



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: May 13, 2020 12:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Board members attended telephonically. Members of the public also participated via teleconference

Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Lozano called the meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders to order at 12:01 pm.

Ms. Samantha Jayme proceeded with Roll Call: Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Antonina Capurro, Lenise Kryk, Abbie Chalupnik, Korri Ward - Delayed, Julie Ostrovsky - Delayed, Cori More

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

Mr. Wesley Kikiuchi - Is a parent of an autistic 15-year-old child. He receives ATAP funds for his son. He wants to know if changes are being made for the use of ATAP funds so that they can be used with other services and is there anything being addressed in legislation so that ATAP funds can be used for services such as, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and neuro psychology, including social groups that are non-BCBA backed? He is currently receiving funds for services for his son, however, the funds his child receives cannot be used for services that he requires at an older age. Is there anything being addressed on this matter so that the ATAP funds can be used to for other types of therapy?

Ms. Samantha Jayme advised that the Commission is not able to respond, but they can hold it for a future agenda item if they choose.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 29, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Trisha Lozano, Commission Chairperson

Ms. Kryk had a question regarding all the information that was put into 8 pages. One thing that Ms. Kryk noticed was missing from the previous minutes was Jamie's update on ABA in school. Some information was not spoken of, because it would have to happen with the school as far as ABA. Jamie did mention that if the schools were able to access Medicaid

funds, they would be required to meet the same State requirements as far as for ABA. That was one of the concerns mentioned during Public Comment from Dr. Kettoff. Ms. Kryk wanted to make sure this information was noted in the minutes, because Ms. Kryk was not able to find it.

Ms. Jayme to review the recording, there is a piece on licensure, but she will listen to it again. The part that Jamie said about licensure was added.

Ms. Kryk just wants to make sure, as that was an important piece. Ms. Lozano pg. 5, next two meetings instead of three.

Ms. Lozano motion to approve the minutes and also ensure that information is included in the minutes.

Korri Ward made motion to approve with corrections, Dr. Capurro to second.

Make recommendations for subcommittees and additional objectives for the Commission

Ms. Kryk wanted to see if any other members wanted to share some thoughts on the subcommittees. Ms. Kryk mentioned some ideas at the last meeting but wanted to see if anyone else had any other thoughts to discuss.

Ms. Lozano had some ideas of moving forward. Ms. Lozano thinks that the Funding and Insurance Committee has big areas to focus on and it would be a beneficial subcommittee. Could there be a point person to research and work with the Dept. of Education and school districts across Nevada to bring information back to the Commission so that work can be done on those goals. Also thinking, Adult and Transition Services seems like there is important work that can be done there. Ms. Lozano is wondering if we should move forward with that committee and those focus areas?

Ms. Kryk thinks that the Commission all agrees on the Funding and Insurance subcommittee being a priority with how it gets organized between that and the Workforce Development subcommittee. Ms. Kryk has been struggling with making sure things do not get lost and wants to make sure that all three groups are represented, Early Intervention, School Age, and Adults. In the past there had been an adult subcommittee, but she isn't sure if that produced the results needed for that population. Ms. Kryk is wondering if structuring it differently this time might be a benefit. Ms. Ward and Ms. Ostrovsky also mentioned trying something different, should we look at subcommittees based on the three groups or looking at having Funding as one and then Workforce included or have it separately? Last time it was mentioned to have two subcommittees and encompass all three groups as well as all three key points that the survey touched on. Ms. Kryk knows that we will need fresh data to develop the next strategic plan, but the three main points that were in it were service sufficiency, financial support, and qualified sufficient workforce. We need to make sure those points do not get lost.

Ms. Lozano was looking at that too and got the idea that the Workforce Development, specifically addressing shortages of BCBA and RBT's. Could it be part of Funding and Insurance?

Ms. More had an idea to keep the insurance subgroup and then possibly having an Adhoc group that could be represented by people of each age group so that we are looking across that life span. Their role or function would be to do the work that needs to be done to move forward. The idea might be good in that it is flexible, but a drawback may be that it would be hard to find people that are specialized and able to do that wide range of work.

