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AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders
Adult/Transition Services and Resources

Date and Time of Meeting: January 19, 2017
3:45 p.m.

Carson City: Nevada Early Intervention Services/ATAP
3427 Goni Rd., #102
Carson City, NV 89706

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Scott Harrington called the meeting for the Adult/Transition Services and Resources Subcommittee to order at 3:48 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Harrington, Janice John (3:50 to end), Steven Cohen, Korri Ward, and Ruth Sainsbury

Members Absent: Renee Portnell, Ralph Sacrison

Staff Present: Carol Reitz

Guests: Stephanie Devine, Kelli Walker, Phyllis Cohen

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)

Mr. Cohen informed the Subcommittee that the A-Team is sponsoring Advocacy Day on February 27th. It is a trip from Las Vegas to Carson City. The bus is full,

but they are working on getting representation from all areas of Nevada including the rurals.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the December 15, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Cohen made a motion to accept the minutes as they were written. Ms. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. Presentation by Lisa Bonnie on Self-Selecting a Residential Setting

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

V. Review and Determine List of Stakeholders for Autism Sensitivity Training (For Possible Action)

Mr. Cohen informed the Subcommittee that he compiled the list of stakeholders that was provided as a handout. He reported that he testified at the Workforce Development Board through the Governor's Office that morning. The ratio was reported as 2 to 1 in the workforce, but was unsure if it was a national ratio or specific to Nevada.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that JAN (Job Accommodation Network) provides a sensitivity training which was published in 2011 on their Website. They also provide a workbook of possible strategies to create a successful work outcome for every diagnosis.

Mr. Cohen asked Ms. Reitz about the first responder training in the South. Ms. Reitz told the Subcommittee that the JUSTin HOPE Foundation has been training first responders statewide. The dispatch registry form has been implemented in the North and is being met with resistance in the South. They are still continuing to work out the details.

Mr. Cohen added that the issue with the school districts is the continuity of services. The school districts are resistant to allow the provider to work with the children during the school day.

Mr. Cohen added that the other issue is the repealment of health care act without a viable replacement. He also reported that effective January 1st, the insurance cap on ABA therapy went to \$72,000 per calendar year.

Dr. Harrington reported that ATAP will cover ABA therapy if insurance companies deny the coverage to families.

Mr. Cohen added that the judicial system needs to be trained beginning from the lower courts to the federal courts.

Dr. Harrington asked Ms. John what her thoughts were for employers that wanted to learn about the sensitivity training. Ms. John responded that they are looking at partnering with DETR and purchasing the Windmill Training. They implemented the WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) into the training. It is a disability awareness training with 12 modules. They would like to share the information with the employers who may even be interested on certain topics.

Ms. John informed the Subcommittee that employers tell them that they would rather hear about disability awareness rather than sensitivity training. It is an education.

Ms. Cohen recommended speaking to Station Casinos in Vegas since they hire people with disabilities. Ms. John reported that they are currently working with them. They have a pathway to work program through Opportunity Village which is a training program.

Dr. Harrington asked Ms. John if the group that was working at the YMCA through Opportunity Village was an enclave. He stated they are a group of persons with disabilities that work at a certain place for at least minimum wage. They are paid through Ability One grants.

Mr. Cohen shared the difference between this subcommittee and Taskforce on Integrated Employment is they want to allow a wide variety of choices including sheltered workshops versus the integrated employment and educating on how to handle the spectrum. Dr. Harrington said there was language through WIOA that persons cannot go directly into a sheltered workshop. Ms. John added they have to be given the opportunity to experience work through work-based learning. There is a process they have to go through.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that his challenge with the Taskforce with Integrated Employment went from obtaining employment for persons with disabilities to an increase in funding for facility-based programs.

Mr. Cohen asked how they could implement the training and what focus group they need to reach out to. Dr. Harrington asked Ms. John if they would be stepping on toes if they addressed the sensitivity trainings. Ms. John said they are working on very general skills for specific types of disabilities. Dr. Harrington told Mr. Cohen that they can refer people to someone that knows more about the specific disabilities.

Mr. Cohen said the challenge is they need to reconcile that firms are seeing accommodations as a financial liability versus value added to the firms. By integrating the client, you are potentially reducing the tax subsidies for programs such as Medicaid that would be required for social security and any sort of programs such as that.

Ms. Ward shared with the Subcommittee that her brother receives services through the regional centers. He makes enough money that he buys his own Medicaid. They have found one person in the whole state of Nevada that works on this to maintain his services. He only pays \$50 per month. The cap on his earnings is \$42,000 per year.

Dr. Harrington said if they get people to be employed, they need to be knowledgeable about their social security so they don't get penalized. Mr. Cohen asked about the ABLE Act. He explained that if you put money into an ABLE Act it is protected and you don't get penalized. Ms. Ward said you are able to put away about \$14,000 per year to a cap of half a million dollars total.

Dr. Harrington said it might be a presentation.

Mr. Cohen said they need to find a focus group and use the JAN training which would be a cost saving to the State. Ms. John will get more information from Mr. Ken Pierson of ODEP (Office of Disability Employment Policy).

VI. **Legislative Update and Possible Recommendations on Bills Related to Autism (For Possible Action)**

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that Ms. Portnell was not available to share any new information due to her being ill.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that BDR 363 was the only bill that is targeted to autism. The challenge seems to be they do not release what is in the bill until the session begins.

Mr. Cohen said he would like to have someone from the legislative counsel bureau or a legislator present at the meetings so they can discuss the bills.

Ms. Reitz said they can make appointments to meet with the legislator individually or testify and was unsure of having them present.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that the Option 2 diploma appears to have a 50/50 split through states that permit the diploma. He said it is a big barrier which he has encountered personally. He said the bachelor's degree has become the old high school diploma.

Mr. Cohen said the other roadblock that has come up when he spoke with Opportunity Village is the reimbursement rate. He added it creates for successful outcomes and they all need to work together. They need to ask for productivity.

Dr. Harrington reported that the BACB has received the NCCA accreditation. He attended a meeting that gave information on CABIs becoming RBTs. They are very close to having 75% of them becoming RBTs.

VII. **Review List of Resources and Employers that Hire Persons with ASD**

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that he doesn't have anything to add to the list other than an article that will be posted and shared. The article is about a father that is dealing with his son who has autism and his journey to becoming employed.

VIII. Review and Prioritize the Goals of the Subcommittee

This item was tabled for the next meeting.

IX. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee agreed that their next meeting will be on Thursday, February 16th at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Cohen made a motion to accept the date and time. Ms. John seconded the motion. The motion passed.

X. 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.

XI. Adjournment

Dr. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.