



**Nevada Commission
On Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Addressing issues across the lifespan

Strategic Plan

2015 - 2020



Our Thanks

This page recognizes the individuals who lead or participated significantly in the planning process or in the development of the plan.

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Our Story

Executive Summary

This section summarizes the key information from all of the other sections of the strategic plan down into a 3-4 page executive summary. It will be written so that an outsider can easily read and understand the mission of the Commission, its overall major issues and goals, and key strategies to reach the goals.

Our Charge

Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (herein referred to as “Commission”) was established through Executive Order in 2008 by Governor Jim Gibbons, and amended by Governor Sandoval in 2011. It is structured to include a composition of five members, appointed by the Governor, which includes representation from the school system, an expert in behavioral analysis, a member of the general public, and two parents of children with an autism spectrum disorder.

The work of the Commission is an extension of an effort that was started in 2007 when Governor Gibbons established the Nevada Autism Task Force. The task force was comprised of 14 individuals that met for a year to study and make recommendations regarding the growing incidence of autism and ways to improve the delivery and coordination of autism services in the state. The result of their efforts is contained in the [2008 Report of the Nevada Autism Task Force: An Action Plan For Nevada’s Legislators and Policy Makers](#). This final product of the workgroup contained 146 specific recommendations regarding the appropriate response to autism in the state of Nevada. The primary task of the Commission is to “continue the work of the Task Force by developing strategies to implement, to the extent possible, the recommendations made by the Task Force.”

Since its establishment in 2008, the Commission and its established Subcommittees have worked to make progress in implementing the recommendations of the Task Force. Some legislative accomplishments include:

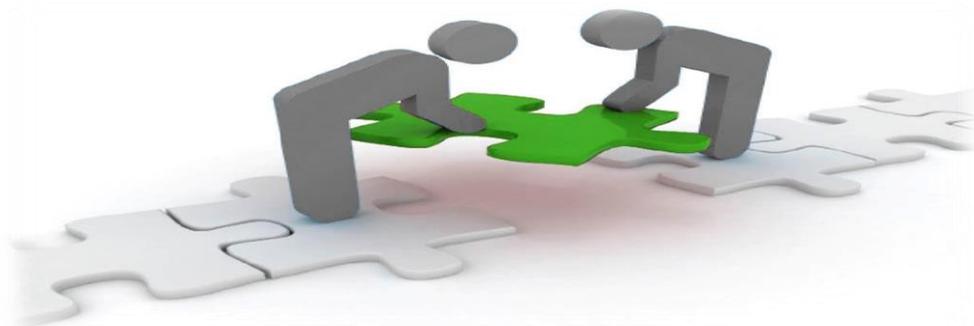
- Passage of AB 162, which requires insurance policies to offer an option of coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders for individuals under 18 or up to 22 years old if enrolled in high school.
- Passage of SB 359, which requires employees and contractors of Early Intervention (EI) to perform screenings for autism at the age levels and frequency recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. This bill also established a training and education component for individuals in the school systems and in EI that work with children and families facing autism.
- Passage of AB 313 & AB 345, which established the Autism and Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) within the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) as Nevada's Autism Program, placing them in Nevada Statute. The legislation requires the establishment of statewide standards, and the data collection and annual reporting of the number of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as well as services rendered.

While progress has been made, there is still plenty of work to be done. The prevalence of ASD and the number of Nevada residents impacted continues to rise at a rate surpassing the availability of supports and services needed. Recognizing this reality, the Commission embarked upon a strategic planning process to explore and confirm the most pressing needs of individuals with ASD across the lifespan and to establish a five-year plan to guide the Commission in responding to those needs.

Organization of the Report

The report is comprised of the following seven sections.

Our Story	This section summarizes the key information from all of the other sections of the strategic plan into an executive summary. It provides a high level overview of the mission of the Commission, its overall major issues and goals, and key strategies to realize those goals.
Our Charge	This section provides background information about the commission and the purpose of the plan. It provides context and historical perspective leading up to the development of the strategic plan.
Our Framework	This section presents the vision, mission and values held by the Commission. This framework is what is used as the “looking glass” through which all decisions related to the Commission are made.
Our Process	This section presents the methods and the approach to the strategic planning process through each phase of development.
Our Reality	This section of the report describes the current reality of individuals with ASD in each stage of life for residents throughout Nevada. It explores the most pressing needs facing the population, as well as strengths and weaknesses of the service system.
Our Future	This section lists all of the near-term and full-term goals of the Commission. It also provides specific strategies that will be pursued to achieve both the near-term and full-term goals over time.
Our Living Plan	This section describes how the Commission will measure and report on its success and lessons learned. Specific milestones for progress are described and the method and frequency for reporting and discussing results.



Our Framework

Strategic Orientation

This section will establish, refine or revisit the mission of the Commission, define the vision (what will it look like when the mission has been fulfilled?) and articulate the core values/guiding principles held by the Commission.

Vision

Mission

Core Values

Our Process

Methods

This section will outline the methods and the approach to the strategic planning process through each phase of development.

Our Reality

Environmental Scan / Situational Analysis

This section of the report will describe the current reality of individuals with ASD in each stage of life for residents throughout Nevada. It will describe the most pressing needs facing the population, as well as strengths and weaknesses of the service system.

Prevalence of the Issue

Systems Description

Key Needs

Our Future

Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives

This section lists all of the near-term and full-term goals of the Commission. It will also identify specific strategies that will be pursued to achieve both the near-term and full-term goals over time.

Near Term Goals

Full Term Goals

Our Living Plan

Evaluating and Updating the plan

This section describes how the Commission will measure and report on its success and lessons learned. Specific milestones for progress are described, along with the resources and tools needed to conduct evaluation, and the method and frequency for reporting and discussing results. It also describes the process and timing for reviewing and updating the strategic plan document to reflect significant changes over time.

Appendices

Key Informant Summary Report

Consumer Survey Summary Report

Subpopulation Summary Report