



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: March 16, 2021 3:30 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

The meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders was called to order at 3:31 pm.

Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Lenise Kryk, Ritzie Gratrix, James Howells, Julie Ostrovsky, Kori Ward

A quorum was declared.

Ms. Chalupnik had a request for those who want to access but have closed captioning. A few house rules before: She asked everyone to please keep phones on mute, you may leave your video on or off as this video is being recorded, so it will capture if video is up, there will be an opportunity for public comment and to please stay under three minutes, if you have a unique last name please spell it and no questions will be answered during public comment, comments will be considered for future agenda items/meetings. If you would like to submit a public comment via email or request assistance you will send comment or request to the email provided on the bottom of the agenda. Ms. Chalupnik continued, for those using closed caption, English is the only one available at this time. On the top right side of screen, you will see three dots, click and hover down to 'turn on live caption'. This will give access to live caption on your own screen and not capture on the video and can be used for your own personal use. If you would like to turn on/off your camera, click and hover the video camera to select or deselect your video or the keyboard can be used for this as well by clicking 'Ctrl, Shift, O' for on and off. Ms. Chalupnik stated for any other questions to please drop them in the chat box.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes from the February 9, 2021 Meeting and March 2, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Mr. Howells made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes. Ms. Gratrix seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes. Mr. Howells seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nevada Early Intervention Services Presentation of Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) Data

Ms. Humes shared and presented updated NEIS data. This presentation can be found on the ADSD website.

All commission members were emailed a copy of this presentation and a couple of them had trouble viewing this presentation. The numbers are blank, but the columns/tables are there. Ms. Chalupnik will re-email this presentation to those having trouble viewing.

Ms. Sprout stated that this is a version control issue on the Adobe program on their individual computers and NEIS will try and troubleshoot on their end and resend it over to the chair.

Ms. Kryk thanked NEIS for all the data. She compared data from the last presentation and had some questions: What the impact is for the Initial MCHAT screening increase?

Ms. Humes answered that it can be a variety of factors, some examples being age of children, meeting requirements and new children coming into the system as well.

Ms. Sprout added with the onset of the pandemic, so many factors can play a part and the reopening could be a contributor.

Ms. Kryk asked, when a kiddo has autism concerns and no diagnosis, how are families informed? Are there brochure or pamphlets with information about autism? How does the parent training piece happen?

Ms. Sprout stated that the data team would not be able to answer this as it is on the service side. They can take this question back and create a presentation/flow chart of the process to present at a future meeting.

Ms. Kryk asked on second page, graph #3, how long are children waiting and If there is anything the commission can do to support this?

Ms. Humes said at this time with the self-reporting, it does not indicate what point in time they entered that process of waiting. She stated that sometimes those timelines are impacted by families as well due to family circumstances.

Ms. Sprout added that this is a data point that they do not capture.

Lastly, Ms. Kryk mentioned at the August 18th meeting, NEIS provided a lot of great information that was different from the MCHAT report and she would love an updated copy of this report.

Ms. Humes stated that this is an annual report that is done at the end of the Fiscal year and it is provided usually in August/September.

Ms. Sprout reminded the commission that some reports will be changing on the go forward due to making sure they hit all PHI requirements, so they may not look identical as past reports.

Subcommittee Updates and Strategies Addressing the Lifespan of People Diagnosed with Autism

• Workforce Development

Ms. Capurro is the Chair for the subcommittee and was not on the call.

• Funding and Insurance (For discussion / For Possible Action)

Ms. Kryk did not have an update for the commission at this time.

Legislative Updates to Include Review of and Discussion for Senate Bill 2 and Senate Bill 96 as it Relates to Medicaid Budget, ATAP Budget, and Private Insurance impacting Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services for Individuals with Autism, to include Discussion of and Preparation for a Letter from the Commission or Public Comment Legislators (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky said on SB96 they have co-sponsors now, two on finance committees. The challenge is on the Medicaid 6% reduction taking place and Ms. Ostrovsky has been working with legislators on the impact this is having to the autism community and the impact on services. As soon as Ms. Ostrovsky has hearing times, she will share it with Ms. Chalupnik. Ms. Ostrovsky asked for each commission member to go on to the legislator website and 'find my legislator' and enter their address. Once they do this, they can contact their legislator about SB96. It is important the commission supports this bill.

Another bill just hit that relates to ATAP and the budget, Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned. SB208, there is some conflicting language that is currently being fixed, but it is about ATAP working with the commission and ATAP increasing their age cap to 26.

Ms. Ostrovsky would like permission to draft a letter in support of SB96 and present it to the commission for approval in support of the Medicaid increase.

Ms. Kryk stated that there was a flyer created by providers for the parent community that supports SB96 and asked if she can send this to Ms. Chalupnik to send out?

Ms. Chalupnik answered yes.

Ms. Ostrovsky thank Ms. Kryk and stated she would like the flyer sent out to the listserv.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to prepare a letter from the commission to the legislative committees that will be hearing SB96, showing the commission's support for the Medicaid rate increase. Then Ms. Ostrovsky will send the letter to Ms. Chalupnik to send out to the commission members for discussion and approval at the next meeting. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Updates

Ms. Jayme shared and presented ATAP's updated data. This presentation can be found on the ADSD website.

Ms. Jayme mentioned that ATAP has not changed any processes as it has been very consistent this last fiscal year, even with COVID. The only change ATAP had was with the increase in parent hours to support the parents transitioning and help giving them structure.

Ms. Kryk asked about SB208 and if she had any information since it dropped very recently?

Ms. Jayme answered that ATAP is monitoring the bill and as things come up, they will keep everyone informed but at this time ATAP has no information on it.

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

Ms. Lozano mentioned that the Nevada Department of Ed. would be ready to present in April.

Ms. Kryk mentioned adding the following bills: SB208 and SB217.

Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned SB234 as well.

Ms. Kryk also would like to add the start of discussion for the strategic plan as it went from 2015 to 2020. Now being in 2021, Ms. Kryk believes this is something the commission should look at. Ms. Kryk does not necessarily mean in the next meeting, but in an upcoming commission meeting.

Ms. Ostrovsky said in the past they worked on the strategic plans with the subcommittees and profession facilitators. Ms. Ostrovsky suggested Ms. Lozano

investigate and to see if there is a budget or resources for that. Ms. Ostrovsky said it is too much work for the commission.

Ms. Ward added that in the past they had professional facilitators and it took them several meetings. A lot of face-to-face meetings were held in Las Vegas, Reno and in Carson.

Ms. Chalupnik asked if there is somewhere, she can go to retrieve this information.

Ms. Ward and Ms. Ostrovsky stated it will be on the website and it is a five-year plan, so it should be under 2015.

Ms. Ostrovsky requested that Ms. Lozano and ADSD investigate the resources that are available to the commission as the strategic plan is not something that happens at a commission meeting. Ms. Ostrovsky stressed how important it is to investigate this to learn how to tackle this.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion for ADSD and the chair to report to the commission the resources and finances available to create the next five-year strategic plan. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk made a motion for future agenda items being SB208, SB217, SB234, SB96, for discussion and possible action on commission support letters, presentation from the Department of Education in April and discussion of strategic plan. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Chalupnik will reach out to the Department of Ed. to see when they are available to present, but she suggested that the commission continue with their normal meetings.

The commission members agreed.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion for Ms. Chalupnik to send out calendar invites to all commission members for future commission meetings as a reminder. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion for the next commission meeting to be held on April 6, 2021 at 3:30pm. Mr. Howells seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.