



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: August 4, 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 4:03 pm.

Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Antonina Capurro, Lenise Kryk, Korri Ward, Julie Ostrovsky

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

Ms. Kryk stated that there is a Medicaid meeting next week to talk about the budget cuts and it looks like ABA is listed on the last little line. She is not sure what we can do about this, but she wanted to put it out there for people to attend and share their concerns. Ms. Kryk also would like to see if the Commission can possibly draft up a letter or email blurb to send out prior, so people are aware of this meeting.

Ms. Ostrovsky agrees that it would be nice to draft something up and asks for any suggestions for those who are on the call.

Ms. Capurro asked if the question was what we can do to get more engaged with the cuts?

Ms. Ostrovsky answered her view was if we can write a letter of support so that there is a voice for people with Autism. By writing a letter it gives us the opportunity to let them know we are aware of the cuts and do not want ATAP or EI to take a bigger hit than other programs because no one is speaking for this population.

Ms. Abbie reminded members to be mindful of discussion in Public Comment.

Ms. Ostrovsky believes a letter should be written or a discussion should be held somehow.

Ms. Capurro asked Ms. Abbie if there is anywhere on today's agenda to discuss this matter.

Ms. Abbie answered no that the only thing on the agenda is workgroup updates in which that does not fall under. She advised that another meeting would need to be held to include this agenda item.

Ms. Frischmann stated that a separate meeting can be scheduled with this one agenda item as long as it abides by Open Meeting Law (posting, approval, etc.) This does put pressure on administrative staff to schedule a meeting within a week, but it is possible.

Approval of the Minutes from the July 21, 2020 Meeting (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ward thinks Nevada should be added to the top of page 4, after "Quantity/quality of staff across".

Ms. Kryk mentioned she was still looking over these minutes, but she trusts members approval if all looks good. She also followed up on her request that the minutes from April 15th and April 29th be posted to the website, as she still does not see them posted. Ms. Kryk does not see July 8th minutes posted as well.

Ms. Ward made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition to adding "Nevada" to page 4. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Update on Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention was not able to attend and will be on one of the upcoming agendas.

Workgroup Updates – Members / Objectives / Finalize Recruitment Write-Up (For Possible Action)

Ms. Lozano asked members if they had a chance to review the write up Dr. Capurro wrote.

Ms. Kryk answered yes, and it looked good.

Ms. Lozano had a question about naming Clark County School District specifically. She wonders if it leaves out other School Districts.

Ms. Capurro answered that it is based on the requirements of the Commission outline of the NRS. Since there is already a Washoe County representative, the open position is a member representing CCSD and then a member with a child with Autism under the age of 5.

Ms. Lozano agrees and thanked Ms. Capurro for the clarification and thinks the letter looks great.

Ms. Kryk now questions how this will be sent out. Possibly using the Listserv, and if so, how do people join the listserv to make it grow? Ms. Kryk just wants it to get out to the community.

Ms. Abbie suggests we use the listserv we have now and that there is about 77 people on this listserv.

Ms. Jayme mention that Ms. Ellis oversaw the listserv in the past and people would email her to join it. Ms. Jayme said that Ms. Ellis can continue this, and her email information is still on the agendas for people to reach out.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked who all was on the listserv?

Ms. Frischmann stated that we do not know who is on the listserv exactly, as we only have people's email addresses.

Ms. Kryk would like this letter to go out to multiple groups of people. She thought someone mentioned putting something on InterAct for CCSD and asked how this works? Ms. Kryk knows of someone who volunteered for the workgroup and applied for the CCSD position some time ago. She is wondering how she can help her as she is reaching out and willing to help any way she can.

Ms. Abbie stated that she did just receive some additional information on that, and she will send it out to all the members.

Ms. Lozano suggests contacting Clark County School District to ask them to get it sent through their email system.

Ms. Abbie stated that she will follow up on getting the letter sent out to Clark County School District.

Ms. Capurro made a motion to add "we are looking for committed volunteers who will actively use their expertise and make conscientious effort to engage with committee members on issues important in the state and community" after the first sentence and also adding a colon (:) instead of a period (.) in the next paragraph after "The vision of the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder is that". Then also to approve for distribution. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk asked Ms. Abbie is she can get this sent out to Autism groups as well since one of the vacant positions is a parent.

Ms. Abbie suggested the members come up with a list of emails that they would like this distributed to and she will send it out that way.

Ms. Capurro asked if the Commission had a Facebook page to get this out on. She mentioned how a lot of these programs release information to parents on their social media pages.

Ms. Abbie said that Ms. Jayme volunteered to help with emailing this out and that ATAP has a newsletter that goes out as well and will include something in the next newsletter.

Ms. Ostrovsky loves the social media idea. Especially now during COVID, she sees how everyone is communicating through social media.

The Commission members asked if they could create a Facebook page?

Ms. Abbie will get clarification on the Facebook page.

Ms. Lozano is excited to share that there are many volunteers for the workgroups

Ms. Capurro updated everyone on the Workforce Development workgroup that they had a volunteer join the group - Dr. Patrick Lethem, who is a Behavioral Analytic Clinical Supervisor. This makes three members on this workgroup: Ms. Capurro, Ms. Lozano, and Mr. Lethem. The goal now is to get together and decide on a plan of action for the group. Ms. Capurro did reach out to the UNR Statewide Initiatives, the Nevada Health Workforce Research Center and they have information from the Psychology licensing board for certifying Autism Behavioral Interventionists from 2018 and just have not completed 2019. She thinks this group needs to identify all the other personnel that might be providing services that maybe are not licensed and possibly reaching out to UNR/UNLV educational programs.

