



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: December 5, 2016
1:00 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 1:02 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: Rebecca Arvans-Feeney, Scott Harrington, Lynda Tache, Diane Thorkildson, Kelli Walker, Cori More

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 November 9, 2016 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 Approve December Report to Governor Sandoval **(For Possible Action)**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Commission that the format of the letter is similar to the Governor's Report that was submitted in June. He reported that the first bullet point which addressed the Funding and Insurance Subcommittee goals included working to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for ABA services. Ms. Partos said she was glad to see the point there since it summarized the recommendation. Ms. Ostrovsky agreed.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read the next priority of continuing the current financial support and funding of programs that serve individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorder. He said the point was to address keeping early diagnosis and services in mind since the State has made so much progress and didn't want the budget cuts to affect it. Ms. Partos suggested adding the increase in autism rates. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested adding "with the increased numbers of children being diagnosed with autism a reduction in funding can be detrimental."

Ms. Brook pointed out to the Commission that when Ms. Kotchevar gave her presentation, there was no reduction in services for EI and ATAP. She suggested reporting that they recommend the budget that was presented by ADSD since it increased funding for services to address the waitlist and more caseloads. Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the 5% budget cut. Ms. Adie responded that they were all asked to make a reduction but they were able to build their budget and increase services with Medicaid revenue that they didn't have before.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read the third bullet point pertaining to the Resource Development Subcommittee goal of allowing private ABA therapists to work collaboratively with the public schools. Ms. Dean reported that she received a call from Clark County School District due to the letter that was sent out and feels they are going to get pushback from them. She added they need to get a group of parents in there to report on the need.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read the fourth bullet point for the Workforce Development Subcommittee that they need to increase the number of training programs for autism therapy providers in our state, licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts and registered behavior technicians and asked for feedback. No one had any comments to make.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read the fifth bullet point for the Adult/Transition Services and Resources Subcommittee of development of programs to provide aging Nevadans with autism meaningful employment. Dr. Harrington said he was continuing to work on providing specific recommendations.

Ms. Reitz read the recommendation that Ms. Ward had sent since she was not able to attend the meeting: “For adults it ought to reflect the difficulty that adults with autism have in accessing trained staff and behavioral consultations through regional services.” Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked the Commission members their thoughts on adding the letter that was approved at the last meeting and already sent out. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested acknowledging the letter that was sent out within this letter that summarizes the contents. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said he would add that paragraph to the letter as bullet point number six.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba read the referenced sixth bullet point for the Community Education Subcommittee that supports a statewide resource Website for Autism Spectrum Disorders. Ms. Ostrovsky said it was good to mention the Website, but she didn’t see it getting funded this session.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the numbers that were highlighted for the Autism Statistics and Highlights portion of the report. Ms. Adie suggested using the numbers that were presented from the August report for that portion of the report so the numbers are from a consistent time period from different entities.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked about the Medicaid claims number. Ms. Reitz reported that Medicaid was only authorized to release information that had been given to the Commission that included dollar amounts and not the number of claims that were submitted. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said he will have to use the dollar amounts then. Ms. Ostrovsky said the expectation is that the dollars are being accessed.

Ms. Partos made a motion to approve the Governor’s Report with the recommended amendments that were made. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Discuss and Make Recommendations for Legislative Action Concerning the Autism Commission Becoming a Statute **(For Possible Action)**

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked the Commission members on their feedback regarding this agenda item. Ms. Ostrovsky said she will look into whether they need to find a sponsor for a bill. Ms. Adie told the Commission that the deadline to submit a bill is December 10th. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested piggybacking on a current bill through the Governor’s office.

Ms. Adie suggested contacting Mike Wilden’s office to get additional information. She suggested piggybacking on AB 363 since it was related to autism. Dr. Harrington suggested contacting the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba said he would find out what they need to do in order to become a statute. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested meeting prior to December 10th to find out what they can do.

VI. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Commission decided to meet on December 9th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Gaspar de Alba made a motion to hold the meeting at that time. Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Commission also decided to confirm the date of their next meeting on Friday, February 3rd, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to hold the meeting at that time. Ms. Partos seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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)

Ms. Moore pointed out to the Commission that there was a typo with a date mentioned in the Governor's Report. She added that UNLV is also in the process of developing the BCaBA program.

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Gaspar de Alba adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.