



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: March 1, 2017  
4:00 p.m.

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

I. 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: Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Sarah Dean, Julie Ostrovsky

Members Absent: Korri Ward

Staff Present: Carol Reitz, Brook Adie

Guests: Steven Cohen, Lynda Tache, Lori Follett, Cori More, Kelli Walker, Chandy Oshiro, Diane Thorkildson, Jan Marson

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 Commission about upcoming events:

- The Act Early Summit is on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Nevada, Reno.
- The south version of the ATAP/Medicaid Townhall is on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

- Autism Day at the legislature is on April 4<sup>th</sup> and he would like more information.

Ms. Ostrovsky informed the Subcommittee that there is an autism day scheduled on April 4<sup>th</sup>. A breakfast will be hosted by Grant A Gift, Autism Community Trust, FEAT, and ACON and they are looking for other sponsors. Legislators and staff will receive an invitation. Formal information will be going out soon. They are not coordinating transportation. Many of them are flying out that morning on the 6:30 flight. Breakfast starts at 7:30. She is working on an autism proclamation. There are no official autism bills specifically related to funding. They are working to receive RSVPs. She wanted to make sure that each parent or advocate is in Carson and sitting on the floor to be recognized.

Mr. Cohen asked when they anticipate being done. Ms. Ostrovsky said they should be done by 4:00. There are a lot of moving parts. They are meeting in the breakfast room to distribute information and assignments.

### III. Approval of the Minutes from the February 3, 2017 Meeting

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to accept the minutes as they were written. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### IV. Review and Make Recommendations on Legislative Bills Related to Autism (For Possible Action)

Ms. Thorkildson said she did not have anything additional to add other than they are nearing the date that BDRs are made into bills or else they will die.

Ms. Ostrovsky said Mr. Oscarson has been working on the language on the BDR with the help of Stephanie Hill. There was aggressive language that was being discussed early on but it was based on the Affordable Care Act which is being changed. They are watching where it goes and following where the funding goes for ATAP and Medicaid.

Ms. Thorkildson said ADSD will be presenting their budget on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Ostrovsky said she would like to see the budgets. Ms. Reitz will forward the budgets once they're sent to her.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the Townhall meeting in the north.

Ms. Thorkildson said the date had changed and it wasn't very well attended.

Ms. Ostrovsky said she hoped there was a good showing for the one scheduled in the south. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said they will get the word out so the families can get involved.

Ms. Partos asked how families could participate on April 4<sup>th</sup> if they haven't ever participated. Ms. Ostrovsky said they are working on talking points and handouts for that day. They plan on pairing people with more experienced people so they're aware of the protocol and etiquette. Ms. Ostrovsky said parents will be recognized by having their names mentioned.

V. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Commission decided to meet on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to accept that day and time for their next meeting. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. 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 said they are in a biennial legislature state to create a better life experience for people and they do not have information sharing. He said the Governor's Council works on the same issues as the Commission and he felt they should all be sharing and working together. He is awaiting return emails from Mr. Oscarson and Mr. Unumb from Autism Speaks.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.