



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

Administrative Office
3416 Goni Road, D-132
Carson City, NV 89706

(775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0574
adsd@adsd.nv.gov

ROMAINE GILLILAND
Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders
Adults and Aging Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: September 5, 2014
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Department of Health & Human Services
Director's Office
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, NV 89706

Las Vegas: Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington Avenue
Room 4406
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- I. Mr. Olson called the meeting for the Adults and Aging Subcommittee to order at 12:04 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Olson, Steven Cohen, Korri Ward, Vanessa Fessenden, Renee Portnell

Guests: Jan Crandy, Judy White, Lynette Medina, Adrienne Katchn, Van Hatchell, Janice John, Jessica Foerch, Tom Toronto, Marilee Green

Staff Present: Dale Ann Luzzi, Carol Reitz, Nohemi Montes

A quorum was declared.

- II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item)

Mark Olson asked the committee to read the 128-page Home and Community Based Services document that was sent out to the committee when they have time.

Mr. Olson also shared with the committee a flyer for an upcoming event with Temple Grandin as a keynote speaker.

Mr. Olson also shared information regarding the Els for Autism event that is being held in Las Vegas.

Jan Crandy told the committee that there is going to be a public workshop on September 15. The purpose of the workshop is Medicaid coverage for Applied Behavior Analysis therapy.

III. Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2014 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**
Mark Olson, Chair

Steven Cohen made a motion to pass the minutes as written. Renee Portnell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Calendaring **(For Possible Action)**
Mark Olson, Chair

Mark Olson suggested scheduling the next meetings for September 19th, October 3rd and October 17th at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Olson suggested inviting everyone to attend the September 19th meeting with Lisa Watson from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) who will be facilitating the meeting.

Steven Cohen made a motion to pass the calendaring as scheduled. Renee Portnell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Consumer and Provider Surveys; Other Plan Items **(For Possible Action)**
Mark Olson, Chair

Mr. Olson asked the committee to send the surveys from SEI to all and anyone they knew who could fill out the survey. Korri Ward sent flyers to special education directors in the school districts for the Town Hall meetings.

Mr. Olson had sent out emails for nominations for the key informants for SEI to interview for information on the topics of housing, employment and funding. The nominations were Jane Gruner since she knows about funding; Janice John in Voc Rehab; Ryan Giles Chrysalis Homes for housing since they have experience in multiple states.

Other recommendations from the committee were someone from Disabilities and Advocacy Law Center from Ms. Ward. Mr. Cohen suggested Kelly Guzman from New Vista housing and services; Robin Kincaid from Parents Educating Parents (PEP); Brian Patchett from Easter Seals; Santa Perez from People First and the Arc Chapter.

Jessica Foersche suggested someone from Nevada Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) which is a state-funded agency that does modifications within apartment services. They are Section 8 approved.

Mark asked Ms. Portnell for feedback. Ms. Portnell responded that we need people in group homes that are more dedicated and not have a high turnover.

Alternate interviewees are needed in case individuals that are nominated are not interested or not available. The alternates were Robin Kincaid, Santa Perez and someone from NV HAND, Jack Mayes from the Law Center. Ms. Ward would really like to hear from someone from NV HAND.

Ms. Ward's list of nominations included Robin Williams from Job and Day Training, Aging and Disability Services Division, who has a history with self-directed programs; Jon Sassar from Washoe Legal Services; Karen Branen from Rural School District.

Janice John suggested taking Jane Gruner off the nomination list since she is on the Governor's Executive Order Task Force.

Renee Portnell made a motion to accept nominations. Steven Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Discussion of Solutions for Housing

Tom Toronto, President of Bergen County United Way in New Jersey

Mr. Olson introduced Mr. Toronto and asked him to briefly describe what United Way's role is and to describe their projects. He also asked Mr. Toronto to talk about what problems they've been able to solve and what are the outcomes or issues that they're encountering.

Tom Toronto began by saying they do housing development, which is not typical of United Way, with a particular focus on supportive housing. United Way gets the funding and then gets reimbursement after the fact. They've brought the construction piece in-house. This fall they will have eight projects in construction which include group homes. They're not service providers. Other projects include independent apartments and also have home-ownership projects. They have integrated a housing service coordinator to make sure people know about services available based on the needs and desires of those services.

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Toronto who they serve and what their ranges of challenges are. Mr. Toronto said they serve all with developmental disabilities and they have ranges from 24/7 care for autism, one service provider, one visit a week from a service provider or contract handled by family members. They're currently working on a medical home model

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Toronto what the medical home model meant. Mr. Toronto responded for folks who require nursing care and other equipment to live.

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Toronto in terms of outcome is there a program to become more independent and if they're tracking outcomes. Mr. Toronto responded that Airmount Woods are built so people can live independently. They have seen an attractive reduction in the demand of service provider hours needed.

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Toronto how we could replicate this program in Nevada. Mr. Toronto responded that they made a decision to be real estate developers and not service providers but they are accounting for the service provision. Mr. Olson said they build an attractive product to appeal to general public since everyone knows someone with a disability.

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Toronto if it takes a nonprofit to bring this all together. Mr. Toronto responded yes, but that they behave like a for-profit in terms of how they build. They are mission driven but the project has to make sense economically.

Mr. Olson asked what the wait list for waiver funding for housing support services is in New Jersey. Mr. Toronto answered as many as 8,000 people are on the housing waiting list. He also stated that 1 in 48 have autism, the highest incidence in the country.

Ms. Ward asked what size units is the State Department requiring you to go to. Mr. Toronto answered the State Department is only interested in them building stick building ranch homes or acquiring and renovating stick homes and turning into group homes.

Ms. Judy White asked about the makeup of the units. Mr. Toronto said they built one bedroom plus community room units with downtown amenities. This is where the community interacts with smaller communities. Ms. White also asked if it's a segregated community and if the property manager has a medical background. Mr. Toronto answered the tenants have their own service providers and are segregated based on their disability, just like senior housing.

There were no other questions asked of Mr. Toronto. Mr. Olson recommended visiting ltoventures.org to find out more about Airmount Woods.

Mr. Toronto asked about the Dallas Housing Authority. Mr. Olson suggested he look up CPSH and contact Robin LeoGrande.

VII. Discussion of Solutions for Employment

Janice John, Department of Employment Training and
Rehabilitation (DETR)/Voc Rehab (VR)
Van Hatchell, Extraordinary Ventures (EV)
Marilee Greene, Project Search

Mr. Olson asked Janice John to talk about the state of Voc Rehab.

Ms. Janice John responded there is a 10% increased role in VR and Transition which Nevada has already met.

Mr. Olson asked what transition services meant. Ms. John answered in Nevada transition services would include services to age 24. Mark asked at what age does it begin and Ms. John answered age 16.

Under the new law, work-based experience, counseling, workplace readiness, self-advocacy training, school partnerships are talked about. It's important to look at giving opportunities for experiences in the community.

School districts can't have relationships with sheltered workshops or refer people. Voc Rehab and state Medicaid have cooperative agreements as well as with Regional Centers.

There's lots of movement for federal agencies into different sections. The definitions are clearly outlined for competitive integrated employment and customized employments. There are also changes in supportive employment.

Mr. Olson asked if the new law affects the time of transitioning off support services or changes the nature. Ms. John responded ongoing services when they're really stable wouldn't be closed for 90 days.

Mr. Olson asked Ms. John what kind of funding DETR receives. They receive 75 % federal and 25% state.

Mr. Olson asked what the relationship to bigger organizations might be. Ms. John responded they work with Opportunity Village. They are partnering in Las Vegas with the Station casinos. They're training them in groups of five out of sheltered workshops and working at the casinos. The program is called Internship to Work.

Mr. Olson asked what kind of benefits the interns are receiving. Ms. John answered that they receive at the least minimum wage and work part-time or full-time. They're doing 45 people in a year. High Sierra Industry is doing the same programs in Northern Nevada.

Ms. Crandy asked if they're working with Tesla. Ms. John said they're working with Starbucks right now and other companies. Ms. Crandy asked if

they will be at the table with Tesla and Ms. John responded that would be a great idea.

Ms. Ward asked if Voc Rehab is being trained in the rural areas. Ms. John responded that they have a lot of challenges in the rural areas but they try to get Voc Rehab out in the rurals once a year. Ms. Ward asked if Voc Rehab can collaborate with private health insurance. Ms. John responded in the affirmative that this is a service.