Ms. Ward likes the idea of having someone represent pre-school kids, school-age, and then the adults. She also likes the Funding and Insurance category and knows there is another workforce out there that supports adults, which is called Supportive Living Assistants or Personal Instructors. They have traditional training for people with physical disabilities. This workforce needs to be developed and trained to work with some of the kids that may need services well into adulthood. That is something that does not even exist at all, and we are not addressing that at the moment. When we are thinking of workforce development, it needs to be across the board for all ages, especially into adulthood because that population is growing.

Ms. Lozano also likes the idea of having two subcommittees, keeping the Funding and Insurance and then having the one that has representatives from each focus area.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked Ms. Lozano, if with the two focus groups she was thinking of were Funding and Insurance being one and then Workforce Development as the other group?

Ms. Lozano states the Funding and Insurance would be beneficial, but also likes the Adhoc group so that it can make sure the work gets done and things do not get lost.

Ms. Kryk is trying to figure out the Adhoc and how that would work. Believes that all three groups need to be represented. So, would there be a Funding and Insurance one and then Workforce Development one, and then there would be an Adhoc one where people focused on ensuring that both subcommittees are looking at all three populations? Is that what we are thinking?

Ms. Mores' thoughts are that it could be flexible. Take for instance we have COVID right now that is impacting us and bringing on unique issues for us. We could charge that group with whatever needs to get done and provide them a task to get done. It could be flexible like with the COVID issues, but we need find out what the barriers are and bring that information back to the Commission. Or if it was legislation time and they need to see if new data had to be collected, or if workforce needed to be looked at specifically. That could be charged and broad and their work could be defined by us as needed.

Ms. More states it can be whatever we want it to be. The purpose of the group would be to respond to tasks given by the Commission and then we define those tasks as issue arise.

Ms. Lozano has some concerns about not defining the roles within the group, because it's good to be goal oriented to make sure the roles that are established for the second committee that we're talking about. Ms. Lozano likes the idea of having representatives for adult transitions, workforce and NEIS, but that we have those defined so that our goals get accomplished and nothing is forgotten.

Ms. Kryk also likes the idea of having fluidity and being able to focus on what is necessary at that time, just like with COVID. She is wondering how it is different than if we had an Insurance and Funding committee? We have some goals and need to get research done to figure out what our actual goals are within it. If the subcommittee is Funding and Insurance, we would need goals to start with, but can adjust as needed based off the current climate and prioritizing. Would we pick a goal and then can't waiver, is that how it would work, because then it would not allow us to have the fluidity? Maybe we have the Adhoc that might work. Ms. Kryk's thought was to have Insurance and Funding as a broad overview and then you have goals based off what is needed at that time and then focus on meeting those goals.

Ms. Capurro agrees with Ms. Kryk, because if we have too many committees then we will not have set priorities. It may get very confusing very quickly. We want to be fluid, but we can still discuss things as a group. It does not just have to be in a subcommittee. We need to set the top priorities such as funding or legislative or the pandemic.

Ms. More wants to clarify that we have two big issues and she proposes that those be the two committees. The first, being Insurance and Funding and the second, Workforce Development. Then if we need to add more at a later time, we can do that.

Ms. Kryk agrees that if she had to pick two, then those are the two. Ms. Kryk asks if the one group even needs to be called Insurance and Funding, since insurance is a type of funding source. Ms. Kryk agrees that the common theme is funding and workforce for sure.

Ms. Ward asks if there should be a motion for two subcommittees to be made?

Ms. Kryk would second the motion to make two subcommittees for Funding/ Insurance and Workforce development.

Ms. Ward makes a motion we establish two subcommittees, one for Funding and Insurance and the second for Workforce Development. This will include pre-school kids, school-age kids, and adults with disabilities within each of those groups.

Ms. Kryk seconds the motion.

