



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132
Carson City, NV, 89706
Telephone (775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0574
<http://adsd.nv.gov>

MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: October 4, 2018
4:00 p.m.

Las Vegas: Aging and Disability Service Division
1161 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89102

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 4:02 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Sarah Dean

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. **Approval of the Minutes from the August 16, 2018 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Partos made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

4. **Report on the progress in moving Commission into Statute**

Ms. Partos stated that there is currently no update regarding the Letter to the Governor but will follow up on it.

Ms. Jayme advised that she also follow up on the letter and email out an update to all Commission members.

5. **Autism Treatment Assistance Program Update**

Ms. Samantha Jayme began her update with the ATAP's August Monthly caseload:

- 71 new applications
- 698 active children, average age: 9
- 477 total children waiting, average age: 6
- Average wait time: 363 days

Ms. Jayme advised that ATAP's referrals have been going up. She mentioned that ATAP has been doing more outreach and she believes this has been helping with referrals.

Next Ms. Jayme went over 'Case mix breakdown by plan type'. This slide was a little different because ATAP has been working with Providers to transition them to direct bill.

ATAP-Comprehensive: 202

ATAP-Insurance Assistance: 287

ATAP-Service Coordination: 41

ATAP-Social Skills: 15

ATAP-Targeted Extensive: 113

ATAP-Therapeutic: 3

ATAP-Transition Plan: 5

Ms. Jayme stated that the Comprehensive, Basic and Extensive are all children that could either be under insured or ATAP breaks down the Medicaid plans based on the number of hours they're getting. So, anything 15 hours and up would be considered a Comprehensive plan, between 6 and 15 hours would be an Extensive and the Basic plan is usually just Supervision or a light one on one. ATAP has also started transition plans to systematically decrease their hours as they either age out or going to a new plan type.

ATAP's waiting Children by age is a total of 477.

ATAP's Active Children by age is a total of 698.

The count of Active & Waiting by area is more in the South. Ms. Jayme advised that ATAP did do some Rural outreach this last month. Ms. Jayme went to Elko and she got to meet with Korri to get some ideas of outreach that can be done in the area. One of the biggest concerns was early diagnosis and awareness, so ATAP is looking on how to help raise that awareness in that area.

ATAP's average wait time in the South is 401 days, Rural with 277 days and North with 252 days. Ms. Jayme shared that ATAP currently has 46 Providers statewide and is currently waiting on 5 more to be approved in the South and 1 in the North. Ms. Jayme hopes this will help bring down the waitlists.

Insurance Coverage Availability is pretty standard of how it's been in the past presentations.

Intervention to RBT changes is exciting news. Ms. Jayme stated this past August, ATAP has increase RBT's to 530. Ms. Jayme believes that there's currently around 700 RBT's in the state, so 530 of them are with ATAP Providers and ATAP kids.

ATAP will continue to do some outreach efforts. Try and piggy back off some ideas NvLEND were doing, like going to High Schools to speak about the Registered Behavior Technicians and going into Autism as a career to just raise that awareness. Not just for Autism Treatment Assistance Program, but for the field too. Ms. Jayme advised that this will be happening in the next couple of months while they hire new staff.

Ms. Dean asked Ms. Jayme if there was a way to track whether kids are exiting the program or if there dropping off because they have waited too long?

Ms. Jayme answered yes. She can get her a breakdown that information and give a good outline of some of the reasons they've closed or has got off the waitlist.

Ms. Dean asked if there is a way Ms. Jayme can include what Insurances Providers take?

Ms. Jayme answered that ATAP has a Provider list that includes this information and can email it out to all Commission members.

6. Nevada Early Intervention Services Update

Ms. Julie Steadman and Ms. Tracy McCurdy introduced themselves to present for an NEIS update. All information is from July to August:

All totals listed are Statewide Grand Totals:

Screener Information

- Number of initial screeners Completed = 546
- Number of 18M failed Initial screeners = 62
- Number of 24M failed Initial screeners = 78
- Number of 'other' failed Initial screeners = 38
- Declined M-Chats = 6

Reasons for Failed Screenings

- Global Delays = 54
- Another Diagnosis = 18

- Autism Concerns = 79
- Behavior Concerns = 13
- Social/Emotional Concerns = 5
- Other = 9

Diagnosis

- Diagnosed FY 18 = 42
- Average Age of Time of Diagnosis = 29.6

Analytics

- Percentage of Initial Screeners that were Failed = 33%
- Percentage of Failed Initial Screeners Resulting in Dx = 24%
- Percentage of Initial Screeners Failed Due to Autism Concerns = 44%

- Number of Children Pending Diagnosis – As last month reporting month (already began testing) = 75
- Number of Children waiting for Assessments – As of last month reporting month (Child is scheduled but has not started the process) = 63
- Number of Children waiting for Assessments - As of last month reporting month (Child is NOT yet scheduled) = 62
- Number of Children who Completed the Autism Diagnosis Process but DID NOT receive a Diagnosis = 17
- Number of Children who declined the Autism Diagnosis Process = 2
- Number of Children Referred to ATAP = 36
- Number of Children who have declined ATAP = 1

Ms. Dean asked for the children that receive a diagnosis, if there's a way for NEIS to let everyone know the type of services they're receiving especially before entering the school district?

Ms. Steadman answered that they will follow up on that and create a list.

7. **Discuss Subcommittee Report**

Funding and Insurance

Ms. Tache couldn't make the meeting today, so Ms. Partos will be giving the update. Ms. Partos advised that it was discussed in the last sub-committee meeting of adding an Insurance age expansion goal, similar to the goal that exist for Medicaid. Currently there's verbiage about expanding Medicaid coverage for services through adulthood. So, there was talk about adding another objective that says, "add Expand health insurance coverage for ASD services through 26 years of age or lifespan." The Sub-committee wasn't sure what the process was to do that, so she suggested maybe going through the Commission.

Ms. Partos also mentioned after attending the Autism Townhall meeting and speaking to Providers, the Sub-committee believes a bill is needed to increase RBT rates. This will make it more in line with the National standard rate and the cost of living in Nevada. Ms. Partos stated that the LOVAAS Center helped by providing some helpful data that

included the national rates and cost of living in the state of Nevada. Ms. Partos said that there are dollars in the Medicaid bucket for rate increases, so the Sub-committee would just be asking for a real allocation for dollars and not new money.

Other long-term issues this committee is working on is the age for Medicaid benefits, exploring and expanding evidence-based treatment for ATAP reimbursement and collaborating with other Commissions, Organizations and State agencies that have similar issues that align with the Commission mission, so we can have a stronger voice in getting initiatives past and implemented.

Ms. Jamie Hutchison from Nevada Medicaid stated that Medicaid did put up a request for the RBT rate to be increased; however, there are many hoops to jump through before it is heard in front of Legislature. Ms. Hutchison is unsure of the current status, but it will have to be approved by the Director, Richard Whitley as well as the current Governor and the new Governor.

Adult services – Discuss Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Mario de Alba wanted to discuss the Chair for the Adult Services Sub-committee as he is unsure if one was ever appointed. He would like to hear some recommendations from the Commission members of people they may think would be a good fit.

Ms. Renee Portnell offered to serve as Chair. She advised that now they just need members to serve on the Sub-committee, so she will reach out to some people she knows.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked her and anyone else to email Tiffany Ellis with any recommendations and Tiffany will then email him.

Workforce development – Discuss Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Gaspar de Alba would like to hear some recommendations from the Commission members of people they may think would be a good fit for the Workforce Development Sub-committee. Dr. Gaspar de Alba had two in mind and will email Tiffany with their information to reach out to them.

8. Legislative Update

Ms. Portnell went over all 2019 Bills and advised that right now they are just numbers and not a lot of information. Information will come around February 2019.

- 40-3 Provisions governing payment of emergency services & care to patients
- 5 Equal pay and changes (I don't know if it is for all people or for people who have disabilities)
- 40-20 Health care
- 22 Mental Health

- 15-25 Microchip/marker on people with I/DD- prohibit
- 31 establish in statue NV Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 57-43 Health insures provide coverage for certain equipment children w/ I/DD
- 67 guardianship
- 74 provisions related to I/DD
- 77 school for the children who are blind, Deaf, hard of hearing
- 89 Enacts No Child Left inside (never heard of this and no information yet)
- 98 study on behavior & cognitive care of older people (elderly and or I/DD I don't know)
- 99 guardianship (another one)
- 109 No wrong door
- 43-128 safety of children
- 164 govern support decision-making agreement (mentions Legislative Committee on Senior citizens, Veterans and adults w/ I/DD)
- 40-170 governing facilities and services for I/DD people
- 38-171 Authority office state Long term care ombudsman
- 172 prohibits discrimination of People who are blind in certain relating to children
- 173 Sterilization of protected adults I/DD
- 177 Able savings program
- 178 Provisions concern with I/DD
- 39-198 Aging and Disability Services Jobs & workshops for I/DD
- 23-230 VR Temporary limited appointment I/DD by state agencies
- 265 bathroom stalls for I/DD
- 266 place cards for I/DD
- 267 cards identity for all any age
- 305 early childhood I/DD
- 404 Mental Health (another one)

9. **Confirm Dates for Future Commission Meetings** (for possible Action)

The Committee decided their next meeting would be on November 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Partos made a motion to accept the date and time of the next meeting. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

10. **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

11. **Adjournment**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.