



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
Community Education Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: June 30, 2016
9:30 a.m.

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Denise Robinson called the meeting for the Community Education Subcommittee to order at 9:44 a.m.

Members Present: Denise Robinson, Julie Ostrovsky, Casey Hayden, Carole Devon, Art Reitz

Members Absent: Jennifer Strobel, Michelle Scott-Lewing, Vanessa Knotts

Guests: Steven Cohen, Renee Portnell, Stephanie Hill

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 Community Education Subcommittee Members

Ms. Denise Robinson introduced herself as a parent of 15-year-old son with autism and wants to ensure the community understands autism.

Ms. Julie Ostrovsky introduced herself as a parent of 18-year-old son with autism and is also serving on the Autism Commission.

Mr. Art Reitz introduced himself as a parent of a 13-year old son with autism, president of JUSTin Hope Foundation and Reno Firefighter.

Ms. Robinson told the Subcommittee that Ms. Knotts, Ms. Scott-Lewing and Ms. were not able to join the meeting today.

Ms. Carole Devon introduced herself as the associate director of FEAT of Southern Nevada. She is from New York City. She was the parent of a child with severe autism who passed away during the 911 attacks. She was the liaison for 350,000 special education children.

Ms. Hayden introduced herself as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst that has supervised intensive behavior programs, staff and consultants. She helped pilot some of the programs for ATAP. She was recently in Los Angeles where she was working on behavior plans within the community.

IV. Review and Decide on the Goals of the Subcommittee

There was discussion about implementing the Five-Year Strategic Plan. Ms. Robinson read the goal of the strategic plan that pertained to the subcommittee:
Goal: Promote a well-informed, empowered and supportive Nevada population around the issue of ASD.

She included the following objectives:

4.1: Establish a statewide education and outreach campaign regarding ASD.

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

Ms. Robinson asked Ms. Devon to talk about the booklet that FEAT/UNLV has published. Ms. Devon said they are given out at hospitals, pediatricians' offices and other agencies. She said there are 10,000 in Spanish and 10,000 in English. She said it should be in print and website. It's a handy guide that talks about parent education, accessing ATAP services, providers, recreation, and other resources. She added it is funded by ads. Mr. Reitz asked how much it costs to print the book. Ms. Devon said it costs them \$10,000 to print 20,000 copies which is updated every two years.

There was discussion of setting a goal that FEAT will produce the booklets for the South, and JUSTin Hope can provide the booklets for the North. A Website

will be developed to provide all the information statewide including the rural areas.

Ms. Devon discussed having a disability coordinator within the school district. She told the Subcommittee that in New York, there was always a parent advocate at each IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meeting. They talked about collaboration efforts with school districts and how adversarial they have become.

Statewide PSAs that include radio, TV and billboards would help inform the Community about autism so they are not afraid of them. Ms. Devon suggested adding that Ford and other businesses want kids with autism to help with their businesses.

There was discussion about the first responder training and how it can be expanded statewide. It was mentioned that the medical community needs to be trained as well. Ms. Hayden told the Subcommittee that The Lovaas Center has developed a training for the medical community and has trained personnel at Summerlin Hospital.

Mr. Robinson told the Subcommittee that attorneys have to be educated as well.

Ms. Robinson summarized the following tasks that can be worked on by the Subcommittee:

- A booklet similar to the FEAT booklet can be completed within a year for the North as well as a Website that houses all the information statewide.
- PSAs on television, radio and billboard campaign to be done by the end of the year.
- Dispatch Registry for first responders to access statewide.

Ms. Devon made a motion to accept the three tasks that were summarized to be completed within the next year. Mr. Reitz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Robinson said she would look into the tagline that ACON uses of “Care before you have to.”

Ms. Stephanie Hill said she would look into a designer for the PSAs. She suggested getting high schools to design the PSAs and make it a competition among the high schools.

- V. **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)

Ms. Devon acknowledged what Mr. Reitz was doing to educate first responders.

The Subcommittee decided to schedule the next meeting to be held on July 28 at 12:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Robinson adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.]