Ms. Lozano passes motion.

Ms. Kryk asked a question that may be for the next meeting. Do we decide at the next meeting who will lead what part on the two subcommittees? Not sure how it works. Does it get put on the agenda for the next meeting?

Ms. Lozano advises it would be productive to put it on the next agenda for the next meeting or at least consider it for the next meeting.

Ms. Kryk agrees and makes a motion to put deciding subcommittee organization and the delegation on the next agenda.

Ms. Ward seconds the motion.

Ms. Lozano passes motion.

Update on Board of Applied Behavior Analysis

Ms. Brigid Fronapfel, BCBA-D, ABA chair discusses the questions received from the Commission during the last meeting. First question was regarding board plans for meetings. ABA temporarily ceased meetings during COVID, but since things are opening up, the ABA has a meeting scheduled for Monday, May 18 at 1:00 pm. In terms of registration for RBT's, they never ceased registration for RBT's. The ABA has continued to process registrations during this time. They know that there have been difficulties with other components, such as finger printing. But the board is still processing RBT's and licenses. The final question was regarding "testing", Ms. Fronapfel assumes it is for analytic testing, which will also be re-opened during Phase 1. There are constraints that are going to be placed on testing, specifically in Carson City where the room is smaller. So, only a certain number of applicants can be tested at one time, they will need to wear a mask and leave materials in their vehicle. All instructions have been communicated to the applicants. Las Vegas has more flexibility as their room is larger, so more applicants can be tested at one time, however, the safety precautions regarding masks are in place and will remain effective until further notice. One other point the ABA wanted to make was the talk about fingerprints, and the requirements are not coming from ADSD, but from our State regulations, related to the FBI and Public Safety. This would be for all BCBA's and RBT's. Ms. Fronapfel asks if there are any other questions the Commission has for the board at this point?

Ms. Kryk thanks Ms. Fronapfel for the information and updating the Commission. We are really looking forward to working with the ABA on progressing through goals that affect our entire community.

Update on Early Intervention Services

Dr. Jennifer Ahn, Phycologist with NEIS down south. Provides updates on what they're doing in terms of diagnosing and supporting kids on the waitlist. Ms. Ahn asks the Commission if there are any specific questions they want to ask. (No questions at this time) Ms. Ahn will talk a little bit about what is being done in the South. They have decided to proceed with providing diagnosis and doing the Autism clinic through telehealth, which has changed. They are no longer doing standardized tests, which is the ADOS that they had been doing before COVID. They are using their multi-disciplinary team, which consists of their DS, who has been working with the family, and the behavior assessment team that has seen the child at least once or multiple times during the past few months. They are also performing two tests called the CARS and the ASRS. This is done by conducting a parent interview and scoring the child's behavior on different domains. They have been able to complete a number of these, but if there is a complex case or there are telehealth limitations or the family is no longer comfortable proceeding with telehealth, then they can wait until face to face services are an option again. For now, they are taking on the telehealth approach and it seems to be going well currently. For kids that have been on the waitlist or have been scheduled and were cancelled due to COVID, they are going to be completing their Autism evaluation even if they age out of the services. Now they are starting to get kids added to their list, those kids' timeline for services was not necessarily disrupted due to COVID, and if they age out, they would be

referred outside to the community. They also have their BAT team going out or through telehealth, which is providing ongoing support for kids waiting for the clinic.

Dr. Danielle Stage, Pediatrician with NEIS in Reno – advised they are doing a more limited approach, they are not doing ADOS testing until they can see patients face to face. The DS' still doing certain screening to identify those kids that will need to have ADOS done. Dr. Stage has done some telehealth visits with families that were more anxious to get a diagnosis. She is observing the child via telehealth as a DS V. They're working on doing ADOS' as Phase 2 opens.

Ms. Ahn asked if there are any other questions that NEIS can answer?

Ms. Kryk doesn't have any questions at this time, but thanks NEIS for sharing their updates. The priority on how NEIS is dealing with COVID gave a good synopsis to see where things are at. Maybe in the future as things move forward, but nothing now.

