place before the meeting. The blurb must be sent to Ms. Abbie first. Ms. Abbie will then email it out BCC to all Commission members. All Commission members will then reply with any feedback/edits to the blurb. Once Ms. Abbie receives all replies, she will then compile all emails into the blurb and email it to Ms. Lazano for finalization. The final blurb will then be an action agenda item on the next Commission meeting for the members approval.

Final Approval on Subcommittees- Members/objectives/ meetings process for getting members (For possible action)

Ms. Lazano states for the Funding and Insurance, there is a motion to approve three objectives for this committee: Medicaid reimbursement rates, ATAP resources and Adult resources.

Ms. Lazano states for the Workforce Development, the Commission did not finish finalizing the objectives. So far, the following were talked about; Increase the number of training programs for Autism therapy Providers in our state, collaborate with other agencies, support individuals throughout their lifespan.

Ms. Lazano shares her concern about having trouble meeting as a Commission and how all Sub-committees follow the same open meeting laws. Where a workgroup does not necessary follow open meeting laws in the structure of the meetings, so meetings can be scheduled more often. Still, no deliberation can happen outside of meetings, but members go out and research, then bring back the information to the group.

Commission members agree with Ms. Lazano in having concerns with forming a Subcommittee just because it has been challenging to meet with this Commission.

All Commission members discussed and compared a subcommittee and a workgroup.

Sub-Committee – Consist of a chair and 2 Commission members but no more than 4 members and 5 non-members. Deliberation can take place but subject to Open Meeting Laws.

Workgroup – Consist of a chair, 2 Commission members and additional community members. Choose topics to research, gather information to bring back to the group. Not to be deliberate without full committee. Commission members are to present to the Commission.

Ms. Ward states the benefit of workgroups are no quorum, scheduling, or open meeting laws.

Ms. Kryk has written down at least four people that are interested in joining subcommittees or just participating in general.

The Commission members decided to go with the workgroup.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to change the Insurance and Funding subcommittee into Insurance and Funding Workgroup, with the objectives of Medicaid reimbursement rates, ATAP resources and Adult resources. Ms. Caparro seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Lazano appointed Ms. Kryk as Chair of the Funding and Insurance Workgroup. Ms. Kryk accepted.

Ms. Ward volunteered to be on the Funding and Insurance with Ms. Kryk.

The Commission discussed the Workforce Development goal is Quantity/quality of staff across Nevada for all Adults and kiddos, with the objectives being: ABA (young and school age) Education (Special Education, ABA in schools), Adults (OT, speech, transition services, living assistance).

When Ms. Ostrovsky thinks of Workforce Development, she thinks of the Commission investing money in going out and finding what programs are out there, helping with recruitment, lobbying for Medicaid rate increases to make sure the workforce wants to be in this.

Ms. Caparro has the same thoughts as Ms. Ostrovsky when it comes to workforce Development: Gathering information/data where there are disparities in our state, where we do not have enough of the workforce and send it off to the Governor's office. Or align it with the Commission strategic plan, where the third goal is expanding the number of quality professionals providing services to individuals with ASD. So, either one of these directions: informational gathering or implementing actual plans and objectives.

Ms. Lazano would like to do both over the time.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to change the Workforce Development subcommittee into Workforce Development Workgroup. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Lazano volunteered to be a member on the Workforce Development workgroup.

Ms. Caparro volunteered to be a member on the Workforce Development workgroup.

Ms. Lazano appointed Ms. Caparro as Chair for the Workforce Development workgroup.

The members discussed and all agreed on the objectives to be the following: Gathering data from across state to determine quantity and quality of workforce for service needs across the lifespan.

Ms. Caparro made a motion for the Workforce Development workgroup objectives to be: Gathering data from across state to determine quantity and quality of workforce for service needs across the lifespan. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Confirm Dates and Agenda items for Future Commission Meetings (For Possible Action)

With the Commission being behind schedule, Ms. Kryk proposed to meet weekly or at the very least every two weeks.

Ms. Abbie made everyone aware that weekly meetings are extremely difficult with Open Meeting Law, securing agenda items and presenters and final approval for agenda to post. She mentioned two weeks being difficult as we have seen, so she suggests two weeks or more.

Ms. Ostrovsky agrees with meeting more frequently, but would like the agencies, such as ATAP and organizations that fall under the legislation, to meet with the Commission.

Ms. Lazano asked Ms. Abbie if she can reach out to ATAP and Medicaid to see when they are availability is.

Ms. Abbie will reach out to them and suggests standing meeting dates.

Ms. Kryk asks if we can get someone from the School district to present to help answer some questions. She also asked if a presenter is unable to make it, can that agenda item be filled so it is not going to waste.

Ms. Abbie answered that agenda items can not be added after the agenda has been approved and posted.

Ms. Caparro suggested in having a standing agenda item so there is always something on the agenda.

The Commission members love this idea and would like to add Workgroup updates as a standing agenda item.

The Committee decided their next meetings would be on August 4, 2020, August 18, 2020, September 1, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Caparro made a motion to accept the dates and times of the next meeting. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to make Workgroup updates a standing agenda item. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

Ms. Kryk does not know what is on the list for requested presentations for upcoming meetings. She is aware of the one that was on the agenda today, but unsure about any other. Ms. Kryk also asked about contacting Ms. Ward, since she is now Chair of the workgroup, she wants to make sure she does not get in trouble and asks if someone can email her the answer.

Ms. Gwen Dwiggins wants to applause the Commission, as she knows how hard and challenging it is. She thanked everyone.

Ms. Ostrovsky said a last good-bye to Cori.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm