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### MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Funding and Insurance Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: January 15, 2019  
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Aging and Disability Service Division  
3427 Goni Rd. #102  
Carson City, NV 89706

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

Ms. Tache called the meeting for the Funding and Insurance Subcommittee to order 12:03 p.m.

**Members Present:** Lynda Tache, Gwynne Partos, Diane Thorkildson,  
Stephanie Christensen

A quorum was declared.

#### **Approval of the Minutes from the December 18, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Thorkildson made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Tache seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **Legislative updates**

Ms. Tache stated how Ms. Bailey Bortolin has been great as a State wide advocacy lobbyist for Autism and other special needs.

Ms. Tache gave two bill updates: BDR33, which is going to create the Commission in to law and is looking to make this commission statue. Another one is BDR680, and this is to address the increase in RBT rate to help build workforce. Ms. Tache wants everyone aware of these two important bills.

Ms. Tache just found out that the budget sub-committee meeting will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am. If you're down South, it will be at the Grand Sawyer Building and up North, at the Legislative office in Carson City in room 4100. Ms. Tache suggests parents and providers to go in person and sign in, so it shows on record the support.

### **Insurance Assistance Plan Update**

Ms. Jayme has provided a power point presentation that has been posted to the website.

One thing ATAP has been doing is making sure all clients are going to the appropriate provider. ATAP currently has almost 50 Providers in the State and a few more coming in that will be accepting Medicaid, which is great. Ms. Jayme mentioned ATAP is also looking at ways to do more outreach, more in the North areas.

Ms. Jayme will be excited to present the January/February numbers, because ATAP will then be starting more children off the waitlist, as well as hiring more staff with ATAP to help provided services.

ATAP meets with Medicaid regularly to help with their outreach as they are helping with ATAP's, to insure Providers are enrolling in Medicaid and ATAP has also been working with MCO's as well. ATAP has a Developmental Specialist working with each of the Managed Care Organizations directly, to help problem solve as things come up as Case Management.

Ms. Jayme mentioned that ATAP's caseload has gone down in November/December, due to the holidays, but will be coming back up here in January/February.

Ms. Jayme stated, one thing with the Insurance Assistance Plan that ATAP is being mindful of is making sure that their plan types fit their needs and that their Provider is in network with the insurance. There's going to be some shifting, frustration and can possible cause some gaps in services, but once they shift in the right way, they're going to be able to maximize it. ATAP is working with Aging and Disabilities Quality Assurance Team to help out with the special consideration and help develop some forms to go with that. Only five special considerations have been submitted and one has been approved. Provider's just started sending estimates to ATAP and ATAP noticed some inconsistency with

these insurance estimates, where Providers would give ATAP one estimate and parents another estimate. So, ATAP is currently working with these Providers to get on the same page.

Moving forward, ATAP is looking to implement more auditing in to what the insurance is looking like, to insure the Provider is billing them timely, so ATAP can collect the EOB's to insure it is going towards those hours and making sure the hours are happening.

Ms. Jayme advised that ATAP has a Provider list, with all insurance companies that are below the providers, but also check the main insurances websites regularly, to make sure of any updates.

Ms. Tache asked if there has ever been a family that ATAP could not match?

Ms. Jayme answered that they've been able to find Providers that except their insurance, but some due have some wait times, which this is something ATAP is working on to manage.

Ms. Tache asked if families purchase separate insurance to stay with providers?

Ms. Jayme answered, yes, as a family choice. ATAP tries to encourage families to look at the Comprehensive Care. ABA may be the biggest need they have, but they should also make sure the healthcare side of it is good, in case something happens. All ATAP can do is educated, as they cannot recommend.

## **Managed Care Organization Presentation**

### **Anthem – Allison Hoover**

Anthem currently has the following for their MCO provider list:

21 ABA groups that they are contracted with.

11 in Clark County

4 in Reno

6 that are currently in credentialing

There's a total of 26 other ABA groups that Anthem reaches out to on a quarterly bases to see if they'd be interested in joining.

39 BCBA's

33 in the South

6 in the North.

70 RBT's

57 in the South

13 in the North

Anthem has 96,000 eligible members (not members with any diagnosis), they're children eligible for any Medicaid service line.

21 members that have received services through ABA. Anthem has over 2600 hours that have been paid for those services. Average time frame for the initial Prior Auth's to receive the reimbursement always depend on the provider and their billing. Anthem does have 180-day timely filing for claims. However, anthem's average authorization to service date is 14 days and service to pay date is 12 days.

