



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES  
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**MINUTES**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: September 9, 2016  
3:45 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Scott Harrington called the meeting for the Adult/Transition Services and Resources Subcommittee meeting to order at 3:47 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Harrington, Korri Ward, Renee Portnell, Ruth Sainsbury, Ralph Sacrison, Janice John and Steven Cohen

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. Approval of the Minutes from the August 1, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Sacrison made a motion to accept the minutes as they were written.  
Mr. Cohen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### IV. Review List of Resources and Employers that Hire Persons with ASD

Dr. Harrington reviewed the list of the resources and employers that hire persons with ASD. He asked if it could be a working document that everyone can add to when they become aware of new employers and resources. Ms. Reitz said she would update the list and would add it to the ADSD Website under the Additional Resources of the Autism Commission page.

Mr. Cohen said there were a few additional resources that he will confirm over the weekend and will send in to update the list. Dr. Harrington said there were over 100 employers that were on the list which was impressive.

Ms. John said the list is shared with VocRehab. She pointed out that there are times that the employer is not aware that the person they hired has a primary or secondary autism diagnosis. There is not always a self-disclosure.

Ms. Sainsbury suggested adding the employers that will accept internships at their businesses to the list. Ms. John agreed on a column that said the employer is interested in providing internships or community-based assessments. Dr. Harrington said he would modify the form.

Mr. Sacrison asked about identifying the communities in which the businesses are located on the list. Ms. John said the report that she provided does denote whether they are located in the north or the south.

Ms. Sainsbury told the Subcommittee that Pepsi comes out once a year to do employment presentations at CSN to recruit persons with disabilities. It has been successful. Ms. John said they had hired about 25 people through the state and have provided the accommodations for hiring persons with disabilities.

#### V. Review and Prioritize the Goals of the Subcommittee

Dr. Harrington reviewed Objective 2.3 with the Subcommittee and reported that he has attempted to contact Assemblyman Sprinkle and will continue to contact him. Mr. Cohen said he has been meeting with assembly candidate McCurdy who would like to help the Subcommittee. Dr. Harrington has attended two meetings for the Governor's Task Force on Integrated Employment and will continue to be a part of the meetings.

Dr. Harrington asked if there were any updates on Objective 2.3.2. He reported that self-employment is an option and VocRehab will support that option.

Ms. Sainsbury asked about the process and funding for individuals wanting to start their own business. Ms. John said there are some guidelines through VocRehab for those wanting to start their own business. They would have to be a VocRehab client and it is individualized.

Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee that VocRehab also helps with supported employment. She said they had to use a BCBA to help the job coach know how

to provide the supports to a person with autism. She suggested it be a collaborative effort for funding. The reimbursement rate by VocRehab is lower than what ATAP or insure would reimburse and should be addressed.

Dr. Harrington asked how a BCBA would work with a job coach. Ms. Ward said the job coaches do not have the skillset to coach a person with significant behavior issues and needs the assistance of a BCBA to perform task analyses required by the person to perform their job. Additional training for job coaches is required.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that one of the goals of the Governor's Task Force is to have the job coaches and job developers certified. Ms. John said VocRehab has been working with technical assistance centers to implement the Workforce Innovations Opportunity Act. They are trying to create a national certification for job coaches.

Ms. Ward said the reimbursement rate is too low and asked Ms. John if they would be reimbursing the job coaches at the higher rate if they require them to be nationally certified. Ms. John said the job coach's rate is \$23.50 and they would have to assess.

Mr. Cohen asked if there was a way to streamline the vendor process to allow additional vendors to be a part of the program. Ms. John said there are guidelines that vendors have to follow such as having insurance and other costs that are involved.

Dr. Harrington read Objective 2.3.3 which addresses housing. He suggested having Mr. Mark Olson present on the topic. Ms. Portnell said she just returned from a Medicaid conference and can provide some information.

Dr. Harrington read Objective 2.3.4 that addresses service standards. Mr. Cohen said he is working on a resolution along with a student legislative sponsor and input from Dr. Baker supporting autism awareness month. Mr. Cohen said there is a resource document that contains the information and he will contact Dr. Crozier to get the information.

Dr. Harrington read Objective 2.3.5 that addresses advocating for public policies. They will review the recommendations on the Legislative Committee on Health Care document that Ms. Ward provided.

## VI. Review and Make Recommendations to the Reimbursement Rates for Supported Living Arrangements

Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee that the Legislative Committee on Health Care recently met. She has met with Assemblyman Oscarson to address the reimbursement rates. The billable rate to provide supports to someone with autism is \$19.51 which means they would only be making \$10 per hour.

Ms. Ward read the recommendation that was written: "The residential support service rate of \$19.51 be increased to \$25 per hour and, if necessary, tiers be

established so the most severely impacted adults with autism can receive services from highly trained staff.”

She also suggested, “Changes are made to the day rehabilitation services so that adults severely impacted by autism in rural Nevada can receive day habilitation services at home at a billable rate of \$25.87.” She said there is a discrepancy between the reimbursement rates from rural Nevada to urban Nevada. She is asking the Autism Commission to support the equitable rate.

She added under the Home and Community Based Waiver, the reimbursement rate for a BCBA working with adults is \$84.92 while the reimbursement rate for a BCBA working with a child is \$120 to \$140 per hour through Medicaid.

Ms. Ward told the Subcommittee that she spoke with Jon Sasser which reported that Senator Kieckhefer said they were not recommending anything that called for a higher rate. She sent the link to the Legislative Committee on Health Care document that addresses her recommendations. They are listed under Item 15.

Ms. Portnell told the Subcommittee that she is on the DD Council and will send any information on bills pertaining to autism to the Subcommittee.

#### VII. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee confirmed that their next Subcommittee meeting would be on Friday, October 21st at 3:45 p.m. Ms. Portnell made a motion to accept the date and time of the next meeting. Ms. Sainsbury seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Subcommittee confirmed that the following Subcommittee meeting would be on Thursday, November 10th at 3:45 p.m. Ms. Ward made a motion to accept the date and time of the next meeting. Mr. Sacrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### VIII. 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 told the Subcommittee that he would like to see presentations from DETR and the Regional Centers specific to autism from beginning to case closure including waitlists, etc. He will send the request that outlines the specific information to Ms. Reitz.

Dr. Harrington said there was a good 36-minute presentation on autism on NPR. The link to the presentation is <http://www.npr.org/programs/fresh-air/> and is also posted on the Website.

#### IX. Adjournment

Dr. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.