



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132
Carson City, NV, 89706
Telephone (775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0574
<http://adsd.nv.gov>

MINUTES

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

Date and Time of Meeting: November 10, 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 to order at 3:47 p.m.

Members Present: Scott Harrington, Korri Ward (3:54 to end), Renee Portnell, Ralph Sacrison, Janice John, Steven Cohen, Ruth Sainsbury (3:54 to end)

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 October 21, 2016 Meeting

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

IV. Legislative Update and Possible Recommendations on Bills Related to Autism

Mr. Cohen asked if there was language associated with the bills that had to do with autism. Ms. Reitz responded that the language for each bill is currently not on the legislative Website.

Ms. Portnell informed the Subcommittee members that February 13th is when the legislation BDR requests are coming in and they'll start seeing the numbers and descriptions. She said she has a timeline of when the bills are due.

They decided to discuss this item further at the next meeting. Mr. Cohen made a motion to postpone the agenda item until the next meeting. Mr. Sacrison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

V. Review the Recommendation Letters Submitted to the Autism Commission

Dr. Harrington informed the Subcommittee that the letter that was submitted to the Autism Commission specifically requested for funding to provide a sensitivity training to agencies on autism. The Commission had recommended that the letter be sent to VocRehab and other programs that may collaborate with the Subcommittee since it needs to be an agency that would decide and implement the training. The agencies that were recommended were the Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Pathways Project and Project Focus.

Ms. Sainsbury suggested writing a grant through the Department of Education in order to acquire funding. She added that their grant period is over but suggested they find an entity to write a grant for next year. Dr. Harrington said that his goal was to develop a training that could be recorded and developed as a module since there is a high turnover at agencies. Ms. Sainsbury suggested the Perkins grant. Ms. John said she will ask their grant writer to look for grants that can be used for the training.

Mr. Cohen asked if Career Connect would be able to do the trainings. Ms. John said they are only able to provide services to the students and cannot do staff trainings since they are not funded that way.

Ms. Ward informed the Subcommittee that the letter that was submitted to the Autism Commission requested they support higher reimbursement rates for the Home and Community Based Waiver. She said the people that are working with adults with autism are only being paid \$9 per hour. She added it will require additional funding for someone with a behavior background to write an effective behavior plan. There are caps on the amounts that they will pay for adult services and they are much lower than the rates for working with children with autism. The Commission had approved to send the letter to Marta Jensen from Medicaid, Richard Whitley from DHHS, and to the Governor.

Dr. Harrington informed the Subcommittee that Dr. Gaspar de Alba approved them including language on workforce development within the report to the Governor.

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

Dr. Harrington asked the Subcommittee if anyone had updates for the list. Ms. Portnell responded that she is working on getting preschools to employ people with autism. Dr. Harrington suggested making video resumes showing the individuals with autism interacting with kids.

Mr. Cohen asked about the 700-Hour Rule. Ms. John said it is a benefit to everyone. The only requirement is that the individual has the qualifications to apply for the job. There is a possible bill draft that makes it a requirement for state agencies to at least interview one person off the list for employment.

VII. Review and Prioritize the Goals of the Subcommittee

Dr. Harrington read the following objective to the Subcommittee: Collaborate with the Governor's Task Force on Integrated Employment to advocate for and ensure that the employment needs and choices of Nevadans with ASD are identified, understood and addressed. He informed the Subcommittee that he's participated in a couple of the meetings and they are controversial. The groups that are managing this are from sheltered workshops such as Opportunity Village and Easter Seals. The priority for the group is to increase the rates that they receive for working with the individuals with developmental disabilities and intellectual disabilities. His opinion is that the focus should be on integrated employment and the individuals with autism being paid minimum wage.

Dr. Harrington told the Subcommittee that about 15-20% of people that have developmental disabilities are working in integrated settings. The goal is to increase the percentage. His goal with the Task Force is to track the people that are working in an integrated setting and making at least minimum wage. He added that the State agencies should be hiring people and they should become a leader in integrated employment.

Ms. John said that Ms. Ramm from the Task Force has asked for information from her. Dr. Harrington said he would like some of that information to include in the paragraph to the Governor. Ms. John said they are working on allowing the disclosure of persons with disabilities working in State agencies. She said it is not a requirement so they don't have the data. She added that the 700-Hour Rule is much higher than it has been in many years.

Dr. Harrington read the next objective: Promote entrepreneurial enterprise and business creation opportunities for Nevadans with ASD to Governor's Office of Economic Development, local state agencies, private for-profit and non-profit

entities. He said Ms. John did a nice job of presenting the information on people who have started their own businesses.

Dr. Harrington read the next objective: Collaborate with ADSD, DHCFP, CSPD providers and recipients to establish policies and systems which enable Nevadans with disabilities, including ASD, to self-select their own residential setting. He said he will reach out to Lisa Bonnie and ask her to do a presentation on this objective of residential settings and independent living.

Dr. Harrington read the next objective: Compile and adopt service standards for adults over the age of 21, living with ASD. Standards may cover issues such as eligibility for services, treatment, higher education and employment assistance, housing options and supports, family supports. The presentation done at the last meeting provided valuable information. He added that the Autism Commission talked about the service standards so there will be more information provided.

Dr. Harrington read the next objective: Advocate for public policies and funding allocations that support service standard implementation. He said there was a 5% decrease in budget that the state agencies had to propose.

Dr. Harrington read the next goal: Promote and legislatively advocate for policies and funding that adequately meet the needs of individuals with ASD living in rural and frontier areas of the state. He said Ms. Ward is doing a great job by writing the letter for increased rates.

Dr. Harrington informed the Subcommittee that the company he is employed with is working on providing telehealth services to serve the rural areas.

Ms. Sainsbury asked if the decrease in the state budget would affect their meetings. Ms. Reitz said they no longer have a budget for the Autism Commission but they will absorb the cost and continue to support facilitating the meetings.

VIII. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Subcommittee agreed that their next meeting will be on Thursday, December 15th at 3:45 p.m. Mr. Cohen made a motion to accept the date and time. Ms. Sainsbury seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IX. 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.

X. Adjournment

Dr. Harrington adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.