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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: May 7, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Las Vegas: DRC/ATAP
1391 S. Jones Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Julie Ostrovsky

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

Ms. Ostrovsky is frustrated with the fact that every email to ADSD is being rejected. So, when replying to an email or trying to schedule an Adult Services meeting, Ms. Ostrovsky needs to have Dr. Gaspar de Alba forward all her responses on. She hopes someone can investigate in this and get it fixed.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 2, 2019 Meeting (For Possible Action)

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

Legislative Update

Ms. Ostrovsky shared a couple urgent items:

SB216 – Putting the Commission in Statute – Senator Ohrenschall is a sponsor and no Co-sponsors. Ms. Ostrovsky encourages everyone to reach out to their Senators and Assembly people and to really get involved.

SB174 – RBT Rate - Senator Ohrenschall is a sponsor and no Co-sponsors. If this rate can not get increased this session, what will happen is that there will be no increase for three years. Ms. Ostrovsky encourages people to testify tomorrow morning. Especially Providers, Parents and people receiving Medicaid benefits.

SB202 – This bill has as a lot of sponsors. Ms. Ostrovsky does not know the details on this bill, but knows it has Audit things in there and some mandatory reporting.

Ms. Ostrovsky asks everyone to please pay attention as session ends June 2nd or 3rd, so there's not much time. She encourages everyone to go the Nevada Legislative website.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba stated that he may know a little more about SB202 and what is most important is that without SB174, SB202 will not help. This will just cause more delays and more bombs to try and get services. He also encourages everyone to make a strong push for these bills.

Medicaid Services provided in Schools

Ms. Hutchison received some questions regarding the school-based expansion and how it is going to affect ABA Services. The biggest question that was received was about duplicative services – if a child can receive ABA services in school and with a community provider in the same day. The answer to this is yes. Medicaid will not restrict any services and are currently working out the details. Nevada Medicaid is currently in contact with other states that have already rolled this expansion, to work out some of the details and plans on having a Workshop within the next couple of months to go over the details. As of right now, this will not be an issue, as long as it is under 40 hours a week.

Another question is if there would be any other types of restrictions. Ms. Hutchison answer that the school-based ABA will follow Medicaid's policy. Medicaid's current restriction is Behavioral Health Services can not be performed on the same day as ABA.

Ms. Partos sent Ms. Hutchison an email asking if School districts and/or parents will be informed that the student is mirroring max allowable hours or reimbursement? Ms. Hutchison answered that Medicaid does not notify the providers or parents and it is the provider responsibility to monitor the Prior Authorizations and provide services accordingly.

Another question was regarding Provider enrollment. Again, the enrollments standards will be the same as what is currently required. BCBA will have to Supervise BCaBA's and RBT's, etc.

Medicaid's goal is to expand services for kids, and this is an exciting step in that direction.

Ms. Ostrovsky stated that she does not understand the difference between Behavioral Health Services and ABA Services. Secondly, she doesn't understand how the school district can log 1x1 ABA hours and if they're doing group ABA it should have a different code than individual ABA. Lastly, a teach can say they did 10 hours of ABA in two days and suddenly that person is out of hours for the week, which Medicaid says it's up to the Providers, but Medicaid does not respond immediately.

Ms. Hutchison answered that the teachers will not be the ones performing ABA services and that a certified RBT will be in the classroom providing these services. That would be classified as 1x1. She mentioned that there will be two separate Prior Authorizations; One from the School District and one from the Community Provider. So, this would not affect the Community Provider. Ms. Hutchison also explained that Behavioral Health Services is Mental Health Services, which is BST/PSR etc. and ABA is Behavioral Analyst treatment.

The Commission members raised some concerns with schools billing hours and possibly using up all the hours. They also asked if Medicaid can confirm that it's a Federal Law to not be able to perform Behavioral Health Services and ABA Services in the same day.

Ms. Hutchison thanks for bringing up these concerns and reminds everyone that Medicaid is still working out the details and will provide more as soon as it comes along. She will reach out to Ms. Ellis with the dates of the next Public Workshop when they become available.

Update on Autism Treatment Assistance Program

Ms. Jayme advised that ATAP has been getting a lot of Providers that are going through the RFQ process to be contracted with ATAP. ATAP continues to do outreach with different providers as well. ATAP has been averaging about 20 kids a month and also has been increasing their staff significantly in all areas.

Ms. Jayme went over some updates for April:

- 55 New Applications
- 668 active children (average age:9)
- 396 total children waiting (average age:7)
- Average wait time: 304 days

ATAP is updating their current Case Management system to go live July 1st, 2019 to help give more detailed information in the new Fiscal year.

- Between about 40 and 50 referrals a month
- Average wait in South is 351 days
- Average wait time in Rural is 230 days
- Average wait time in North is 208 days

ATAP is currently working on way to increase services in the Rural areas. A lot of Rural ABA providers are moving to an In-Clinic Model, which is very difficult for some of the families. ATAP does allow for 30% to be Telehealth and still pays for the BCBA's to drive over 50 miles. ATAP continues to work with other providers to see what other solutions they can come up with.

ATAP has been working with Providers on the following:

- working towards programs within evidence-based systems that are not covered yet by insurance or Medicaid.
- working to develop an intensive parent training model and very close to come up with that plan type.
- Talked about creating a crisis intervention team for those on the ATAP waitlist that are in crisis and need immediate attention.

ATAP is currently doing outreach for Registered Behavior Technicians. For example, an ATAP Supervisor up North went to High Schools to speak about becoming Registered Behavior Technicians and depending on the area these high schools were in, they would connect the to a Behavior Analyst in their area.

ATAP also just purchased 250 more RBT Codes.

- 617 Registered Behavior Technicians
- 115 Behavior Interventionists

ATAP's leadership team will be meeting in Las Vegas after session to get a better idea as to what the future of ATAP looks like. A leadership retreat is being planned for mid-June to map that out.

Ms. Jayme thanks the community for their feedback and input as it is always very well received. ATAP is always listening and appreciates everyone in the community.

Subcommittee Report

Funding and Insurance

Ms. Tache was not on the call.

Adult Services

Ms. Ostrovsky advised that they are currently working on a meeting, but the ADSD email system is not allowing messages to get sent, which mean they do not make quorum.

Public Comment

Ms. Ostrovsky wants everyone on the call to be sure to follow the Legislation tomorrow as there are three primary Autism bills; 174, 202 and 216. Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned that it would be awful if none of these got out tomorrow.

Confirm Dates for Future Commission Meetings (for possible Action)

The Committee decided their next meeting would be on May 23, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Partos made a motion to accept the dates and times of the next meeting. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Adjournment

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.