Mr. Olson introduced Van Hatchell, who is managing director of Extraordinary Ventures in North Carolina. Mr. Olson asked him to talk about what they are doing, who they serve, including levels of challenges of individuals and where they get their funding.

Mr. Hatchell represented the following about Extraordinary Ventures: They are a nonprofit with the mission of creating and sustaining small businesses. They have 40 employed that are on the spectrum that are paid. They are a simple portfolio business. They have five businesses which consist of bus cleaning, event center, laundry business, office solutions and their most recent which is a dog-walking business. Their model is they test out to see what works for the employees and then they really invest. They have a 50% increase in the amount and number of employees every year since 2010. They're basically creating a direct line for the consumer.

Mr. Olson asked about outcomes and progression. Mr. Hatchell responded they all start at minimum wage and progress in wage as they progress in task. Mr. Olson asked what the average hours are a week and Mr. Hatchell answered about 20 hours a month for all the employees. The reason they do that is because not everyone is able to come in and work and they may lose their benefits.

Mr. Olson asked if they work with their local Voc Rehab. Mr. Hatchell responded they do.

Mr. Olson asked if they would ever spin off and allow someone on the spectrum to run the business. Mr. Hatchell responded they've done research which says it's hard to keep up and they've failed.

Mr. Olson asked if they're an integrated business and Mr. Hatchell asked what the definition of integrated business is and said not necessarily.

Mr. Olson asked if there's benefits beyond a paycheck. Mr. Hatchell responded they don't provide any other benefits. They give them other benefits which consist of social programs such as movie nights, holiday parties, a day at the lake.

Mr. Olson asked how we can replicate EV in Nevada. Mr. Hatchell responded by getting private donations and getting families to rally around and possibly pay college tuition for their kids to work there. Also treating it like a business from all levels.

Mr. Olson asked if they're self-sustaining from the revenues of the businesses. Mr. Hatchell responded that 70% comes from the businesses but they like to reinvest back into the businesses. They do minor fundraising and donations for the other 30%.

Mr. Olson asked if parents pay a fee and Mr. Hatchell responded that there's no fee for employment.

Mr. Olson introduced Marilee Greene from Project Search and asked her to describe the program and her relationship to it. Ms. Greene responded her son went through the program two years ago and now she sits on the steering committee as a parent representative. Project Search is located at UMC and the goal of the program is to find competitive employment in an integrated setting. This is the third year of the program with seven students. The goal is to have 18-20 students and they don't have enough students.

Mr. Olson asked how many of the people that have been through the program have full-time jobs either within UMC or other locations. Ms. Greene responded there were seven graduates last year and as of now they're all employed. None of these graduates are hired by UMC.

Mr. Olson asked Ms. Greene to describe what kind of work they are doing and how long before they can get transition. Ms. Greene responded they would go through three 10-week rotations. They leave once they are ready and have worked at different sections of the hospital.

Mr. Olson asked at what age do they have to be in order to get involved. Ms. Greene responded they have to have an IEP and be from age 17 to 22.

Mr. Olson asked Ms. John if Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is part of this. Ms. John responded that it starts with the school district and they need to find locations.

Ms. Greene asked everyone to get the word out about the program.

Ms. Ward asked how families can find out about Project Search. Ms. Greene responded they can google "Project Search" or she will put you in touch with Melissa Peg from Clark County School District (CCSD).

Mr. Olson asked Ms. John where they are with staffing in Voc Rehab. Ms. John responded that they struggle with counselors in the south. Rural and north are fully staffed.

Mr. Olson asked what their average caseload was and Ms. John responded they are at 70 to 80. Their numbers are down. New teachers don't know about them.

Mr. Olson asked if they're able to fill their vacancies with people with disabilities. Ms. John responded they have talked about it but they still need to meet the qualifications. Mr. Olson asked if there's any training and Ms. John responded that there would be training. Their counselors are at a master's level.

VIII. Discussion of Funding and Case Management

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

IX. Discussion of Professional Services and Workforce Development

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

X. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide secretary with written comments.)

There was no public comment

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.