

Combined Recommendations for discussion.

Proposed by the following members and indicated in corresponding colors: Jan, Mary, Mark, Michele, Korri, Julie, and Lisa's drafted Recommendations.

NOTE: Keri and Shannon's recommendations are not included as I did not receive them in time to include them, but should be presented during the call.

## **Goal #1: Maximize public and private funding sources to support the full scope of services needed for all Nevadans with ASD.**

### **Objective 1.1: Expand access to health insurance benefits for ASD services.**

Strategy: Advocate for actions to be taken by Nevada Department of Insurance or Legislators that supports:

- Elimination of the annual benefits cap of \$36,000
- Elimination of the age limit for ASD benefits coverage

Strategy: Advocate for all insurance policies to provide coverage for ABA:

- Address Self-funded plans and Union Plans. Meet with Corporate Executives, demonstrate and encourage the promotion of "including a meaningful autism benefit". Setting a goal of converting at least five over the next 5 years.

Strategy: Advocate for more affordable plan options through the exchange which include autism benefit

- Attend and have a presents during Silver State Health Exchange/Insurance Consumer meetings

Strategy: Ensure legally mandated ASD health insurance benefits are delivered, tracked and enforced.

- Establishment of a compliance officer within the Attorney General's or Insurance Commissioner's office.

### **Objective 1.2: Expand Medicaid Coverage for ASD services throughout the lifespan.**

Strategy: Advocate for appropriate Medicaid rates, coverage and waiver flexibility.

- Ensure Medicaid Coverage supports ASD screening, diagnosis, and treatment throughout the lifespan
- Ensure Nevada Medicaid reimburses an adequate amount to allow pediatricians to do a thorough screening and explain comprehensive treatments to the parent.
- Require pediatric well child visits a complete ASD screening to receive reimbursement.
- Expand Medicaid Coverage for ASD services through adulthood (age 21 or 26).
- Identify and ensure that Medicaid reimbursement rates are sufficient to support access to services.
- Promote policy that recognizes ABA assessments and interventions are supported by scientific evidence as medically necessary for individuals with ASD.

### **Objective 1.3 (formerly 2.3)**

#### **Establish a statewide person-centered self-determination funding and service delivery option for all Nevadans living with ASD.**

Strategy: Lead the development of legislation that enacts a person-centered self-determination funding and service delivery option for Nevadans living with ASD.

Strategy: Collaborate with ADSD, DHCFF, other public agencies and private providers to educate and train all Nevadans with ASD and their families on person-centered planning.

### **Objective 1.4: Increase state funding allocation for Comprehensive Services for individuals with ASD.**

Strategy: Advocate for additional legislative funding to support:

- Increased capacity of NEIS to support direct service delivery which include ABA
- Increased caseload, treatment and supervision levels for ATAP services.
- Increased school-based allocations for ASD services and supports.
- Carve-out for ASD service provision through Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Establishment of Autism waiver for housing supports.
- Benefits coverage that supports ABA services using BACB guidelines for existing clients.
- Increase capacity for services provided by Regional Centers
- Provision of evidence-based levels of treatment

### **Objective 1.4(5) (formerly 2.4)**

**Achieve an employment rate for Nevadans with ASD commensurate with non-disabled Nevadans by expanding employment opportunities and supports, and reducing barriers.**

Strategy: 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.

Strategy: Collaborate with the Governor's Office of Economic Development, local and state agencies, and private for-profit and non-profit entities to encourage entrepreneurship and support creation of businesses that provide employment opportunities for Nevadans with ASD.

**Objective 1.5 (formerly 2.5)**

**Establish Nevada as a national leader in housing choice and capacity that fulfills the needs and desires of all Nevadans living with ASD.**

Strategy: Collaborate with ADSD, DHCFP, Regional Centers, and providers to establish policies and systems, including a web-based marketplace, which enable Nevadans with ASD to self-select their own residential setting from all available settings.

