



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: October 26, 2021 3:30 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Aging and Disability Services Division

Teleconference:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

OR

Physical Location:

3811 W. Charleston Blvd.
Suite 209
Las Vegas, NV 89108

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders was called to order at 3:38pm.

Members Present: Trisha Lozano, Julie Ostrovsky, Ritzie Gratrix, James Howells, Korri Ward

Members Absent: Lenise Kryk

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

Ms. Dinnell, the Executive Director for the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition. This coalition has transitioned into a public body and will be working on issues surrounding care giving and caregiver supports, such as respite. Respite is the number one request that caregivers make for themselves and many individuals with disabilities/special healthcare needs have a primary care giver who supports them often without any compensation or pay. Ms. Dinnell continued, that the pandemic has shown that these caregivers are essential support that has been taken for granted. The Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition will be advocating for those important caregivers in their lives. Ms. Dinnell stated that it is probable to be working together with this commission and wanted to introduce herself on behalf of the coalition. She believes each can share their priorities and objectives with each other so that their efforts can be combined when appropriate. Ms. Dinnell provided her information:

Cheryl Dinnell
775-401-4163
Cdinnell.contractor@adsd.nv.gov
Nvcaregivingrelief.org

The is an introductory video on their website under the “join us”.

Ms. Canning, a BCBA in Elko Nevada and owner of Crossroads Behavior Consultation, wants to discuss the problems of the inability to hire RBT’s for the next foreseeable future because they cannot have them licensed and fingerprinted in a timely manner. Ms. Canning feels that not being able to secure staff, she is going to lose out on competent qualified people and lose them to other agencies. Children will also lose out on therapy.

Approval of the Minutes from the October 12, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to approve the minutes from October 12, 2021. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Updates

Ms. Jayme does not have anything new since the last presentation. Some of the items that ATAP is putting together and hoping to have for next meeting is looking into the special consideration, some of the other pilot programs they have been running around parent training, updates on Division of Child and Family Services and foster care systems. Ms. Jayme stated that they are putting out offers to new staff and getting kids off their waitlist. Ms. Jayme mentioned if anyone that would like to be an ATAP Developmental Specialist in the Carson City/Reno area, to please let her know as ATAP has been struggling to hire in this area.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked what the qualifications are to become an ATAP Developmental Specialist?

Ms. Jayme stated it is a bachelor’s degree in Social Sciences, then ATAP provides all the Case Management training, which makes it a good entry level position with room for a lot of growth. Ms. Jayme will send out the class specs to the commission members as well, so they have it. ATAP is also working on some job postings with UNR to try and get the north area. As far as the south goes, ATAP is hiring and getting those kids off the waitlist.

For Information: Discuss ATAP Budget and the Commissions Objectives as it Relates to Insurance Assistance Distribution, Policy on Supervision, and Impacts of SB96, – (An Act Relating to Disability Services; Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Seek an Increase to Certain Reimbursement Rates Under the Medicaid Program and the Autism Treatment Assistance Program for a registered behavior technician; and providing other matters properly relating thereto), to the ATAP budget

Item not heard due to Ms. Kryk’s absence.

Presentation form Nevada Early Intervention Services on Autism Diagnosis Services, Autism & Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers (MCHAT) Data MCHAT Data – FY21 July-June, and NAC 427A_NRS 427A.872 – Summary Reporting – FY2021

These presentations are posted on the ADSD website and due to time, Ms. Sprout stated that the commission members can always reach out to them for any questions since none of the members had any questions today.

Continued Discussion of the Current Status of the Applied Behavior Analysis Board – Registered Behavior Technician (RBT), State Registration Barriers and Potential Shortage of Registered Behavior Technicians and Approval of the draft letter to Governor Sisolak (For Possible Action)

Ms. Chalupnik stated that the ABA board is meeting tomorrow, October 27th at 10am and they will be discussing a potential solution to this issue.

The commission members moved forward and worked together on editing and completing their draft letter to the governor.

Ms. Ostrovsky moved to accept the letter as edited. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Chalupnik will add the final edits to the letter.

Vocational Rehab Updates as it Relates to Access to and Service Utilization for Individuals Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, to Include Information Regarding the General Population Service Utilization

Ms. Turner is a Rehabilitation Supervisor with Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc. Rehab) and is here to answer any questions the commission members may have. Voc. Rehab provides services to anyone with any type of a disability that presents as a barrier to employment in the state of Nevada and helping them find employment.

Ms. Lozano asked about the intake process?

Ms. Turner stated that right now they are using an online application process. Once the application is completed, the online scheduler schedules the applicant with a counselor. The counselor will then confirm an intake date that is given, then meet the individual on that intake date. Ms. Turner said there is a questionnaire that is sent first, then once this is completed, the application is sent to be completed. This usually is within 24 – 48 hours, depending how fast these are completed. If a person has DRC [services], they are scheduled with counselors who work with supported employment. Ms. Turner stated as of right now, the counselors that she supervises are scheduled out until December. It can take from 30 days to 3 months to get an intake appointment.

Ms. Ostrovsky has a 23-year-old son with an active case but had some new challenges so she would like to ask for the autism community. Ms. Ostrovsky asked what they are doing differently if anything for people with autism because they will have different needs as far as training and length of time? Also, if a young adult has gone through job exploration in the school district, once they turn 22 do they have to repeat that process or can they go into actual job training?

Ms. Turner answered that everything is individualized because every person's disability is different and that type of information should be gathered during the intake as they're doing the assessment and getting to know the counselor.

Ms. Turner continued, if someone just recently completed certain job exploration activities then during the intake process more information is gathered which may be stating that they have an interest in something else, it really depends upon if Voc. Rehab has documentation of those work activities and if Voc. Rehab don't have that documentation, then yes, they will need to complete another work assessment for Voc. Rehab to have this documentation.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if job exploration is always 30 days, 40 hours, or 30 hours?

Ms. Turner answered, no. Job exploration again is individualized. Something that is pretty standard is the first work assessment will probably be with Goodwill or it could be with another community provider that Voc. Rehab contracts with and then they provide a situational assessment (a paid report).

Ms. Lozano wanted to give a little bit her experience. She oversees a transition academy for Washoe County School District, and she has partnered both with Voc. Rehab and Sierra Regional Center. Ms. Lozano thinks that partnering is very important because they worked together, and both can really help support the student. She finds that it really helps when you work with both as there has been very good success for the students.

Ms. Turner agreed with Ms. Lozano and for the team that she supervises, they primarily work with supported employment and those are individuals who will need that extra support, which usually come from the Regional Center. Ms. Turner does encourage her counselors to make sure that they are around, available and to make sure everybody is on the same page and getting the same information so that that person has that support so and doesn't fall through the cracks.

Ms. Turner stated that once the individual gets their job then Voc. Rehab definitely collaborates with the Regional Center on providing support. Normally Voc. Rehab will pay for the job coaching. Voc. Rehab has job coaches and job developers. Once the individual has been employed for 90 days successfully and independently then Voc. Rehab hands off, in a sense, to the Regional Center and then the Regional Center provides those long term supports for the life of the job.

Ms. Gratrix asked if students were receiving career explorations while they were in high school, what kind of documentation are you looking for? For example, if they're going out on

community-based instruction or if they're doing work experience on campus, what exactly are you looking for to show that they have some of that?

Ms. Turner answered, the final report. The final reports that come from whomever completed the work assessment, like the Pace program or the Post program, as there should be one provided to Voc. Rehab because this is what Voc. Rehab counselors need to know as they need to be confident that this person is actually ready for a community employment. They need to make sure that they're putting in the necessary support. This is very important documentation to be provided to Voc. Rehab.

Regional Center Updates as it Relates to Service Utilization for Individuals Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, or Multiple / Dually Diagnosed Individuals Accessing Services, to Include Information Regarding the General Population Service Utilization

Mr. Caver stated that their data person is tied up with a project and was unable to report all the data information in time so he is hopeful to have the data points addressed during the next meeting.

Mr. Caver agrees with Ms. Ostrovsky, and Ms. Lozano and believes it is best if someone applies to the Desert Regional Center as they work consistently with Nevada VR and they have these children that have needs that VR can support and/or Desert Regional can support. DRC has some other contracts with some of the JDT providers. Currently, some providers are struggling with staffing compacity, so that is limiting their ability to take referrals but they're hopeful to hire more staff to provide help to these individuals who need their services.

Mr. Caver mentioned that Desert Regional Center continues to look for Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinators. Ms. Jayme described the qualifications for ATAP which is similar to Desert Regional Center. So, if anyone knows anyone with a Bachelors degree minimum in Health and Human Services, please have them apply if they're interested in the Regional Centers.

Approve Subcommittee Roles and Responsibilities as it Relates to the Current Community Strategic Plan, Including Approval of Public Entities and/or Members to be Contacted to Participate in Each Subcommittee, in Preparation for Upcoming Strategic Report (For Possible Action)

The Workforce Development Subcommittee still does not have a Chair or Co-Chair.

Ms. Ostrovsky moved to have Ms. Gwen Johnson as Chair of the Workforce Development Subcommittee, Ms. Gratrix as Co-Chair and Ms. Ostrovsky as a member. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Workforce Development Subcommittee Updates and Funding and Insurance Subcommittee Updates

No updates for either subcommittee at this time.

Discuss and Approve Agenda Items and Discuss Future Commission Meeting Dates (For Possible Action)

Ms. Chalupnik reminded the commission of the agenda item that was skipped today,

- Discuss ATAP Budget and the Commissions Objectives as it Relates to Insurance Assistance Distribution, Policy on Supervision, and Impacts of SB96, – (An Act Relating to Disability Services; Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Seek an Increase to Certain Reimbursement Rates Under the Medicaid Program and the Autism Treatment Assistance Program for a registered behavior technician; and providing other matters properly relating thereto), to the ATAP budget

and she will add it to the next agenda.

Ms. Ostrovsky moved for the next commission meeting to be on December 7, 2021, at 3:45pm and to include the following agenda items on the next agenda: Department of Education (*for a follow-up*), Individual Subcommittees for action and updates, Sierra Regional. Ms. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn

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

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 4:53 pm.