



Nevada Commission On Autism Spectrum Disorders

Addressing issues across the lifespan

Subcommittee Members and meeting participants were asked to rank the draft vision, mission and guiding principles statements in an effort to identify the strategic orientation most relevant to the work of the commission. This document shares the results of that process, and concludes with recommendations for moving forward.

Vision Statement

The vision statement is a vivid description of what kind of future the organization is trying to create. In other words, it is a clear and compelling goal that serves to unify an organization's efforts.

Suggested Vision Statements	Ranking	Score
All Nevadans living with autism spectrum disorder have access to information, resources and programs which help them reach their full potential.	4, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 3	1.73
Nevada is a state that is recognized for achieving the best outcomes for individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder.	3, 5, 3, 5, 3, 2, 3, 3, 4, 2, 2,	3.36
A life of limitless opportunity for every Nevadan with Autism Spectrum Disorder.	1, 1, 1, 4, 2, 4, 5, 6, 5, 5, 4	3.46
Nevadans living with autism spectrum disorder enjoy meaningful participation and self-determination in all aspects of their life.	2, 3, 5, 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 4, 4, 5	3.64
Nevada prevents autism spectrum disorder in our youngest and provides supports which allow all individuals throughout their lifespan to enjoy a full and productive life.	6, 6, 6, 6, 6, 1, 2, 3, 3, 1	4.00
A world without barriers.	2, 4, 1, 5, 5, 2, 6, 5, 6, 6, 6	4.36

Mission Statement

The mission defines the fundamental purpose for the organization to exist. Together, the mission and values show what people in the organization believe in, giving meaning to the work necessary to make the organization flourish.

Suggested Mission Statements	Ranking	Score
The Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders provides leadership, oversight and legislative advocacy in support of services and evidence-based treatments that achieve outcomes for Nevadans living with autism spectrum disorders.	1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 4, 3, 1, 1, 2	1.82
The mission of the NV Autism Commission is to address issues across the lifespan affecting Nevadans with Autism Spectrum Disorders, serve as a central point of advocacy and collaboration and accountability, and to steward resources and efforts to achieve optimal outcomes from diagnosis through adulthood.	2, 2, 1, 4, 1, 1, 5, 1, 3, 3, 3	2.36
Our mission is to ensure that individuals living with autism spectrum disorder are understood by the communities in which they live, supported by the various systems that provide care, and valued as contributing members of society.	3, 5, 3, 3, 3, 1, 2, 4, 4, 4	3.20
Our mission is to help Nevada implement new programs based on the most current research with the goals of preventing autism spectrum disorder in our youngest children and improving the quality of life for all who are now affected.	3, 5, 3, 5, 4, 4, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1	3.27
The Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders provides support and promotes opportunities which enhance the lives of individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder.	4, 4, 2, 5, 5, 2, 5, 5, 5, 5	4.2

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles, also called Core Values, shape and influence the actions of a group. Guiding principles are those principles and beliefs that are held dear and which shape how people think and act within the organization, much like freedom is a core value of our country. Guiding Principles can **act as a compass** to keep a group on course.

Please rank the list below according to the principles that you believe are most important and should be held by the Commission. Please rank each value from 1-10, with 1 representing the most critical value and 10 representing the least critical value.

Guiding Principles for the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders	Rank	Score
1. It is critical that professionals providing direct services to Nevadans with ASD demonstrate competency, ensure treatment fidelity, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions used. Furthermore, secondary providers such as health, transportation, education, and law enforcement personnel provide services more effectively when appropriately educated about ASD.	2, 5, 5, 5, 3, 2, 4, 1, 2, 2, 5	3.27
2. Timely diagnosis and interventions that are evidence based and provided at the appropriate levels are critical to helping people with autism reach their full potential.	7, 7, 6, 3, 7, 5, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1	3.73
3. Systems should provide a coordinated, comprehensive and standardized system of care that embraces a person-centered framework throughout the lifespan.	3, 3, 1, 7, 1, 3, 8, 5, 4, 4	3.9
4. Every person living with ASD deserves timely access to appropriate information and available services irrespective of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, Intelligence Quotient (IQ), place of residence, primary language or literacy level, race, socio-economic status or other distinguishing characteristics.	8, 1, 3, 6, 4, 1, 10, 3, 3, 3, 4	4.18
5. As a vital part of the service system, families have different needs, expectations, resources, values, and priorities, which must be honored in the service delivery process.	9, 4, 2, 2, 5, 4, 3, 4, 9, 9	5.10
6. All Nevadans with ASD have the right to self-determination, and should be afforded the services, supports, and opportunity to live, learn, work and socialize in the communities of their choosing.	5, 2, 9, 9, 2, 6, 2, 6, 6, 6	5.3
7. The full range of functional abilities and limitations must be considered when supporting individuals living with ASD. Those with the capacity for more self-direction must be afforded the opportunity to build on individual strengths to maximize independence.	1, 6, 10, 4, 6, 5, 7, 5, 5	5.44
8. The needs of Nevadans with ASD should dictate service options as opposed to what is deemed available through either public policy, Medicaid financing or private insurance.	6, 10, 7, 1, 10, 7, 7, 9, 7, 7, 3	6.73
9. Recognizing new treatments/models as science advances the causes of and treatment for Autism Spectrum Disorders should be systematically incorporated in the commission's advocacy efforts.	4, 9, 8, 10, 8, 9, 9, 8, 10, 10, 2	7.0
10. Individuals with ASD and their families should be treated with dignity and respect, and should be recognized as key stakeholders when establishing policy, services, and supports.	10, 8, 4, 8, 9, 8, 6, 10, 8, 8	7.90