Strategy: Educate ADSD, DHCFP, relevant Governor's commissions and councils, and the Legislature on the broadest range of residential settings and successful housing models around the U.S.

Strategy: Collaborate with the aforementioned agencies and providers to enact policies and practices that support the development of innovative and appropriate housing models and capacity to meet the needs and desires of all Nevadans with ASD.

- Health insurance across the lifespan.
- Elimination of the age limit
- Elimination of the 36,000/year cap
- Private Health insurance companies are funding registered behavior technicians or CABI's that are working under a BCBA or BCBA
- Insurance funds provider determined level of care necessary for optimal outcome
- Insurance offered services are update based on current research
- Medicaid funds screening
- Medicaid funds diagnostic evaluations
- Medicaid funds ABA for children with autism
- Medicaid funds ABA for adults with autism
- Families of children in rural Nevada with Medicaid that have failed a screening are informed about Logisticare to cover travel expenses for a diagnostic evaluation. The travel reimbursement is flexible enough that if the family has to travel more than 4 hours one way than they are reimbursed for a night in the hotel.
- ATAP is serving children in every county in Nevada
- ATAP helps families reach the level of care recommended by the BACB
- ATAP helps families complete their applications
- ATAP services are provided based on individual needs as assessed by the provider, not on the individual's age or artificial funding slots
- ATAP age cap is increased from 19 to 26 to help young adults become employed and live independently
- HCBW funds BCBA consultations for skill development for community inclusion, daily living skills, and job and day training

## **Goal #2: Increase the systemic capacity for diagnosis, treatment, services and supports for individuals with ASD across the lifespan.**

### **Objective 2.1: Advocate for an established accountability framework for all service systems supporting individuals with ASD.**

Strategy:

- Define service delivery standards for each service system/stage of life (for individuals with ASD) based on evidence-based best practices.
- Conduct a comprehensive gaps analysis of needs and current system capacity.
- Identify infrastructure needs to support closing gaps in services.
- Develop solutions to address infrastructure needs.
- Develop an evaluation plan and standardized data management techniques.
- Implement data protocols which track and demonstrate outcomes across systems.**
- Implement change efforts, using outcomes to determine impact.

Strategy:

Advocate for children in rural areas to receive screening, diagnosis, and treatment supervision through monthly pop-up clinics and tele-med programs.

### ~~Objective 2.2: Develop standards for the ongoing screening and diagnosis of individuals with ASD across the lifespan.~~

~~Strategy:~~

### ~~Moved to 1.3 Objective 2.3: Re-establish a person-centered/self-determined care option for Nevadans living with ASD.~~

~~Strategy: Advocate for legislative action that supports a self-determination option of care for Nevadan's with an ASD diagnosis.~~

~~Strategy: Coordinate with ADSD to support person-centered customer service provision by state staff.~~

### ~~Objective 2.4: Expand employment opportunities and supports of Nevadans living with ASD.~~

~~Strategy: Coordinate with the Task Force on Integrated Employment to ensure that the needs of individuals with ASD are identified, understood, and addressed.~~

### **Objective 2.2 (formally 2.5) Establish Nevada as a national leader in housing choice and capacity that fulfills the needs and desires of all Nevadans living with ASD.**

Strategy: Collaborate with ADSD, DHCFF, Regional Centers, and providers to establish policies and systems, including a web-based marketplace, which enable Nevadans with ASD to self-select their own residential setting from all available settings.

Strategy: Educate ADSD, DHCFF, relevant Governor's commissions and councils, and the Legislature on the broadest range of residential settings and successful housing models around the U.S.

Strategy: Collaborate with the aforementioned agencies and providers to enact policies and practices that support the development of innovative and appropriate housing models and capacity to meet the needs and desires of all Nevadans with ASD.

### ~~Objective 2.5: Expand housing opportunities and supports of Nevadans living with ASD.~~

~~Strategy: Coordinate with the Regional Center to establish a web-based housing marketplace where Nevadans with Autism can self-select housing that best fits their needs.~~

~~Strategy: Educate the Nevada State Legislature regarding alternative housing models for individuals with ASD, encouraging them to support the development of such models.~~

### **Objective 2.3 (formally 2.6): Identify alternative service strategies to adequately meet the needs of individuals living in rural and frontier areas of the state.**

Strategy: Coordinate with State Service Providers (**Medicaid**, NEIS, and ATAP) to provide mobile clinics and tele-medicine for treatment.

- primary care providers are reimbursed for autism screenings
- vocational rehabilitation uses evidenced based interventions under the oversight of a BCBA to develop and implement employment plans and person centered entrepreneurships

- Secondary providers within Nevada’s government develop and submit plans to the NCASD outlining professional development regarding autism, evidenced based treatments, and available resources.
- Professional Boards (social work, medical, nursing) develop and submit plans to NCASD outlining professional development regarding autism, screening, treatments and available resources.
- Offer the self-directed supported living arrangement program with a fiscal intermediary that provides workman’s compensation
- Offer self-directed job and day training
- NCASD surveys consumers and providers to collect data regarding living with autism in Nevada
- County health nurse provides screening for autism during vaccination visits
- Pediatricians provide autism screening during well visits and during vaccination visits
- Mobile clinics provide screenings
- Department of Education requires IEP’s and 504 for 14 year olds to have a vocational rehabilitation plan page in which the vocational rehabilitation counselor signs off.
- School participate in Positive Behavior Supports Schoolwide to reduce bullying

**Goal #3: Expand the number and quality of professionals providing services to individuals with ASD.**

Build provider capacity to support a competent and adequate professional workforce for all disciplines who work with individuals across the lifespan.

**Objective 3.1: Develop a recruitment and retention plan for a skilled and sufficient workforce throughout the state.**

Strategy: Coordinate with the Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation to:

- ☐ Conduct an assessment of the workforce supporting individuals with ASD to identify the current and projected need.
- ☐ Identify infrastructure needs (to include University programs) to support developing specific workforce skills and abilities.
- ☐ Develop and implement a recruitment and retention plan.
- ☐ [Develop programs on high school campuses which promote career paths in to the field of Behavior Analysis.](#)

Strategy: Coordinate with ASD specialists and Universities to address professional conferences to provide education about screening, diagnosis, and comprehensive treatment.

Strategy: Collaborate with ASD specialists and Universities to create training and informational videos and materials for providers that will be maintained on a state-supported ASD website.

Strategy: Develop an outreach campaign targeted to high school and college students and the unemployed to encourage career decisions to work in the ASD field.

Strategy: Job training and workforce investment programs will recruit and fund the training of workers to be RBT’s.

Strategy: Direct support professionals are paid at the Medicaid allowed rate

**Objective 3.2: Establish training and certification standards for primary and secondary ASD service providers.**

Strategy: Develop a statewide training system to support individuals providing services to Nevadans living with ASD.

- ☐ [Fund & track Registered Behavior Technician \(RBT\) training statewide for all interventionist in the field](#)

- ☐ Identify core competencies needed by both primary and secondary providers of ASD services.
- ☐ Develop a training approach that incorporates online learning toolkits, training workshops, statewide conferences and peer supported networks for individuals in the field.
- ☐ Develop content and resources necessary to implement training approach.

Strategy: Coordinate with the (Insert Entity) to re-develop and implement certification standards for the provision of ABA services.

**Objective 3.3: Establish a Web-based directory/marketplace for ASD providers.**

Strategy: Coordinate with NEIS, ATAP, Voc Rehab and the Regional Centers to:

- ☐ Develop a directory of ASD service providers throughout the state, with information regarding target population, services provided, and forms of payment taken by each.
- ☐ Develop a comments section where consumers can provide feedback regarding the quality of care received by such providers.