Dr. Capurro asks if there are any limitations on telehealth that the Commission should be aware of, are the parents able to access it ok? If COVID extends into the Fall, what support you might need that we should be aware of?

Ms. Ahn advises from her experience so far it is a challenge with platforms that are said to be HIPPA compliant, which some families do not have access to. They try to use Zoom as much as possible or send recordings through Zoom or via protected email, such as State encrypted email. Some families don't have access to Zoom or want to try such platforms, but they have been flexible as much as possible. The biggest challenge is the limited number of HIPPA compliant platforms available, especially when it comes to sharing files, like videos. Of course, if there are some families that cannot provide information this way, then they would have to be placed on hold until face to face evaluation services can resume.

Ms. Lozano – Thanks everyone for the information.

Distance Learning update from Washoe County School District (WCSD)

Trisha Lozano – Presenting the information from WCSD. Ms. Lozano works for the Washoe County School District as an Instructional Coordinator and oversees special Education programs for students with autism, intellectual disabilities and developmental delays. WCSD distance learning plan for all students with special education services. At the beginning of this distance learning they developed procedures for families to come pick up their students learning materials, such as their communication boards, devices, visual schedules and other materials needed. For the families that were not able to pick up their students' materials, they went to the individual residences to drop of the materials. WCSD developed Distance Learning plans for elementary, middle and high school, and included curriculum for social and emotional learning, such as reading, fiction, non-fiction, life skills, transitions, art and PE. The plans were designed to be easy for the parents to follow and did include distance support and services. Teachers are providing daily instructions through Zoom, TEAMS and phone calls or emails. If there are parents that are having a hard time with work schedules and are not able to participate through video chat, the teachers are doing their best to work with those parents and students. Teachers are also working one on one with the students and parents when needed. These services are provided through video and

phone conferences. Teachers and related service providers are collaborating with the families schedules so that they are not overwhelmed with the services. Teachers help to provide visual schedules for home and social stories to address student needs. Especially for those students that are confused about the situation of being home-bound. Teachers are also working on goals to the greatest extent possible, documenting the students' progress and collecting data through their daily contact with families, including the work that has been turned in or will be turned in. Some families have requested a scheduled contact specific to their situations and the teachers are working with that. Upon the return of "brick and mortar" teachers are going to assess the students' levels that align with the goals and will closely monitor their progress and meet their needs. WCSD is working to provide devices for extended school year (ESY) and assist families to gain access to resources like internet so that students can use their devices. WCSD is encouraging teachers to continue to work during this time so that students have consistency and structure. Teachers will continue to provide daily instruction via video conference. Curriculum will be provided so that students can work on their goals during that time as well. That is the summary of what Washoe County is doing for distance learning for our students with special education services. Ms. Lozano asks if there are any questions currently.

Ms. Kryk thanks Ms. Lozano for the updated information. It is a hard situation that we are all dealing with. One of her questions was regarding ESY, but it may have already been answered. Just to clarify, the current teacher that the student has during ESY will continue during ESY with them? If the students were going brick and mortar the student would have a teacher that they have never had before, so it sounds like their current teacher will continue to provide their ESY service. Is that correct?

Ms. Lozano WCSD is trying their best to recruit teachers to sign on for ESY so they can have their student specifically and carry on the work they are doing. It is not a guarantee, as some teachers have reasons why they cannot continue during ESY. They have tried to set it up so that it is doable for teachers so that they can move on with their own students.

Ms. Ward hopeful, you will be able to get teachers on board. She knows teachers are trying so hard to meet the needs of their students. From a behavioral standpoint, she is trying to figure out how some of the IEP goals are being met. Really thinking about the behavior goals, are you having the parents implement those goals? Because that could be a struggle for parents to work on and it worries Ms. Kryk that the students may not make the progress that they would like to see over the course of this time. It is an unfortunate byproduct of the situation we are in. How are the behavioral goals are being met is through parents contact and parent training?