Ms. Hoover stated that the biggest daily challenges and barriers she has is having changes within her network and those providers who do not accept Medicaid. There's been a huge turnover with Anthems providers and a lot of indecision on whether they want to continue. Ms. Hoover stated that she does pay a little higher than Medicaid, because they need the service line.

Ms. Thorkildson asked if Ms. Hoover can provide numbers of only child with Autism?

Ms. Hoover answered, she didn't have those numbers right now, but they can be provided.

#### **Silver Summit – Melissa**

Silver Summit opened July 2017.

Based on last year's data – 2018:

9 Provider's in Network

6 in the South

3 in the North

111 Children with Autism Spectrum Diagnosis

6 receiving treatments

2204 hours billed; 1148 hours paid

Turnaround time for Prior Auth's is about 7 calendar days. Authorization to reimbursement is about 43 days on average.

Some barriers Silver Summit noted is the waitlists with some providers.

Ms. Partos asked if the Rural areas were included for the North Provider's?

Ms. Hoover with Anthem popped in and answered that all MCO's are only contracted with Washoe and Clark county.

#### **HPN – Rutu Ezhuthachan**

HPN has contracted:

16 groups in the South with over 300 providers

3 groups in the North with over 60 providers

Ms. Ezhuthachan mentioned that All providers for ABA related specialties can be found online in the HPN Provider Directory at <https://www.hpnmedicaidnvcheckup.com/Member/Doctor>

HPN speaks with their providers as they're contracting about things like home appointments, Weekend appointments, Programs from 5-7pm and Spanish speaking providers and staff.

Ms. Ezhuthachan mentioned 8 groups that are currently in process of being added to their Network.

In 2018:

401 members were referred for an Autism related service (between ages 1-21)

193 members received services

14,362 claims for an Autism related service were submitted; 12,859 were approved.

A prior authorization request for ABA may be approved for one year. The provider has 6 months from date of service to submit a claim. Once a claim is received, 99.9% of claims are paid within the 30 days.

Total time frame could be up to 19 months from initial authorization to providers receiving payment.

Some barriers HPN found is:

Member contact information not transmitted on the enrollment file.

Provider Education on Processes, Policies, and Treatment.

Member Education on Diagnosis and Treatment Plans.

Difficulties scheduling appointments outside school hours.

Some solutions HPN plans:

Internal data sharing when new contact information is received by any department.

Meetings with autism stakeholders for new educational materials.

Dedicated department for contacting parents of children with new diagnoses.

Proactive provider outreach, inviting providers to join the Network.

Contracting with providers with alternative schedules.

Ms. Tache thanked all the MCO's on the call.

## Public Comment

Ms. Elia Mayor is a mother of a 12-year-old child and with the help of ATAP, he's been receiving services through LAAVAS for the past 6/7 years. She stated that last year they transitioned from an ATAP plan to purchasing a Catastrophic plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield to cover the ABA. Ms. Mayor advised that it wasn't the best solution medical wise, but covered ABA and they were able to receive

treatments through the provider. These insurance rates and deductible went up and became unaffordable to Ms. Mayor's family and they could not continue paying for it. She applied for Medicaid and got denied and then were referred to the Exchange by Medicaid and qualified. But, the only available plans with this were all HMO's and LOVAAS does not take HMO. Ms. Mayor was referred to the Ackerman Center. She was advised by the Ackerman Center that she will need a doctor's referral, so she retrieved one and submitted it to them. She never heard back until she called them and was advised there was a 2 to 3 year waiting list. Ms. Mayor went to HPN to find provider's that accepts HMO and HPN provided a totally different list. Ms. Mayor stated that HPN does not have a list of available providers ready to take children right away. She went back to LOVAAS to file for a continuation of service with HPN, and that may help. There's more than a two-week waiting list for this as well. So, with all this, Ms. Mayor's son is currently not receiving any services.

Ms. Bailey Bortolin apologized for not being on the call earlier, as she was caught up on another call.

Mr. Steven Cohen spoke on upcoming calendar invites: This Thursday and Friday, early afternoon/late morning, there's an open conference call from Carson City for Legislative prep. Another thing is Tuesday afternoon, is the Department of Ed. Tuesday morning is the budget as a whole. The budget hearings will be two weeks long – Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Then next Wednesday (two weeks from tomorrow) is going to be IFC, which may have an ABA item on there. Autism day in the North is still being worked out, but the date is looking like April 9<sup>th</sup> and for the South, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Confirm Agenda Items and Dates for Future Meetings (For Possible Action)**

The Subcommittee decided their next meeting would be on February 7, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Tache adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.