**NEW GOAL NUMBER FOUR - based on prioritized critical issue number four.**

**Goal #4: Promote immediate access to comprehensive treatment and services based on a failed ASD screening.**

**Objective 4.1 Individuals failing an ASD screening will receive a diagnostic evaluation and a referral for comprehensive treatment and services within 45 days.**

Strategy: Advocate for increased and enforced regulations which require EI programs and community partners to provide ABA or immediately provide entry into ATAP for access to ABA upon a failed screen.

Strategy: Advocate for legislative action that specifies the deadline for beginning treatment and services will be determined based on the date of a failed ASD screening.

**Objective 4.2 Develop a screening program to detect ASD across the lifespan utilizing the most scientifically advanced tools and/or procedures.**

Strategy:

- Analyze current research to determine the most scientifically advanced tools and/or procedures for screening.
- Advocate for implementing these tools and/or procedures in at least 4 sites within the state.
- Advocate for monthly pop-up clinics in rural areas where these tools and trained staff will be made available.

**Objective 4.3 Develop alternative screening programs to ensure all Nevadans have ample opportunities to be screened before the age of two and consistently thereafter.**

Strategy:

- Collaborate with QRIS/Nevada Stars to require ASD screenings in Early Education environments.
- Collaborate with school districts to ensure students receive an ASD screening if they receive educational eligibility for school services under autism or a similar code.
- Collaborate with law enforcement agencies to ensure persons of interest receive a screening if they demonstrate behavior concerns that may be consistent with ASD.

**Goal #4 5: Promote a well-informed, empowered and supportive Nevada population around the issue of ASD.**

**Objective 4.1 (5.1): Establish a statewide education and outreach campaign regarding ASD.**

Strategy: Coordinate with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, [Private and Non-Profits](#) to establish and implement a community education campaign.

- ☐ Pediatrician Office Posters/Educational Materials

- Public Service Announcements
- Statewide Billboard Campaigns

**Objective 4.2 (5.2):** Motivate and promote treatment starting prior to 2 years of age.

Strategy: Coordinate with NEIS, ATAP, Universities, public and private entities including Non-profits, to provide a mentoring and educational campaign

Pediatrician Office Posters/Educational

Within the NEIS build mentoring programs for parents of children who fail a screen

Develop a DVD which positively demonstrates comprehensive treatment and the difference treatment makes to a child's developmental trajectory

Strategy: Customize the 100 day toolkit to support Nevada Parents and individuals who have been diagnosed with ASD.

- Mobile clinics provide outreach to rural Nevada communities to provide screenings, diagnostic evaluations, trainings about person centered services, self-determination, evidenced based treatments, available resources.
- NCASD continually evaluates and recommends current research to ensure that Nevadans receive evidence based treatments
- A website provides explanation of services and a timeline for accessing services that begins at red flags that families can access at their convenience.
- Nevada Department of Education Health Standards are developed to include living with a disability in the community, autism red flags, screening, treatment and available resources.
- NCASD provides autism awareness posters to nonprofits for distribution in Nevada's communities
- NCASD creates autism awareness PSA for distribution in Nevada's communities
- Parents are provide special education advocacy regarding transition to adulthood and the incorporation of vocational rehabilitation.
- Mobile clinics assist families in rural Nevada in completing applications, such as ATAP, Medicaid and Voc Rehab, and in accessing health insurance benefits

**Goal #5 (6): Coordinate access to services for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders across all systems.**

**Objective 5.1: Create a single point of access to services for individuals with ASD and their families.**

Strategy:

**Objective 5.2: Develop a navigational network to support families in accessing information, services, and a peer network for support.**

Strategy:

**Objective 5.3: Coordinate with School Systems** to strengthen:

- Coordination and partnerships with other care providers/systems
- and Create supports to add in successful transitions across each school year
- All students' access to ABA to address behaviors which impede their participation in education
- Create Cutting-edge Transition programs (Vocational for those with ASD in the community and on HS campuses
- Access to Transition planning and Vocational entrance no later than 14 years of age