

# NEVADA COMMISSION ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS

## VISION, MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

**Vision:** Nevada will achieve optimal outcomes for all individuals living with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Mission:** Through leadership, oversight, and legislative advocacy, the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders drives policy decisions for comprehensive services and evidence-based treatments, resulting in optimal outcomes for Nevadans with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

### **Guiding Principles:**

- ~ With education and advocacy, Nevada's communities will increase safety, acceptance, and accessibility while being responsive to the needs of individuals with ASD and their families.
- ~ When Nevadans have equal access to comprehensive services across their lifespan, optimal outcomes occur and their family and community have a better quality of life.
- ~ When families are educated about programs, services, advocacy, self-determination, and evidence-based treatments they are empowered to make informed decisions and take an active role in their child's outcome.
- ~ Nevadans found at risk for ASD deserve to start treatment and receive services at the earliest possible age.
- ~ All Nevadans with ASD have the right to self-determination and to choose their own home, community, employment, social and recreational activities, caregivers, direct support professionals and goals, with the support of family and friends.
- ~ Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) implemented as recommended by the BACB Guidelines is a fundamental component of comprehensive services.
- ~ A sufficient, statewide, competent workforce is crucial to support optimal outcomes and quality of life for individuals with ASD.
- ~ When professionals implement evidence-based practices with validity and monitor for these practices for effectiveness, then treatment efficiency and outcomes will improve for the individual, family and Nevada's communities.
- ~ The maintenance of a system of care requires a comprehensive initiative that is responsive to the needs of individuals and families living with ASD, program evaluation, outcome data and applied research to ensure that the most effective treatment models and screening tools are utilized in Nevada.
- ~ Individuals with autism succeed in the community when primary and secondary providers deliver a coordinated, comprehensive and standardized system of care that embraces a person-centered framework throughout their lifespan.