



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: November 12, 2020 4:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Commission members will be attending telephonically and via Microsoft TEAMS. Members of the public will also participate via teleconference

Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Lozano called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 4:05 pm.

Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Lenise Kryk, Antonina Capurro, Julie Ostrovsky, Ritzie Gratrix, James Howells

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes from the October 27, 2020 Meeting (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Howells seconded the motion.

The motion passed

ATAP Updates

Ms. Jayme shared and reviewed with the commission a budget build flow chart that another program had put together. She felt this could help people understand this process better. This information is posted and can be accessed online on the ADSD website.

Ms. Jayme does not have any updates for ATAP since the last commission meeting.

Ms. Kryk asked how the commission can be more a part of this budget process as she was not aware of the commission being included this time around, prior to the submission? Ms. Kryk asked how they can be more involved in the future?

Ms. Jayme thinks the best places will be through their workgroups as she thinks these workgroups are very productive. Once everything is out about the budget, Ms. Jayme thinks it would be good to be collaborative on the efficiencies/what the commission is looking at and to listen to recommendations from the commission. Also, really working together in the interim, prior to budget builds, to see what the commission's priorities are and where the gaps are in the programs, to then work together in working on a plan prior to making the budget.

Ms. Kryk asked about budget cuts and how these cuts are going to affect ATAP?

Ms. Jayme said there was a memo that went out last week that the governor put out that was an asked for an additional 12% cut per year of the biennium. At this time, the leadership of the division is looking to see what those cuts look like and how they will propose them to the governor's finance office. Ms. Jayme believes the commission's governor report helps show support to the programs and she recommends the commission to share their concerns with the cuts in this report as well as being actively involved throughout legislature and having written public comment can be impactful too. At this time, ATAP does not know what the cuts look like, but will share as information comes.

Ms. Jayme shared that the legislative audit subcommittee has been planned for January 14th, where they plan to roll out the finalized audit for autism services. Ms. Jayme will share that information with Ms. Chalupnik so she can send out to everyone.

Mr. Howells asked if ATAP is currently looking for recommendations or justifications on ways to be spending the funds for the current stage of the budget or are we already pass this point?

Ms. Jayme answered in the governor's finance office they do come to program and ask specifics, so ATAP is actively talking through things as well. Ms. Jayme mentioned again how the commission's report to the governor will be very helpful.

Regional Center Presentation to Include Discussion Regarding Services and Supports for Individuals with Autism

Ms. Jessica Adams shared and presented a PowerPoint. This presentation is posted and can be accessed online on the ADSD website.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if there is any money for respite services and if people are on a waitlist for that. How long does it take to get approved from the time an application is submitted?

Ms. Adams answered that all their services do have waitlists and the respite has a long waitlist and she currently does not have numbers on the waitlists.

Ms. Adam answered, it is their goal to get people approved within 90 days, although it is really dependent on what they have (documentation, testing, etc.), if what is needed is provided, they can get approved pretty quickly. Without the proper information, it can take months to get approved.

Ms. Gratrix works with the school district and a huge part of what they have done is provide documentation and paperwork for families; the biggest struggle they are facing currently is; they do not have access to the confidential folders to make copies for families. Since now they currently cannot go on campus, she asked if there are any signatures required, lapse in the eligibility, or MDT documentation?

Ms. Adams said in Southern Nevada, they did work with Clark County School District and believes staff currently has online access to the records, which has helped. Ms. Adams stated that they are not ultra-strict on when the person was qualified or if they have an expired IEP. As far as the release of information, they have held to those needing signatures but are still getting them. Ms., Adams believes they are receiving these from the central office of CCSD but will double check.

Ms. Kryk asked how they recruit community agencies. How many do they have?

Ms. Adams will have to get back to the commission with exact numbers but as far as getting them, it is a lot of reaching out. When it comes to supported employment, they try to work closely with vocational rehabilitation and try their best to both try and certify them so both can share them.

Ms. Kryk asked if there is a cap on the funding allotted for the job coach. How long they can get that service? How many hours of job coach support is provided and who decides?

Ms. Adams stated that there are no caps. Every person has their own team of people that then determine. Where the Service Coordinator works as the mediator. Depending on who the person has in their life (SC, the person, family, schools, provider) they will come together to see what is working and what is not.

Ms. Kryk asked if the behavioral consultation training and intervention is only in group homes. Are BCBA's overseeing staff or directly?

Ms. Adam answered that all specialized services are their own standalone services. If someone does have a BCBA working with them, we expect that BCBA to work with them in any setting that person is in. The BCBA will be the ones doing the assessment, writing the behavioral support plan, and in charge of training the either SLA/JDT staff in giving the plan. Ms. Adams mentioned it is different than in the ABA world, where the RBT's work for the BCBA's, they do not have that there. The BCBA is more of a contractor for the team, so they will not have direct supervision of staff that are implementing their plan.

Ms. Kryk asked if there is any training for their staff to complete, such as CEU's?

Ms. Adams said there is not any like CEU's but if someone is working with somebody that has specialized needs then every agency needs to have a Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional (QIDP), which are in charge of making sure the plans are implemented as they are written.

Ms. Lozano asked if the number of individuals with autism receiving services is increasing. Is there an Autism specialist within the structure?

Ms. Adams does not have the numbers to which developmental disability diagnosis, but developmental disabilities as a whole is becoming a larger group. There is a long list that falls under this group

Ms. Adams said they do not employ anyone at the regional centers specifically for autism, there are psychologists and mental health councilors that may have a background in autism, but that is all.

ABA Medicaid Billing Updates to Include Discussion on Service Utilization

Ms. Follet stated that she wants to get someone from her data analytics team to come to a meeting and go over data and explain what the process is to retrieve information out of the Medicaid system. This might iron out what the commission is looking for. She asked to give them at least 4 weeks since Thanksgiving is coming up.

All Ms. Follet has to share today is a snapshot of what the providers look like in each Fee for Service and the three MCO's. This information is posted and can be accessed online on the ADSD website.

Discuss Topics for the Biennium Report to the Governor Office (Make recommendations / For Possible Action)

Since the commission did approve the topics for this report, Ms. Lozano proposed to draft a letter and to then come together in the future, as a group, to fill in the holes.

Ms. Kryk made a motion for Ms. Lozano to draft a biennium letter for the commission to work on together in the future. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion.

This motion passed.

Discuss and Approve Agenda Items for Future Commission Meetings (For Possible Action)

Ms. Kryk hopes to see the following agenda items on the next agenda: Biennium Report, Legislative Updates and Workgroup Updates.

Ms. Lozano mentioned having Medicaid updates in 4 weeks.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to include Biennium Report, Legislative Updates and Workgroup Updates to the next agenda and Medicaid updates on the agenda in 4 weeks. Mr. Howells seconded the motion.

This motion passed.

Ms. Frischmann stated that there are a lot of state staff that help with these meetings and they do not get paid overtime when meetings go over 5pm. If meetings were in person and in state buildings, meetings would need to end at exactly 5pm. Ms. Frischmann asked that the commission members be mindful of this.

The commission members decided to start their next meeting at 3:30pm to be able to cover the entire agenda. They decided to hold the next commission meeting on November 24, 2020 at 3:30pm.

Ms. Kryk made a motion for the next commission meeting to be on November 24, 2020 at 3:30pm. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm