



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
Youth and Transition Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: September 9, 2014
12:00 p.m.

Carson City: Legislative Building
401 S. Carson Street, Room 3138
Carson City, NV

Las Vegas: Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington Avenue
Room 4406
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- I. Julie Ostrovosky called the meeting for the Youth and Transition Subcommittee to order at 12:00 p.m.

Members Present: Julie Ostrovsky, Maria Martin, Steven Michelman, Scott Harrington

Members Absent: Erik Lovaas

Guests: Joyce Henderson, Dee Raymond, Jennifer Strobel, Andrew Debit, Denise Robinson, Linda Grosky, Shiela Garnder, Linda Geysler, Susana Garcia, Ruth Sainsbury, Cynthia Osborne

Staff Present: Dale Ann Luzzi, 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. Introduction to the Role of the Facilitator
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky stressed the meeting on September 23rd is incredibly important. Lisa Watson from Social Entrepreneurs Incorporated (SEI) has been contracted to write our five-year strategic plan. Ms. Ostrovsky asked that everyone bring people you know to make sure we have a strong voice. Ms. Watson is going to facilitate the discussions and ask a series of questions including who is our population, what needs are being met, what's not being met, the gaps in services or lack of services, how well programs and services are coordinated across systems, what are the strengths of our programs and what are the most critical issues, and what progress has been made since 2008.

IV. Timeline for Report
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky said the final report is due on December 15.

V. Take Nominations and Vote on Key Informants (For Possible Action)
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Maria Martin for the nominations of the key informant from this committee. They are Cynthia McCray, Clark County School District; Cheryl Jung, advocate and Scott Harrington
Maria Martin made a motion to accept the nominations. Steven Michelman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Review Distributions of Surveys and the Purpose of the Questionnaires
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky asked the committee again to send the survey to everyone they know.

VII. Clark County School District Update- Low Incidence Representative
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky said that Amy Coyne was not available to attend this meeting today but she will be at the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders meeting on Friday, September 12th.

VIII. Review Reports Provided by Committee on 2008 Strategic Plan
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Dee Raymond to share about the employment section: challenges and successes.

Mr. Harrington asked Ms. Ostrovsky to go over some of the points and elaborate on them.

Ms. Ostrovsky discussed how Ms. Raymond used her own experience as a parent, feedback from two regional supervisors, another parent and a participant to write that section of the report. She talked about referrals to Voc Rehab and social aspects of placement. There's more to employment than just the job itself and completing a task. It's about building more natural supports so our kids can be more successful. The kids need more social supports.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Raymond to talk about disclosure. Ms. Raymond iterated how important disclosure about diagnosis of autism is when applying for a job. If you disclose the diagnosis, there would be more support.

Ms. Ostrovsky pointed out the following from the 2008 report:

- How assembly lines are unfair
- Working with employers to break down steps and having a checklist
- We should try to be more creative using iPads
- Training coworkers and supervisors
- Making a job site less stimulating so there are fewer distractions
- Work with employers to make modifications
- Help with sensory issues
- Teaching kids to keep themselves together
- Facilitating the interview process
- Further consideration for how we can help with Voc Rehab

Mr. Harrington added the importance of making the process person-centered; think outside the box. You have to reframe the needed schedules and predictability for the employee as a strength to the employer in what the business needs. Critical factors are the person works in the community and earns minimum wage.

Ms. Joyce Henderson commented on creating social opportunities for natural supports. There's a deficit in more social opportunities in making friends and in a safe environment. It's important to have the success that starts from eight years old to move onto high school.

Ms. Ruth Sainsbury commented we need to get out there and train people. Ms. Sainsbury sees when they transition from high school to college and the need to get them up to speed.

Ms. Cynthia Osborne told the committee that she is a counselor in private practice for special needs children. She is also a marriage and family counselor and offers counseling for kids and would like to be a part of this process.

IX. Five Priorities for Facilitator
Denise Robinson, CCSD teacher

Ms. Robinson commented on the aid situations in the rooms. The aids need to be paid a higher wage and they need to be quality aids. The training needs to come from the teacher. There should be a teacher-to-teacher mentoring. There's a Step program that escalates teachers to special education or regular education positions. Ms. Robinson said the person who is hired needs to love these kids and know that the kids have potential. "My son is awesome."

Ms. Robinson's five goals:

1. Awareness (99 point checklist)
2. Diagnosis
3. Treatment
4. Transition and sexuality
5. Job training and life skills

Ms. Robinson reminded everyone that IDEA says that 14 is the age we start thinking of transitions.

X. Hold September 23, 2014 for Meeting with Facilitator
Julie Ostrovsky, Chair

Ms. Ostrovsky reminded everyone that this is the greatest opportunity for this subcommittee to form the youth and transition section of the report. This is more than transitioning to jobs. It is important to address what happens when the student get out of high school and how to prepare to leave the school district and move on to employment.

XI. 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. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide secretary with written comments.)

There was no public comment.

XII. Adjournment

Ms. Ostrovsky adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.