

DRAFT

Madame Chairwomen
Subcommittee Chairs

The Governor's Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders is requesting your consideration of a letter of intent regarding ATAP/Medicaid coverage of ABA Services and the support of accurate data about children with autism in Nevada and the services they are receiving.

Access to services is critical to the ever-growing autism population in Nevada and without treatment and intervention these children will require life time care and support with financial implications far beyond the cost of early intervention. It is our hope the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) will address the ongoing barriers to access to services.

In the current biennium \$42 million was allocated to expand Medicaid services, but little has been spent. ATAP also underserved its budgeted caseload and has a waiting list of over 500 children under the age of 18. We understand there is a report to the IFC, but it is missing details that enable the IFC, and disability community to address the lack of children receiving services. When early intervention is known to be so effective, it is imprudent have such long waiting lists in the face of allocated funds.

The Commission on ASD is requesting the IFC continue to require regularly reports but expand the audience to include IFC, the interim HHS Committee, The Autism Commission and the Commission on Services for people with disabilities. If ATAP and Medicaid share reports with all the impacted parties, we as a community should be able to provide better recommendations for efficient delivery of services, growth, and accountability.

Much of the requested information below is being reported to different groups or found in different locations on the Nevada.gov website. Jon Sasser, from Washoe County Legal Services recently sent a request for similar reporting. We would like to support and request the same reporting and that it be reported to all the above-mentioned groups in a consistent manner.

From the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

- The number of children enrolled in Medicaid and Nevada Check-Up receiving ABA services through both fee-for-service and managed care models
- The number of ABA providers enrolled in the fee for service populations
- the number of ABA providers available to recipients enrolled in managed care organizations
- quarterly costs related ABA services including cost for ABA services provided to recipients and ABA related capitation rate to the managed-care organizations

- The number of BCBA's and RBT's in NV and the number accepting Medicaid

For the managed-care organizations

- the number of enrolled children who have requested prior approvals for ABA services
- the number of enrolled children who have received prior approvals
 - the wait time for the receipt of prior approvals
 - the wait time from the receipt of prior approvals to the receipt of services
- the average number of treatment hours authorized vs the number of treatment hours delivered
- the number who do not have access to services due to insufficient BCBA's and/or RBT's

From the Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP), the number of current/former ATAP recipients who

- have applied for Medicaid
- have been determined eligible for Medicaid
- have transitioned to Medicaid
- are still receiving services through ATAP without Medicaid payment
- are pending transition to a Medicaid enrolled provider
- are being served by an ATAP provider and are currently on a wait list for a Medicaid provider
- have successfully transitioned to a Medicaid enrolled provider
- receive less weekly treatment hours than they did under ATAP
- The number of ATAP providers of ABA services who
 - have applied to be Medicaid providers
 - have enrolled as Medicaid providers
 - are accepting new Medicaid patients
 - are new to Nevada (became Medicaid providers in the preceding 12 months)
 - have joined the networks of Medicaid's managed care organizations

Sincerely,
Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders