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AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: May 19, 2017
9:00 a.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 9:01 a.m.

Members Present: Mario Gaspar de Alba, Gwynne Partos, Sarah Dean and Julie Ostrovsky

Staff Present: Tiffany Ellis, Brook Adie, Samantha Jayme, Fatima Taylor, Dr. Edward Ableser

Guests: Dr. Marc Tedoff, Lori Follet, Steven Cohen, Cori More, Kendra Gipson, TMG, Patrick Leytham, Ken Mackley, Jamie Johnson, Art Reitz, Lenise Kryk, Jay Summers, Josh Baker

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)

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the March 16, 2017 Meeting

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

IV. Changes in ATAP and Update on Caseload Numbers

Ms. Adie informed the Autism Commission that they created a PowerPoint to provide updates on caseload numbers. The PowerPoint was posted to the Website. The numbers reflected caseload numbers at the end of April. She reported the following new information:

- 40 new applications
- 10 new children received services
- 746 active children, average age: 8
- 617 total children waiting, average age: 7
- Average wait time: 324 days

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide that was the ATAP caseload growth.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide that contained the referrals to date each month. There were a lot of referrals in March and went down in April.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide which contained new cases. Ten new children started in the month of April. When children drop off of a case load, they're replaced. So those are also considered new children.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide which contained the number of active children in each plan type reported by their age. Caseloads for younger children seem to be growing.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide which contained the number of waiting children by age.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide that shows the insurance coverage availability. It is broken down by Medicaid, Medicaid as a secondary insurance, private insurance, under insured, and uninsured for active kids and kids on the waitlist. Looking at Medicaid, it typically runs close to 55% of caseloads.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked on the Medicaid side of it, what the percentage of reimbursement is from Medicaid.

Ms. Adie responded that she didn't have that information with her now but can get that. She advised that they capture what is paid out to the providers, what they bill Medicaid and what they get reimbursed. Ms. Adie mentioned that on slide number ten, it talks a little bit more about Medicaid and dollar amounts. She will try and collect more detailed data for the next meeting.

Ms. Ostrovsky requested more detailed data for every single upcoming meeting.

Ms. Adie introduced the next slide that reports the interventionists to RBT change. Last time this information was reported it was January data. Since January there's been a push on getting RBT's done. As of today there are 48% of our staff that does one on one hours who are now an RBT, which is a 10% increase from the last time reported. Numbers are increasing. Ms. Adie mentioned that later on Lori Follet may mention the number of RBT's enrolled in Medicaid

Ms. Dean asked what was going to happen to the clients and Behavior Interventionists working in the Medicaid homes that don't have their credential.

Ms. Adie responded that ATAP allows all Behavior Interventionist's to work for all families for 6 months while they're working on their RBT certification. If employee misses their 6 months deadline, ATAP will no longer reimburse them for their services. But, as soon as they submit their application to the BACB, they can continue working. ATAP will still continue to pay for any certified staff they have providing services in the family's home.

Mr. Jay Summers asked what exactly will be acceptable as Supervision services if there is not a certified RBT working on the case.

Ms. Adie responded that it depends on what their funding source is. For Medicaid kids, ATAP will reimburse providers for services that are approved on a PA. If BCBA's will be completing the RBT services as well, it will need to be noted on the PA in order to get reimbursed for the RBT services.

Ms. Adie introduced the last slide that provided the Medicaid status update. There are 372 Medicaid active children. There are 79 children receiving Medicaid that need to be transitioned to a Medicaid Provider. There have been 268 Prior Authorizations submitted to Medicaid for 194 children. Total claims submitted to Medicaid is \$385,564.73 and total received from Medicaid is \$175,192.12.

Ms. Ostrovsky and Dr. Gaspar de Alba agreed that the claims submitted and amount received are moving in a positive direction.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about any upcoming ATAP changes.

Dr. Edward Ableser answered that most people are most likely aware of the swift changes that were implemented in the past couple of months. These changes are highly significant and will create sustainability within the system and hold our providers accountable to the perfection standards. Beyond that, Dr. Ableser envisions one change for the 0-3 year olds. A comprehensive Early Intervention System is ran and to have an entirely different system for kids in EI at that age is a disservice to families. So a significant change that Dr. Ableser will be making is kids that meet that age group will be imbedded of EI Services within Early Intervention.