Ms. Lozano it does look different, it's very specific to the student. Generally, across the board, teachers are trying to put structure in place at home. So that they can assist the students with behaviors and be that first approach. Students that are having more behaviors and need more assistance, the BCBA's are still working and supporting the IEP's and helping the students with their behavior plans. It looks different because it is at home, but really getting input from the parents and then helping them with interventions that can help the students, while at home. They have set up TEAMS accounts that have various resources for teachers to access for dealing with behavior issues. Working hard to make sure that teachers have the needed resources to help families and make sure that families have the support when needed.

Ms. Kryk follow up question: With teachers continuing to get data on goals, if there a substantial decrease in a child's acquisition due to telehealth and different constraints, is there a plan when school opens back up on how to remediate some of those things? When looking at the ESY data and see what things can be adjusted so that kids can meet those IEP goals. Since data is being gathered, are you thinking about some way to use that data to compensate for the inability for some of our kids to access telehealth and still move forward. With the general education population, they are accessing telehealth and can get more from the telehealth than some of our (ATAP) kids. Ms. Kryk is worried about our kids getting a little left behind and not having opportunities to make that progress that may be lost or even some regression.

Ms. Lozano the initial approach when we get back into brick and mortar schooling, is to assess where the students are at with their goals, if there is some regression or lack of progress then meeting together as a team to determine the next steps and making sure that the students are able to make progress is what will be done.

Ms. Kryk thanks Ms. Lozano for the information and hopes that the commission can get someone from CCSD and maybe they can implement the great strategies that WCSD has.

Confirm Dates and Agenda items for Future Commission Meetings

Ms. Lozano - States the next meeting date is set for May 27th at 12 pm, the Commission has been scheduling every two weeks, but wondering if after the May 27th meeting, we want to schedule another date within a few weeks or a month, because we are starting to make some headway with our goals and committees. Then we can do work and come back in a few weeks as a Commission and assess where we're at.

Ms. Ostrovsky clarifies that we are going to have a meeting on May 27th and then we can schedule another meeting a few weeks after that?

Ms. Lozano yes that is correct.

Ms. Ostrovsky do we need to vote on that?

Ms. Ward yes, we need to vote. Maybe we can look at the 24th of June?

Ms. Ostrovsky that date works for her.

Ms. Lozano do we have a motion to keep our May 27th date at 12pm and then schedule the next meeting for June 24th at 12pm?

Ms. Ward makes a motion that we keep the May 27th meeting at 12pm and then schedule the next meeting for June 24th at 12 pm.

Ms. Capurro seconds motion.

Ms. Lozano passes motion

Public Comment

Mr. Wesley Kikuchi – In regard to my personal experience with distance learning and his son who is 15 years old and is in the 9th grade. They live in the Rural area of Lyon County. It takes him up to an hour and a half to get to services for Autism and that is in the Reno/ Sparks area. This has always been an issue. Since the distance learning has all been online, that has been a huge adjustment for kids with Autism. His son had a hard time adjusting in the beginning, so the family got with his research teacher and case manager an hour every day, because the teachers in the school district report on Google Classroom, which is not a strength for his son. As a team with the research teacher, the RBT's and BCBA's, they worked with his son for an hour each day. That being said, the telehealth program they have with the private therapist, speech language pathologist, and occupational therapist has been phenomenal. It took his son about a couple weeks to get adjusted, but that was more successful for him than the Google Classroom and Zoom was. Please keep that in mind when thinking of the kids in the Rural areas, as the telehealth is beneficial. Mr. Kikuchi also wanted to put emphasis on the funds from ATAP, that cannot be used for services, such as a speech pathologist or an occupational therapist. They can only be used for BCBA's and the ABA services, which is his main concern and should be addressed. And because of COVID-19, the new normal will be telehealth. The other thing Mr. Kikuchi wants to address is the down time during Summer. The family had moved from California, where during Summer they had a Summer School program that was structured for his son. Now being in Nevada there has not been anything for him, so the family had to create one with online services. Mr. Kikuchi feels that the school district should address this for the kids with special needs and autism category. And if the schooling needs to be done through telehealth then so be it, because it will be very effective and makes it easier for their transition into the next year.

