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**MINUTES**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Resource Development Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: October 7, 2016  
3:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Jan Marson called the meeting for the Resource Development Subcommittee to order at 3:02 p.m.

Members Present: Jan Marson, Brook Adie, Stephanie Myers, Sarah Dean

Members Absent: Lynda Tache, Wes Haynes, Jamie Johnson

Guests: Julie Stanley, Steven Cohen

Staff Present: Carol Reitz

A quorum was declared.

II. 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)

Dr. Marson informed the Subcommittee members that Ms. Julie Stanley will be joining the subcommittee as a voting member.

Mr. Cohen asked the Subcommittee to be mindful of scheduling the meetings on religious holidays or at the same time as other agencies. Dr. Marson said they will start looking ahead to schedule a perpetual time each month and be culturally confident.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the September 21, 2016 Meeting

Ms. Dean made a motion to accept the minutes as they were written.

Ms. Adie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Review and Approve the Letter to Support ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) in the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) **(For Possible Action)**

Ms. Dean reported to the Subcommittee that the letter is for the Autism Commission to support them in asking the legislature request the school districts to support BCBAs and RBTs in the schools to provide services. There are some things that the school districts may want in place for the providers such as a safety net and to also make sure there is an outline.

Ms. Adie told the Subcommittee members that the revised letter had veered off the initial course. Dr. Marson said Ms. Dean and Ms. Stanley's intent was to get the school districts onboard so they are active participants.

Ms. Stanley asked Ms. Adie how she felt they had veered off from the original letter. Ms. Adie said the letter had a different influence since it was written by parents and advocates. She added ATAP is also taking the perspective to work with the school districts as well. She would like the letter to be strong and discuss having licensed and certified staff in the classroom and allowing outside providers to come into the classroom.

Dr. Marson suggested bringing in the school districts and possibly doing a survey to find out where the problem areas are. She added they don't want pushback from the school districts. Dr. Marson asked Ms. Myers for her opinion. Ms. Myers said her son's school told her that they have their own BCBAs within the school district.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that there is a resolution that addresses some of the issues that families face in higher education; although autism isn't specifically mentioned.

Dr. Marson asked Ms. Dean for her thoughts. Ms. Dean replied that they mainly looked at allowing services into the school districts. Some of the issues that were addressed in Ms. Crandy's letter were already part of IDEA and were not touched on. Ms. Adie said there are certain points that need to be highlighted such as if a child is receiving in-home therapy, the schools should allow their in-home therapists to come into the school districts and train the staff so that there is consistency across all environments. They are not allowing the providers to come into the schools on a consistency basis. She added that there are some families that have fought to have their providers come into the schools but it is on a very small scale.

Ms. Stanley said they can add the language to the letter that states in-home providers should be allowed in the schools to allow consistency in ABA therapy. Dr. Marson suggested making that modification to the letter and asked if there were any other suggested changes. Ms. Adie suggested saying regardless of the funding source in the letter so the school districts don't push back to say that they don't have funds to pay for the providers coming into the schools. She added that the schools are academic focused and they are behavior focused which causes a huge disconnect between the two.

Ms. Dean informed the Subcommittee that there is a section within the IEP that asks if the student's behavior is impeding their education and if it is marked yes, they need to include behavior goals. Ms. Adie asked who monitored and implements the behavior goals. That seems to be the problem since the staff isn't properly trained with behaviors.

Dr. Marson suggested a stronger statement of how a highly trained professional can help a student if their behavior is impeding their education. Ms. Adie said there are three things that they really need to highlight: having licensed qualified staff providing behavior therapy, focus on how it creates better outcomes for children and allow those receiving in-home therapy to allow their providers to work with them in the school setting.

There was discussion about the changes to be made to the letter of recommendations. The discussions included adding they are highly qualified and that is the reason they want them to come into the school districts and to allow the continuum of goals.

Ms. Adie said there is nothing that allows providers access to the school districts is what is lacking. Dr. Marson said they'll develop a contractual agreement for the providers and school districts to be developed cooperatively.

Ms. Adie said the school districts are going to say that they have their own BCBA's that can work with the children. Each BCBA has different methods in which they carry out their goals for each child. Ms. Dean said they need to define who the providers will be that will work with the child and add an additional bullet point for students receiving in-home therapy.

Ms. Adie made a motion to add an additional bullet point that identifies in-home therapists to be allowed in the schools and also to include "improve child outcome" verbiage where appropriate throughout the letter. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Adie stated they did a really good job in redefining the letter and bringing it all together.

V. **Develop Logic Model for Resource Development Goals and Objectives (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Marson told the Subcommittee that there are a couple of LEND trainees that will help with the data portion of the goals.

VI. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee decided to meet on Wednesday, November 16th at 12:00 p.m.

VII. 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.

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Marson adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.