



**NEVADA COMMISSION ON  
AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING  
EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 13, 2014**

**1:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**MEETING LOCATIONS**

Video and Teleconference Call From  
Grant Sawyer Legislative Building  
555 E. Washington Ave., Room 4406  
Las Vegas, NV

Legislative Building  
401 S. Carson Street, Room 3138  
Carson City, CA

*Agenda items may be taken out of the order listed on the agenda. The items may be combined for consideration. Items may be delayed or removed at any time.*

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Announcements**

Michele Tombari, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Voting members Nicole Kalkowski, Toni Richards, Nicole Cavanaugh, Shannon Crozier, Debra Vigil, Jon Paul Saunders were present.

A quorum was present.

Nicole Kalkowski, Johnette Oman and Vanessa Knotts introduced themselves and shared her goals for being on the subcommittee.

**2. Public Comment**

No comments.

**3. Discuss Steering Committee Meeting**

Michele Tombari discussed the highlights from the Steering Committee meeting. A facilitator ran the meeting with the goal of writing the 5-Year Strategic Plan. She will be collecting information from each subcommittee to use in the plan. The Early Childhood Subcommittee needs to brainstorm solutions and possible funding. The facilitator will be at the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. The goal of the subcommittee is to have more concise recommendations than the 2008 recommendations. The subcommittee needs to ask what do we need to know now and how can the facilitator get the best information from the subcommittee. The facilitator will interview 15 key informants – 3 from each subcommittee. The subcommittee offered the names of

people they thought would be appropriate informants and a discussion followed. The subcommittee put to motion, voted and agreed that the following people would be contacted as potential informants:

- Julie Kotchevar, NEIS, Head of Early Intervention - motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alva, UNR developmental and behavioral pediatrician – motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- Ken Macalese, service provider, ABA – motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- John Sasser, advocate, works with Autism Speaks – motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- Cindy McCray, Clark County School District or Judy Miller, Psychology Coordinator Child Find – motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- Sharie Hallee – motion to nominate, seconded. All in favor.
- Anna Seaverns, Department of Education – backup to Sharie Hallee
- Dr. Andy Eisen, pediatrician and legislator
- Dr. Kinman, diagnostics for Reno and Carson City
- Amanda Herdon, works with Judy Miller – transition coordinator – speak with her separately at another meeting

There was a discussion about the questions in the survey that the facilitator will be sending out. Questions about barriers that the subcommittee will present to the facilitator are:

- Public and professional awareness, particularly pediatricians
- What does early intervention look like for a child with autism
- Workforce needs across the disciplines – including regional centers and case managers
- Referrals to treatment
- Early intervention transition with school districts
- Access to services
- All children diagnosed and treated
- Pediatricians need to understand the process for screening, training
- Service providers not supportive
- Fear of the stigma of autism
- Desired services not available
- Service providers do not understand the needs of people with autism
- Lack of staffing
- Parent readiness
- Parents unaware or have limited knowledge of services and treatment
- Insurance, state funding, Medicaid
- Limited diagnostics for children under three
- Service providers not supportive

#### **4. Review Other State's Autism Programs**

This item was tabled.

#### **5. Discuss Nevada's 2008 Strategic Plan Recommendations**

This item was tabled.

#### **6. Public Comment**

Michele Tombari discussed the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Jan Crandy discussed a 2010 research study on autism statistics.

**7. Adjournment**

Debra Vigil motioned to adjourn the meeting, Shannon Crozier seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.