



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
Workforce Development Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: July 6, 2016
12:00 p.m.

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Dr. Shannon Crozier called the meeting for the Workforce Development Subcommittee to order at 12:04 p.m.

Members Present: Shannon Crozier, Mario Gaspar de Alba, Justin Kyriannis, Ash Dalton, Rebecca Arvans-Feeney, Janice John

Members Absent: Eric Kessler

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 Workforce Development Subcommittee Members

Dr. Crozier introduced herself as the director of Behavior University.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba introduced himself as a developmental pediatrician and a member of the Autism Commission.

Ms. John introduced herself as the deputy administrator for Vocational Rehabilitation and she is stationed in Las Vegas.

Mr. Dalton introduced himself as the owner of Monkey Logic Incorporated.

Mr. Kyriannis introduced himself as a licensed behavior analyst and owner of Achievable Behavior Strategies.

Dr. Arvans-Feeney introduced herself and stated she was from Sierra Regional Center.

Dr. Crozier told the Subcommittee that Mr. Kessler was not able to attend the meeting but is on the Subcommittee. She also said that there is a vacant seat for a parent in the north. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said he would try to find someone to fill that seat.

IV. Review of Goals and Objectives from the Five-Year Strategic Plan

Dr. Crozier asked the Subcommittee to review pages 34 and 35 of the Strategic Plan. She read the goals and objectives to the Subcommittee and asked for feedback.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if there was any data for the percentage of ATAP's (Autism Treatment Assistance Program) interventionists that were credentialed as RBTs. Ms. Reitz told the Subcommittee that of the codes that were given out, 91 of them were currently on the BACB Registry.

Dr. Crozier had asked how many BCBA's were contracted with ATAP. Ms. Reitz said she could get the information from Ms. Adie.

Dr. Crozier informed the Subcommittee that she and Dr. Love had left UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and have started Behavior University where the RBT training is currently housed. She also said that she would commit to providing the data on the RBTs each time they meet.

Dr. Crozier asked what the status was of the 170 that completed the RBT online training but have not registered with the BACB (Behavior Analyst Certification Board). Ms. Reitz said that she would send those individuals an email and ask why they hadn't registered with the BACB.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba asked if there were other companies that provided the RBT training. Dr. Crozier said that there were about five or six companies that

provided the online training that was similar to the training offered by Behavior University.

Dr. Arvans-Feeney told the Subcommittee that one of the barriers was being able to provide the supervision to the RBTs. She asked Mr. Kyriannis what was the maximum number of RBTs a BCBA can supervise. Mr. Kyriannis stated that there were a number of factors that the BACB took into consideration which included the complexity of the caseload as well as if there were BCaBAs supervising the RBTs and experience.

There was discussion about using a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) trainee to survey students at UNR going through the BCBA training to find out why they are not staying in Nevada after they've completed the graduate program. Dr. Gaspar de Alba said he would recruit someone from LEND.

Dr. Arvans-Feeney told the Subcommittee that you can acquire your BCBA prior to graduation so there may be a pool of people that can be utilized in the workforce.

Mr. Kyriannis asked if there was a way to quantify the level of need for RBT based on the number of children identified with autism. Dr. Crozier said she was unaware of a mechanism that would be able to identify that information.

Mr. Kyriannis asked if they are looking at the awareness of the field of ABA at universities. He asked how they can market the field to students.

Ms. John said in having conversations with DETR, they would like to have a conversation with someone regarding helping market the field. She said that if it is an in-demand occupation, they are able to utilize some of their federal dollars for training. They can also list the job openings on their site.

Dr. Crozier told the Subcommittee that FIT (Florida Institute of Technology) has a hybrid master's program in Southern California. She said Tom Szabo will be bringing the hybrid program to UNLV and can be used as a source to help grow the workforce. Dr. Crozier will invite him to present at the next subcommittee meeting.

Dr. Crozier told the Subcommittee that Oscar Sidas, a colleague from UNLV, will be starting with Great Basin College. He had expressed an interest in starting a BCaBA program at Great Basin College to help grow the workforce. She will be meeting with him soon to discuss further.

Mr. Kyriannis pointed out to the Subcommittee that not every behavior analyst wants to work with a child with autism. He stated ABA therapy in Nevada is quite narrow and should be expanded upon in order to help grow the workforce.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba told the Subcommittee that providers have expressed how expensive it is to employ and train RBTs. He said it would be helpful to find state funding that allows the RBTs the training so that providers can afford to hire them and accept Medicaid.

V. Discussion on Recommendations for Initial Projects/Activities to Prioritize

Dr. Crozier summarized the following initial projects that were discussed:

- Contacting ATAP interventionists who have completed the online training to find out why they did not become RBTs.
- Utilizing a LEND trainee to survey UNR/UNLV graduates that became BCBA's to find out why they stayed or why they left.
- Dr. Crozier will meet with someone from DETR and bring the information back to the Subcommittee.
- Dr. Crozier will invite Tom Szabo to present at the next subcommittee meeting.
- Dr. Crozier will speak to Oscar Sidas from Great Basin College.

Dr. Gaspar de Alba made a motion to accept the initial projects that were stated. Dr. Arvans-Feeney seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings

The Members decided that the next meeting will take place on August 12th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. and it will be a teleconference.

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)

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

Dr. Crozier adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m. |