



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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

Date and Time of Meeting: August 1, 2016
3:45 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Scott Harrington called the meeting for the Adult Services and Resources Subcommittee to order at 4:02 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Harrington, Korri Ward, Ruth Sainsbury, Steven Cohen

Members Absent: Renee Portnell, Ralph Sacrison, Janice John

Guests: Ashkaan Kouhpaenejad

Staff Present: Carol Reitz

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. Introductions of the Adult Services and Resources Subcommittee Members

Dr. Harrington introduced himself. He has been in Reno since 1996 and worked at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). He hopes to contribute to making changes for young adults with autism.

Ms. Ward introduced herself as a parent of twins with autism that are 23 years old. One of them attends UNR and the other works with VocRehab setting up his business. She also serves on the Autism Commission and has a support group in Elko.

Ms. Sainsbury introduced herself as working at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). She has a 13-year-old with autism and would like to see him transition.

Mr. Cohen introduced himself as a 10-year veteran at CSN and will be finishing up at UNLV in December with a degree in accounting. He is a self-advocate and has been fighting for the past 10 years at both schools to bring awareness. He hopes to cover the higher education objective.

IV. Review National Autism Indicators Report: Vocational Rehabilitation

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that he found the Report valuable. Paul Shattuck is nationally renowned for his research in autism and transition. The report discusses the outcomes of those that are receiving services through VocRehab and the pieces that are needed for full integration within the community. They looked at working, social recreation and independent living for full inclusion.

He said the NLTS (National Longitudinal Transition Study) has been occurring since 2002 where they have been collecting data. Dr. Harrington said the Report says only 58% had a transition plan in place by the federal required age. 26% of children with autism receive no services.

Mr. Cohen asked if the report was specific to Nevada and if there was data specific to Nevada. Dr. Harrington replied that it was a national report but there is data that the subcommittee will be looking at specific to Nevada. The data includes the number of individuals with autism that are working within the community.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that he is looking at moving out of state since Nevada does not have the funding to support his needs. Dr. Harrington told Mr. Cohen that he is a strong self-advocate and they should use his voice to help others that are in similar situations.

Mr. Kouhpaenejad asked if there was discrimination within our community. Dr. Harrington said one of their goals should be educating people about the benefits that people with disabilities have available within the community.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that there has been change made within the state. There was an Employment Policy Summit which came up with a plan and they started to change the system. There is now a committee on Integrated Employment.

V. Review and Prioritize the Goals of the Subcommittee

There was discussion on the goals and objectives of this Subcommittee. Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that they need to think about how they can collect data on the specific objectives to report back to the Autism Commission.

Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that the counselors at BVR (Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation) need to be educated on autism. Dr. Harrington said that the Regional Centers need to be educated as well. Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee that they need to increase the federal reimbursement rates for BCBA's to work with adults at BVR.

Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee that the VocRehab training to become a job coach does not have an autism component to it. It is person-centered but there are no behavior strategies. Dr. Harrington said they should discuss the issue with Janice John.

Dr. Harrington summarized to the Subcommittee that the reimbursement rates being too low and the training on autism need to be addressed by BVR.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that they need an organized systematic way on how they can communicate with legislators on their recommendations. Ms. Ward said she would help the Subcommittee with legislation.

Mr. Cohen asked if there was a group that tracks bills specific to disabilities. Dr. Harrington said the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities tracks the legislation specific to disabilities and he would send Mr. Cohen the contact. Mr. Cohen said he would be the person that would track the legislative information.

Mr. Cohen asked Ms. Sainsbury about Option 2 diplomas at CSN. Ms. Sainsbury said she would look into providing that information.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that he was involved in developing the Task Force on Integrated Employment. He attended the meeting the week before where there are 15 people that are involved with the Task Force. He told the Subcommittee that they are not specific to autism but for all disabilities.

Dr. Harrington suggested making a pamphlet that informs people on autism. Mr. Cohen told the Subcommittee that UNLV produces a resource guide. Ms. Reitz said she will forward the email that Mr. Cohen sent with all the resources to the Subcommittee group. Dr. Harrington said he would like a resource that provides

information on ASD that would be beneficial for a counselor to know so they can appropriately respond. Ms. Sainsbury suggested giving pointers on how to approach and speak to someone with ASD.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee there are a lot of people that have started their own businesses through customized employment that have disabilities.

Ms. Sainsbury asked if there was a list of businesses that hire people with disabilities. She mentioned Pepsi-Cola hires people with disabilities. Dr. Harrington asked everyone to do research on businesses that hire people with disabilities. Ms. Sainsbury also suggested a list of businesses that utilize volunteers with disabilities which may turn in to permanent employment.

Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee there is a transition workshop in October. She said they need to make sure parents know what to expect at VocRehab.

Mr. Cohen asked if SBA (Small Business Association) would be a valuable resource to educate. Dr. Harrington said he has worked with them in the past and they are very helpful.

VI. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee discussed future meeting dates. Mr. Cohen made a motion to adopt the next meeting scheduled for September 9th at 3:45 p.m. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. 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. Ward wanted to confirm that the subcommittee is to help with adult services as well. Dr. Harrington said it was for all agencies that help those over 18. She would like to discuss the supported living arrangement reimbursement rates are too low. She would also like to discuss opportunities for the equity between the urban rate and the rural reimbursement rate.

VI. Adjournment

Dr. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. |