Ms. Kryk updated everyone on the Funding and Insurance workgroup that she was able to gather about 8 people who are interested in joining this group. Also mentioning how most volunteers are BCBA's, which may have only one perspective. She thinks 8 people may be too many, but everyone is willing to help in whatever way they can. So maybe dividing them up 4 and 4 for each workgroup may be a suggestion. Ms. Kryk asked how many is too many for a workgroup and feels like she needs more guidance.

Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned that 4 people is actually not that many people and suggests having more than not enough. Also, recruiting people from different areas for example Grandparents who take care of their grandchildren, have very different perspectives. Also, Family and Marriage counselors that work with families have another perspective. Ms. Ostrovsky believes expanding to different areas is key.

Ms. Kryk mentioned that the Lovaas Center has a Facebook page and she would like to post on their page for the parents but would like to decide as a commission on these things before she starts to proceed with anything.

Ms., Kryk and Ms. Ward met to start strategizing and there was so much information that they will need to select and focus on certain things they want to look at. Having

some presentations, like Medicaid, etc. is in discussion. They will gather a list of presenters and email them over to Ms. Abbie. This workgroup would like to meet at least once before the next Commission meeting.

If all sounds good, Ms. Kryk will email Ms. Lozano the 4 volunteers for the workgroup, so they can contact her and then go from there.

Ms. Ward added that their group is very diversified and experts in the children area and thinks it would be a good idea to recruit people in the adult services for this workgroup. Ms. Word likes the fact that this is a workgroup rather than a subcommittee and thinks having more members than not enough is better and will not hurt the group.

Ms. Kryk asked if the ADSD website can be updated to the new workgroups because it is still showing the old subcommittees.

Ms. Kryk also mention that Ms. Renee was on a subcommittee in the past and was interested in joining a workgroup. She asked Ms. Ostrovsky if she found her contact information.

Ms. Ostrovsky does not have her contact information and asked the group if anyone has it.

Ms. Ellis said she has it and will email it over.

Confirm Dates and Agenda items for Future Commission Meetings (For Possible Action)

Ms. Capurro clarified that the Commission wants to submit a letter to the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy just that we are in opposition to the 6% rate cut, which would just go under public comment (on record) for that public hearing,

Since the Medicaid public hearing is on August 13th, the Commission members discussed and came to the conclusion that they will need to schedule a separate meeting prior to this date and have the draft letter completed before this meeting date, so they can go over, discuss and approve.

Ms. Capurro made a motion to schedule a separate meeting on Monday, August 10th, 2020 to go over the draft letter to Medicaid. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk knows everyone has a lot going on and offers to start a draft letter.

Ms. Ostrovsky offered to help with the letter as she will not be in town on the 13th, so she would like to be a part of writing it.

Ms. Abbie and Ms. Frischmann remind commission members to send the draft to Ms. Abbie first. Then, Ms. Abbie can email the draft BCC to all members, so they have

looked at it before the next meeting. No edits can be made until discussion at the next meeting. Edits and changes can be made real time at the next meeting.

The members decided Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 at 4pm would work better for everyone.

Ms. Capurro amends her previous motion and made a new motion that the Commission meets on August 11th, 2020 at 4pm to review the letter that will be sent to DHCFP for their Thursday public hearing. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Speaking of the 6% rate cut that has already been approved, Ms. Capurro asked if anyone has thought about Legislative Acts for the February session because if our financial situation does not improve, she believes that we would be revisiting this whole thing again in February. So, she asks what steps can be taken now to prevent this.

Ms. Frischmann understands where Ms. Capurro is going with this and suggests for the commission to add this as an agenda item for the upcoming meeting on August 18th. Ms. Frischmann did not want to allow for any discussion under this agenda item as it does not fall under this agenda item.

Ms. Capurro suggested to add the following agenda items to the August 18th Commission meeting: Legislative Initiatives, Revisiting establishing a social media page, Discussion of where the recruitment letter will be disseminated to, Discussion of topics for the biennium report to the Governor and School issues (the reopening plan).

Ms. Abbie reminded Commission members that the August 18th meeting is slated for one hour and that there are already three presenters on this agenda: Early Intervention, Medicaid, School District Update and possibly ATAP.

Ms. Ostrovsky loves Ms. Capurro's agenda item suggestions and would like to also add Legislative Updates as a standing agenda item for all future Commission meetings.

Ms. Capurro made a motion to add "School Reopening Plan Discussion" as an agenda item on the next meeting and add "Legislative Update" as a standing agenda item. For the meetings in September add agenda item "Establishing Social Media Page", "Dissemination of the Recruiting notice" and "Discussion of Topics for Biennium Report to the Governor Office".

Ms. Kryk thinks the dissemination of the recruiting notice should be on the next upcoming Commission meeting. She would like to get this out soon and not have to wait until September.

Commission members agree.

Ms. Capurro amends her previous motion and made a new motion to add "Legislative Update" as a standing agenda item. For the August 11th meeting, add "Dissemination of

the Recruiting notice”. For the August 18th meeting, add to add “School Reopening Plan Discussion”. For the meetings in September add agenda item “Establishing Social Media Page” and “Discussion of Topics for Biennium Report to the Governor Office”. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm

DRAFT