



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES  
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**MINUTES**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: February 8, 2018  
12:00 p.m.

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

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Sarah Dean, Julie Ostrovsky, Korri Ward, Steven Cohen, Samantha Jayme, Randi Humes, LOVAAS Center, Brook Adie, Shannon Crozier, Tiffany Ellis

A quorum was declared.

2. **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)

There was no public comment.

3. **Subcommittee Updates**

Mr. Cohen reported for the Adult Services and Resources Sub-committee. He advised that once again their January meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. This meeting

they were hoping to discuss the possibility of expanding the upper age limit for ATAP eligibility.

Resource Development Sub-Committee reported that they also had a meeting planned, but it was cancelled because Jan was getting the agenda together. Meeting has not yet been rescheduled. Sub-committee still hasn't heard back from the Department of Ed. Washoe sent out a letter stating that they weren't allowing any outside BCBA's in to school districts right now. They haven't heard anything from Clark or any other school districts. All other objective has not been discussed because sub-committee hasn't had a chance to meet.

Ms. Thorkildson reported that they had a couple of meetings for the Funding and Insurance Sub-Committee. They regrouped after the Governor's letter was sent out. They're scheduling another meeting within the next week or two to go over the strategic plan objectives to sub-committee. She mentioned that they are also relooking at memberships because three sub-committee members have not been able to join the meetings in quite some time, so the sub-committee may be looking for new members

Dr. Gaspar de Alba mentioned that it's reflective that they're having a hard time getting the sub-committees together, which he completely understands. He will address it on the next agenda.

#### 4. **Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Presentation on Caseload and Progress on Ongoing Provider Changes**

Ms. Adie went over the usual data that she normally presents. The presentation is posted to the website.

For the December Monthly caseload to date (12/31/17), Ms. Adie reported that there have been 32 new applications, 21 new children who received services, 740 active children (average age: 8), 525 total children waiting (average age: 7), and average wait time if 384 days.

Ms. Adie went over the ATAP Caseload Growth which shows the ups and downs ATAP went through within the last few years.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if the budget caseload has been increasing slowly and Ms. Adie answered yes.

Ms. Adie continued with discussing the next slide – Referrals to date.

Ms. Adie went over was the New Cases Chart. ATAP has been working to get all Medicaid children with Non-Medicaid providers transferred over to Medicaid Providers. 2016 there was about 189 Medicaid children without a Medicaid provider, but ATAP has been working hard with getting them transferred over to providers that except their funding sources and there's only about 10/11 children left to be transferred. So ATAP has made a lot of progress there. Ms. Adie made it clear that these children were not transitioning

out of the ATAP program, they are only transitioning to another provider within the ATAP program.

ATAP has a total of 525 children on the waiting list. The chart is broken down by age.

ATAP has a total of 740 children that are active. The chart is broken down by age.

Ms. Adie discussed the Insurance Coverage Availability. The chart is broken down by active children and Waiting children.

Next, Ms. Adie discussed the Interventionist to RBT changes. The chart is broken down by Behavior Interventionists and Registered Behavior Technicians. ATAP Staff is working on a good tracking system to keep track of all Interventionist's 90 days, when they become RBT's and then getting them enrolled into Medicaid as soon as they become RBT certified. ATAP has been doing a great job as well as providers to continue to get all Interventionists RBT certified and enrolled into Medicaid within a timely manner.

Ms. Adie mention that ATAP is eliminating Palco at the end of June 2018. Staff is currently working with parents on switching children over to different providers. Ms. Adie made it clear that the children will continue to keep the same number of hours for therapy, this will not change.

Ms. Adie talked about the next slide, Medicaid Status Update. There is a total of 352 Medicaid Children that are active. 16 Children receiving Medicaid are receiving services with a Non-Medicaid provider. To date there have been 503 Prior Authorizations (PA) submitted to Medicaid for 280 children.

Ms. Adie advised that ATAP will continue to bill Medicaid and there was a time where ATAP was short staffed, but now ATAP is fully staffed so staff will continue to get caught up with everything, pay providers in a timely manner so they can continue to keep their businesses going and meet with Medicaid on denial codes to overcome any barriers. Ms. Adie is seeing a lot of progress on this end.

## 5. **Medicaid Update**

Ms. Adie advised that Lori Follett switched positions and is no longer our contact. Ms. Adie will email over the new contact information to Tiffany, so she can reach out for all future meetings.

## 6. **Nevada Early Intervention SY18 Update**

Ms. Humes presented the Fiscal year update for Early Intervention Services. The presentation is posted on the website.

First page is a table that breaks down screener and diagnosis information. Second page are graphs that corresponds to the table. Third page is a table showing where the Autism children that are waiting are at in the process.

Early Intervention serve almost 5,000 children to date for this fiscal year. Some children have already exited from the program due to turning age three or for other reasons. Of the kids that are being served, Ms. Humes advised that 3% of all children that are being served have a diagnosis and of those kiddos, two of them received diagnosis between July and December and 1% received diagnosis prior to July. Of the kids that were diagnosed, there was 86 children diagnosed state wide so far for fiscal year 18. Average age for diagnosis was just over 29 months of age. Of the 86 children that have been diagnosed, 73 have been referred to ATAP.

1,477 initial screens that were completed in total. Of those initial screeners, 30% did result in a failure. Of the 30% failed screeners, 49% were failed due to Autism concerns. Which 19% resulted in a diagnosis.

Ms. Humes advise that there are quite a few children that are waiting in the diagnosis process and advised that some of the data information provided may be a little old. NEIS have been in the process of changing the data entry process and there's been a little bit of a delay on getting the records updated. With, Ms., Humes is hoping there are fewer kids that are waiting.

Lastly, Ms. Humes added that bulk of the diagnosis are coming from the South region, which is expected, due to the larger population.

**7. Joining Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) and Finding a Sponsor to make the Commission Permanent (for possible Action)**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba opened to the Commission members on their thoughts about joining Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and finding a sponsor to make the Commission permanent.

Ms. Partos fears of the unique needs getting drowned out.

Ms. Ward advised that she used to be on the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and all disabilities are represented there. Ms. Ward mentioned that it was hard getting her voice heard. She felt like she was asking for things that others already had. Therefore, she felt as if she wasn't being heard.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba mentioned that the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities have been speaking on Autism related items recently which is why he believes the State sparked this idea. A lot of what they are trying to do is similar what we are trying to do.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba advised that he spoke with Brian and he advised that Autism was a priority and they're evening thinking of assigning or creating a specific sub-committee for Autism.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba is thinking if we add our voices to theirs and it may be way more effective than it currently is.

Ms. Adie commented that she does attend CSPD meetings and the last two meetings have been a lot of focus on Autism. Ms. Adie provides caseload updates just like she does here, and it does spark bigger conversation about what the need is. Ms. Adie added that the next meeting they want to have a specific agenda item related to Autism.

Ms. Ostrovsky thinks it's interesting that Ms. Adie is reporting to them when they didn't know.

Ms. Ostrovsky believes joining the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities is something to explore, but if they do become part of the group, they will need to define some perimeter, accountability and legislative agenda that will continue to move Autism forward with funding, outreach, programs and coordination.

Ms. Ostrovsky would like to make a motion for Dr. Gaspar de Alba, Chair of our Commission, to explore the options and challenges that come with it. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. **Confirm Future Commission Meetings** (for possible Action)

The Committee decided their next meeting would be on April 10, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the date and time of the next meeting. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

9. **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)

Ms. Crozier joined late and missed presenting an update on the Workforce Development Sub-Committee. She stated that they would like to see more progress being made and that their last sub-committee meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

10. **Adjournment**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.