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## MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: April 6, 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

A quorum was declared.

Ms. Chalupnik went over 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 March 16, 2021 (For Possible Action)**

Ms. Kryk made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Gratrix seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Presentation from Nevada Department of Education on data presented to Commission**

The Nevada Department of Education will be presenting to the commission later in April.

## **Subcommittee 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.

## **Review of the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Five-Year Strategic Plan, to include discussion of Resources, and Finances available from ADSD to Potentially Develop an Updated Plan**

Ms. Frischmann did some research since these static plans were prior to her involvement with the commission. Unfortunately, ADSD does not have any resources to do that at this point. Ms. Frischmann is talking with someone from another unit within Aging who helps develop the overall ADSD strategic plan that focuses on older adults and they may have some strategies to share. Ms. Frischmann can provide a better update at that time.

Ms. Kryk asked how does that work if the strategic plan is something on their list of things to do?

Ms. Frischmann answered that the strategic plan is not listed in the NRS. The NRS is specific to the Governors report. Ms. Frischmann mentioned having a representative from another unit to come and speak as they may have some creative ideas for the commission.

Ms. Kryk would love that to help make this work.

Ms. Lozano stated that the strategic plan has a good foundation so the commission would not have to start from ground zero.

## 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. Kryk thanked Ms. Jayme for always updating them and noticed an upward trend in the waitlist numbers and with eight of ATAP's positions being frozen, this will continue. Ms. Kryk asked if there is a timeline for these frozen positions and what is the status on this?

Ms. Jayme answered that at this time, ATAP is going through the process of legislative session and believes that the budget closing for ADSD is at the end of April, so Ms. Jayme is hoping ATAP's budget closing will be in there as well. Ms. Jayme will send the commission updates as she receives them. This will give ATAP a better idea of how the next fiscal year will look like as far as positions and funding.

Ms. Kryk asked if there is anything the commission can do to support?

Ms. Jayme stated that the commission is doing a great job in educating the community and supporting ATAP as a whole as this is most important. Ms. Jayme stated that she really learned a lot while going through the audit, such as the awareness and education that is needed in the community. She continued, the frequency and need of Applied Behavior Analyst and how it can be very costly. Ms. Jayme encourages the commission to continue what they have been doing.

Ms. Kryk stated that educating the community may be some sort of an objective for the commission to discuss.

Ms. Kryk is glad to hear that ATAP is hoping to see an increase in providers, and she asked if there is anything that can be done to discuss the timelines to become a provider as some providers seem to be having some hiccups becoming a provider?

Ms. Jayme answered that it is a process to becoming a provider and that is something ATAP is working on. Not so much the timelines because unfortunately those are out of ATAP's hand since it is a state requirement, an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) but on ATAP's end, they are getting familiar with the process and working with the staff to insure ATAP can support the providers going through it. Ms. Jayme stated that it has been a learning process for ATAP as well as it is a new way of getting providers enrolled but she thinks that the provider liaisons, the Social Service Program Specialists, have been doing an amazing job at learning the process. ATAP will continue having the conversations with the state purchasing office as the providers are going through it and following up on it as well. Ms. Jayme stated that ATAP is hopeful to better assist their providers through the process as it is a state process, and a lot is out of ATAP's control. ATAP appreciates and is extra grateful for all the providers hanging in there through the process.

Ms. Kryk said to please let the commission know if there is anything they can do to help support outside of the state requirements.

### **Legislative Updates to Include Review of and Discussion of a Commission Support Letter or Public Comment for the following Bills (For Possible Action):**

Ms. Ostrovsky was not on the call today, so Ms. Kryk shared the information she had on the following:

- **Senate Bill 96** – Passed just today while in this meeting. The next step would be to go to the finance committee for the fiscal note piece. Ms. Kryk suggested that the commission figure out how to support the data and have community members present at that hearing at public comment. Ms. Kryk thinks it will be a good idea for the commission to get together and draft a letter to submit to the finance committee with all the knowledge the commission has.
- **Senate Bill 217** – This bill is for the ABA board out of ADSD stuff. Had a hearing on Friday and as of this morning it passed the senate committee as well. Ms. Kryk suggested that the commission come together to put something together for this bill as well. Ms. Kryk thinks it may be a good idea to reach out to people in the community who have been following this bill to come and present on it at a future commission meeting.
- **Senate Bill 208** – This bill is for the increase in age for ATAP and Ms. Kryk does not believe there has been a lot of movement on this bill and does not think that it has a hearing.
- **Senate Bill 234** – This bill is the Collaboration Center. The only knowledge Ms. Kryk has for this bill is that it will not be heard until the very end of legislation. No hearing yet.

Ms. Lozano thanked Ms. Kryk for the updates and mentioned per last meeting the commission approved for Ms. Ostrovsky to write a letter for SB96 and for the commission to review then pass it along that way.

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

The commission discussed and agreed for the following to be on the next agenda: Legislative updates and follow up on Ms. Ostrovsky's letter, Presentation by The Nevada Department of Education (Number of teachers with autism endorsements, which teachers are going through Options and ARL programs? How many students have autism eligibility? Clarification in information that was presented on paper. Information on students receiving ABA in schools and what the licensure required for teachers? The number of autism programs in all Nevada.)

Ms. Kryk suggested to meet sooner than letter to work on this letter, possibly next week.

The plan is to have Ms. Ostrovsky draft the letter, she will email it to Ms. Chalupnik, Ms. Chalupnik will email to all commission members, members will review and make their

individual notes and then review together at the next meeting. The goal is to complete this letter in one meeting.

The commission decided to hold a special meeting just to discuss and complete the letter for SB96.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to hold a special meeting on April 15, 2021 at 3:30pm to discuss the letter for the commission to support SB96. Mr. Howells seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Kryk made a motion to add 'Discuss and Approve Agenda Items for Future Commission Meetings' on the special meeting agenda to discuss and set future meeting. Mr. Howells seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Cohen stated that he had a couple of updates as well as a procedural update that may require the commission to go back before they adjourn and reconsider what they did: SB208, there seems to be an issue with ADSD IT in terms to receiving google stuff but at this point there is a meeting on the calendar for this Thursday at 2:30pm to finalize central concerns. He stated that he will have that information to Ms. Jayme before the end of today, early tomorrow morning. SB217 passed. Mr. Cohen stated that the big challenge is that anything that is not declared exempt, such as the Collaboration Center, must be dealt with in its originated house by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Kryk motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Gratrix seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.