Ms. Ward addressing Ms. Jayme and asks if Samantha can confirm that ATAP is only BCBA and RBT? Ms. Ward thought that at one time it included other providers as well.

Ms. Jayme ATAP does fund speech therapy and occupational therapy and BCBA's, but everyone must be under our contracting process. The only way that it would not be funded is if they are not a contracted provider with ATAP.

Ms. Ward asks if ATAP has any OT's or PT's that are contracted with ATAP at this time?

Ms. Jayme yes, we do, but I would have to look at them specifically and they are Statewide.

Mr. Kikuchi - States that what Ms. Jayme said was true two years ago, they changed it. It is constantly changing. What I was told directly by our case manager and their manager both in the Carson City and Reno area. Mr. Wesley Kikiuchi - A parent of an autistic 15-year-old child. He participated on the last call on May 13, 2020. He wants to clarify what he had stated previously, which was added to the meeting minutes. As a team it was not the RBT's or the BCBA's, it was the Speech Language and Occupational Therapist. Also, there was some confusion on services for ATAP with what is available. He had a meeting with his case manager Desiree and her manager Lisa. The reason why he assumed there was not OT and PT support is because they do not have one on the referral list. They never

addressed that because there was never anyone to go to. If he had known that, then he could have referred a lot of OT's and PT's that they had seen to get on ATAP. Also, a discussion came about that many of the therapists are not aware of ATAP or the process to get on ATAP takes too long, about six months. He has come across some therapists that they could use, but they do not take his insurance, whether it is private insurance or Medicaid. ATAP could be the default insurance though. He was able to get one Speech Language Pathologist to get on ATAP for Northern Nevada. The other confusion brought up was about social groups under ATAP for Autistic kids, there is a BCBA group, a Speech Language Pathologist group, as well as a Psychology group. The other issue the Mr. Kikuchi mentioned on the last call was that his son does not eat enough food. He has gone from eating 25 to 20 to 10 different foods over the last two years that he will eat. So, he is losing weight. At this time there isn't a current Dietician on ATAP that he could send his son to in Northern Nevada. There is one Registered Dietician (RD) at Renown that they could use privately, but maybe ATAP could pay for the services, because this RD would be a private consultant and does not take private insurance or Medicaid. In their situation, they cannot get those services because of where they live which is in the Rural area.

Ms. Roque mentioned that we need to take public comment and then if it's something that can go into the next agenda for a future discussion, then we can ensure that the information is accurate and has been validated verses having a question answered in public comment without having all of the information available.

Ms. Ward just wants to know that ATAP is looking into this as these funds used to be there at one point.

Ms. Wiggins advises in the beginning of the meeting we were taking about resource development related to ABA in the school, if you create a subcommittee, she would like to be part of that.

Ms. Abby asks committee if they would like to motion to add this item to the agenda for the next meeting?

Ms. Ward yes, she would like to see what ATAP funding is, and is very interested in learning with the schools starting to bill Medicaid, what can they bill for. ATAP used to present those Medicaid sheets, so if we can get a look at that information that would be great.

Mr. John Paul Saunders advises the committee that he is also available to assist with a subcommittee if needed.

Ms. Veronica Smith she is also interested and available for a subcommittee, specifically for NEIS or school age if needed.

Ms. Renee with the Collaboration Center Foundation wants to know how they can become part of a subcommittee, who do they email?

Ms. Abby remember we are just providing public comment currently.

Ms. Ostrovsky mentions that maybe the Commission should put on the next agenda the process for allowing people to volunteer to participate in the subcommittees. She understands that this is public comment, but we need to have the chance to get volunteers.

Ms. Abby any more public comment at this time?

Adjournment

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 1:06 pm