Additional Guiding Principles offered for Consideration by the Steering Committee

11. Children/Individuals with ASD have access to Focused ABA to address individual behavior targets. (ACCESS)
12. All children are screened for ASD according to the Guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics and immediately provided access to treatment and a comprehensive medical evaluation upon a failed screen. (ACCESS)
13. It is critical that Nevada utilize the most current science to innovate programs so our youngest children who are at risk will be identified and will receive comprehensive treatment at the earliest age possible to prevent an ASD diagnosis. (ACCESS)
14. All children will begin receiving Applied Behavior Analysis, provided at levels defined by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board, within 30 days of a failed ASD screening. (GOAL)
15. Families must be educated so they do not fear a diagnosis of ASD and understand their support of intensive, comprehensive treatment at the youngest age possible will be necessary. (INFORMATION)
16. Parents must be informed about ASD evidence based practices to guarantee children have the opportunity to receive appropriate levels of support and training. (INFORMATION)
17. Individuals with ASD and their Parents/Caregivers make informed choices, have knowledge of evidence-based treatments, research and are empowered through education, mentoring, support and training. (INFORMATION)
18. All adults with ASD have access to high-quality residential, employment and day service options and participate in the amount of intervention necessary to maximize their functional abilities, meaningful relationships, self-determination and employability. (ACCESS)
19. Self-determination and self direction, as reflected in consumer choice, leads to positive adult outcomes. (CHOICES)
20. ABA should be a covered, standard treatment for individuals with ASD. (ACCESS)
21. Co-occurring medical conditions are recognized and treated.(STRATEGY)
22. ASD should be included in the standard of care for all pediatric and medical evaluations. (STRATEGY)
23. All Nevadans with ASD have the human and civil right to choose where they live, work, learn and socialize from all setting options available, planned and imagined. (CHOICES)
24. All Nevadans with ASD who are eligible for Medicaid-funded supports and services in any one residential, employment or social setting should be eligible for those supports in any and all settings of their choosing.(STRATEGY)
25. All Nevadans with ASD eligible for Medicaid-funded supports and services have the right to determine for themselves where and how to spend those funds for supports and services. (GOAL)
26. All Nevadans with ASD have the right to define home, community, independence and outcome for themselves in their own terms. (CHOICES – Integrated into Recommended Guiding Principle)
27. All Nevadans with ASD have the human and civil right to the education of their choice at the institution of their choice, including access to private and government-backed student funding, and all areas of academic life. (GOAL)
28. A person-centered plan is about the needs and desires of the Nevadan with Autism and should take precedent over what government agencies want to provide. (SUPPORT)
29. All professionals utilize evidence-based practices and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of interventions used. (FIDELITY - Integrated into Recommended Guiding Principle)
30. It is critical that Nevada utilize the most current science to innovate programs so our youngest children who are at risk will be identified and will receive comprehensive treatment at the earliest age possible to prevent an ASD diagnosis. (ACCESS)

Recommendation:



Vision

All Nevadans living with autism spectrum disorder will reach their full potential.



Mission

*The Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders mission is to provide **leadership, oversight and legislative advocacy** in support of Nevadans living with autism spectrum disorders.*



Guiding Principles

Information: Every person living with ASD and their families deserves timely access to appropriate information about available services regardless of their individual circumstances.

Choices: All Nevadans with ASD have the right to self-determination and should be afforded the right to define home, community, independence and outcomes for themselves, in their own terms.

Access: Timely diagnosis and interventions that are evidence based and provided at the appropriate levels are critical to helping people with autism reach their full potential.

Support: Primary and secondary providers should deliver a coordinated, comprehensive and standardized system of care that embraces a person-centered framework throughout the lifespan.

Respect: As a vital part of the service system, families have different needs, expectations, resources, values, and priorities, which must be honored in the service delivery process.

Fidelity: All professionals should utilize evidence-based practices and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of interventions used.