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

Ms. Ostrovsky thanked Ms. Adie and Dr. Ableser for being there in Carson City for Autism day. It turned out fantastic. She advised that there were two bills impacting us. The first one being bill SB 286. The ultimate goal for this bill is to improve access to services for children with Autism by redefining the Autism Behavior Interventionists. The RBT definition is being broaden in some ways. Ms. Ostrovsky suggests to go to the Legislative website to review changes. The first thing is creating a board of Applied Behavior Analysts. The board will consist of Behavior Interventionists and Behavior Technicians. Not sure where we stand in amendment because not everything is on the website yet. The biggest thing is replacing the term behavior with technician. We are trying to make access on getting in to this profession easier. Another thing is making sure those working with our kids are keeping up with their certification, have background checks and putting some responsibilities on the providers

Ms. Ostrovsky reported on bill AB 304 there's been one amendment from the senate and it just benefits those in Early Intervention. It's adding insurance coverage for Early Intervention. Also, with removing and tweaking words in the definition this broadens the definition and should open up services to more children. AB 034 is very positive.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba is wondering if there is anything the Commission can do to support amendments or pieces of Bills that we think are important.

Ms. Ostrovsky responded that it has been hard with the Commission not meeting the past couple of months. She suggests to set up another Commission meeting to address if we want to write a letter in support of certain amendments.

Ms. Partos conquered with what was said and wanting more information. Also, having questions about why it went in a certain direction, what problems have been and why this has been a good solution. Without having that background, it's been challenging to have an opinion.

Ms. Ostrovsky volunteered to put together a summary with more research that can be shared at the next Commission meeting.

VI. Update on Current Numbers from Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), Discussion on the Proposed Changes to the Delivery of Services Model and expected effect on timing of autism diagnosis

Ms. Fatima Taylor reported something different than what they have been doing before. She will email Tiffany with the data sheets she is referring to, so it may get posted to the website.

Ms. Taylor introduced the first page that is broken up in to four sections; Screener Information, Reasons for Failed Screenings, Diagnosis and Analytics.

Ms. Taylor advised that the last two pages of the report will have visual graphs and pie charts with the same information just in a different format.

Ms. Taylor reported that really the only change from last time was a slight difference in the average age. Receiving referrals so late is a lot of the reasoning why the average age is between 29-30 months.

VII. Subcommittee Chairs to report

Denise Robinson, Community Education

Diane Thorkildson, Insurance and Funding

Jan Marson, Resource Development

Scott Harrington, Adult Services and Resources

Shannon Crozier, Workforce Development (For Possible Action)

- Review and Make Recommendations on the Statewide Autism Website (For Possible Action)

Ash Daulton, Monkey Logic

Ms. Denise Robinson, Ms. Diane Thorkildson, Ms. Jan Marson, Mr. Scott Harrington, Ms. Shannon Crozier and Ash Daulton were absent.

Ms. Marson did provide a letter to post on the website with an update. This subcommittee has not met since the last meeting held March 8th, 2017. Some things that were brought up are:

- Our subcommittee is wondering about any status or feedback regarding our initiative to encourage BCBA's in the school systems.
- Seeking support in terms of resources to develop service standards for 0-6 years and 7-21 years living with ASD. These standards are to include: screening diagnosis, access to care, evidence-based treatments, school-based services, and family supports.
- Plan to organize and bring forward recommendations from Nevada Autism Summit held at UNR in March 2017 that focus on a statewide collaborative process of screening for autism spectrum disorders.

Mr. Steven Cohen provided an update on behalf of Mr. Harrington. Within the two month pause, they've been dealing with the two bills that Ms. Ostrovsky talked about. In terms of actual projects, they are still working on Awareness of Sensitivity and training with state agencies. Next projects will be Benefits planning. They also had a discussion on bringing on a Spouses/Partners group from New Jersey.

Ms. Adie stated that we do have funding for the Commission and Subcommittees through the end of this fiscal year. So if the Subcommittees want to continue meeting, please get in contact with Tiffany ASAP. We are able to get these moving again. Ms. Adie is not aware of what the plan is for the Commission/Subcommittee meetings July moving forward.

