

Dear Ms. John and Ms. Merrill,

I am in receipt of your letter regarding the disability awareness training, which resulted from the Autism Commission's Adult Services January 19th, 2017 subcommittee meeting.

Staff qualifications in the field of rehabilitation are presently insufficient to meet the workforce supply of qualified individuals on the autism spectrum that can contribute to organizations of their choosing throughout the state. As discussed in the subcommittee meeting, national statistics regarding unemployment/underemployment of persons on the autism spectrum closely align with, if not exceed, national statistics that encompass all disability categories.

As a recent Accounting graduate, statistics can be made to depict the position the person compiling them intends to demonstrate. What cannot be manipulated, however, is the discrimination many people with disabilities experience across the lifespan of the hiring process. The training would allow the State of Nevada to be a model employer for persons on the autism spectrum, as it would demonstrate the value they can provide to state agencies, as well as organizations agencies may contract with, as opposed to the barriers.

I look forward to continuing to work with impacted Bureau staff members to develop and implement the desired training for all participants to the employment and hiring processes within the next 12 months. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Steven.Cohen@Alumni.UNLV.edu and/or (702) 688-9145 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Steven Cohen
Member, Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Adult Services and Resources
Subcommittee
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