VIII. Updates on Nevada Medicaid Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Ms. Lorri Follet informed that Dashboards are up on the ABA website. She reported data for the end of the fourth quarter. Please note that Medicaid report is a month behind:

- 60 Licensed Behavior Analyst

- 4 Sociologist
- 4 Assistant Behavior Analyst
- 171 Register Behavior Technicians

In quarter one there's been an increase in payments. Showing \$580,000.00 in Net payments. Medicaid is still working with providers and ADSD to continue to move this forward.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if there is a goal of 100% of claims made and claims paid or a certain percentage to suspect.

Ms. Follet answered that the goal is always to pay out the claims that are submitted; however, there are denied claims.

Ms. Partos asked if there's any way to include the timeline of claims paid.

Ms. Follet is going to see if the data team can pull that information

IX. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Commission decided to meet on May 25th at 3:30 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.

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)

Ms. Ostrovsky wanted to discuss some letters in regards to ATAP and Medicaid funding and coverage. Jon Sasser wrote a letter in support of funding and coverage. This letter is posted on the website. She is hoping to discuss in the next Commission meeting the Commission writing a letter in support. Ms. Ostrovsky believes that we are heading in the right direction and would hate to see funding lost due to lack of support from the Commission and everyone else in the community.

Mr. Josh Baker commented that he is an assistant professor at UNLV in Special Ed. He advised that they are very excited that their BCBA course sequence has over 25+ students this summer. Asking BCBA's in the community to help with the Supervision fee's that they need. The quality if the BCBA course is very good. There are some very knowledgeable people teaching the class. Secondly, another program that they have is called Project Focus for students with ID and Autism. This fall they will have 17 total students. 9 of the students will have Autism. The program includes classes, Independent living skills and a number of job internships. Mr. Baker provided his email address: josh.baker@unlv.edu

Ms. Dean asked if the students still get credits for the classes they sit in and if they are still helping with job placement on campus.

Mr. Baker responded that every one of their students have job internships and some even lead to paid employment. This program is very person center. There's really no age limit.

Ms. Dean asked where the funding for the program comes from.

Mr. Baker replied that everything is privately funded. There is a fee of \$3,000.00 a semester for this program.

Ms. Lenise Kryk commented on the RBT requirements. Understands that the state is trying to grow the workforce, but it was just very concerning of the implementation of the requirement. January 2016, it was brought up by ATAP. Then in July 2016 it was stated that it wasn't going to be a requirement at that time due to some concerns. In January 2017 it was clear that there would be allowances but no indications of implementation of the 6 month requirement. Then all of a sudden with about 10 days' notice, it was required as of May 1st, 2017. This put 100+ people in the field out of work and about 50 families without service. She is noticing people leaving the field to find full-time jobs.

Mr. Cohen stated that we have currently lost an ABA provider in the South due to potential criminal activity. Between providers and families, that's another 100 people that are in limbo.

Dr. Tedoff commented on agenda item VIII. He advised that they had difficulty getting funded for services they provided that was authorized. Him and his team has spent hours speaking on the phone with people to produce templates to bill. Both times the templates failed. He stated that he's been trying to collect \$20,000.00 since last August. He finally received it yesterday. He would like to resolve this billing issue as it is a barrier.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba replied that he thinks it would be helpful for Dr. Tedoff to meet with Ms. Diane Thorkildson. She would be able to provide some specifics and it can come through our Subcommittee as an agenda item to discuss.

Ms. Jamie Johnson wanted to express a possible agenda item for the future. As more insurances and ATAP are opening up additional funds in covering ABA services. She expressed her frustration with some experiences at the Acronym Center in regards to providing group services and there be an overlap with CPT codes for Supervision in regards to group vs one on one services. What's happen is they've been getting denials for group services due to the supervision overlap. Instead of breaking down barriers for families and children to be provided services and treatment, it's actually creating more barriers. Ms. Johnson would like to try as a community as a way to be able to continue our mission and vision of providing more services to children with Autism.

Mr. Ken Mackley wanted to suggest an agenda item for the future. He would like to see the Community realign things with a strategic plan and to stay focused on our long term goals. He stated that we should be aligned with a more system wide attack on issues rather than putting out the smaller fires.

XI. Adjournment

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.