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**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of the  
Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
March 15, 2022

The Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders held a public meeting on March 15, 2022, beginning at 3:45 p.m. at the following locations:

3811 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 209 Las Vegas, Nevada  
Teleconference meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams Meeting

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting for the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders was called to order at by Commissioner Lozano at 3:52pm.

**2. Roll Call:**

Ms. Chalupnik took role. Members Present were Commissioners Trisha Lozano, Ritzie Gratrix, Korri Ward, Julie Ostrovsky, Lenise Kryk, James Howells

A quorum was declared.

**3. Public Comment:**

Ms. Almanza stated that the LBGTQ Center of Southern Nevada Opportunity Village and NABA have a free live event on Saturday, April 2nd at 10:00 AM at the LBGTQ Center of Southern Nevada. It is compassionate care within a DEI framework diversity equity and incused exclusion. It's open to people within the ABA field but also outside of it, including families. RBT's, advocacy groups, related service providers etc. If anyone would like more information, they can email Ms. Almanza at [melissa@nevadaaba.org](mailto:melissa@nevadaaba.org)

Ms. Follett from Nevada Medicaid gave some updates. Medicaid has republished their ABA dashboards and do have July 1st of 2020 through June of 2021 posted to their website. She will send the link over to Ms. Chalupnik to dispersed to the group. Medicaid is about to post the next two quarters and the plan is for those to post quarterly as they used to.

Commissioner Ostrovsky stated that the 6-month report prepared by the Office of Finance on the status of the 14 recommendations contained in the audit report has been published. It was published on March 11<sup>th</sup> and there is a meeting on Tuesday, March 22nd at 9:00 AM being presented on the Legislative Counsel Bureau website.

#### **4. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting held February 22, 2022**

On motion by Commissioner Ostrovsky, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and approved with a unanimous vote, the minutes of the February 22nd meeting was approved.

#### **5. Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Updates**

Ms. Jayme reiterated what Commissioner Ostrovsky said, that on the 22nd the legislative committee will be going over the 6-month report. Right now, all that is outstanding for or partially implemented for ATAP is a couple of things that haven't been formalized into policies. So, ATAP is working on formal policy to put into Age and Disability services. This is regards to fiscal methodology, which has been put into ATAP's Work Progress Standards for their Management Analyst. Website updates with resources will be updated every 180 days and that is in their work progress standards for their Administrative Assistant.

Ms. Jayme is excited to share some numbers on their wait list elimination. This presentation was from February, so she excited to share March's presentation because ATAP has been hiring. Eligible individuals on ATAP's wait list, there are about 34 - 35. But ATAP is seeing high referrals as they are staying consistent with around 80 per month. Part of the audit is ATAP working with Medicaid and any child that has an autism diagnosis, ATAP gets a shared list for Medicaid in which they run them through the ATAP system. If they are not already in their system then they are doing outreach to the families, so they're seeing thousands of children that they have been doing outreach to, so Ms. Jayme thinks that has been a huge part of why ATAP's referrals have been higher.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> the Health and Human Services legislative committee will have multiple presentations on youth and focusing on behavioral and mental health. They're going to have a conversation about disability and what is missing in our disability communities. Doctor Brown, with Aging and Disability services out of SRC, will be presenting about disability services. What Aging and Disability Services can offer but also what they cannot. Also, Aging and Disability Services are presenting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> on adults with disabilities. Ms. Jayme will send all this information to Ms. Chalupnik to send out.

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

#### **6. 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 (ATAP) for a Registered Behavior Technician (RBT); and Providing Other Matters Properly Relating Thereto), to the ATAP Budget**

Commissioner Kryk met with both ATAP and the Funding and Insurance Subcommittee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of this month.

This agenda item was tabled to move on to the next agenda item 8, Subcommittee updates.

**7. For Possible Action: 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 the Upcoming Strategic Report**

Commissioner Kryk stated that this was something that the commission started talking about it and then it kind of got put to the side.

Commissioner Ostrovsky thinks it would be best to have a point person, most likely Commissioner Trisha. where they can take the former strategic report and send an outline where then that person can move forward collecting data. In the past, Commissioner Ostrovsky stated that in the past subcommittees she served on, each member had a section they worked on and then they brought it back to the Commission. Commissioner Ostrovsky thinks it would be nice to mention that the commission is working on their strategic report in their letter to the governor which is usually sent in July.

Ms. Chalupnik will resend what was created by the commission back in August about the Strategic Plan. She thinks it will be helpful.

On motion by Commissioner Ostrovsky, seconded by Commissioner Gratrix, and approved with a unanimous vote, the point person will be Commissioner Lozano for the Strategic Plan was approved.

**8. For Information: Workforce Development Subcommittee Updates and Funding and Insurance Subcommittee Updates**

Commissioner Kryk stated that the Funding and Insurance Subcommittee met and discussed several things as far as some of the top objectives as well as some other areas as far as the supervision hours. They talked to ATAP a lot about the pros and cons of some of the stipulations that would be required if they were able to increase supervision hours. One of the things that was mentioned is that families would have to apply for Medicaid prior to getting ATAP funding and that is something that hasn't been always present for special consideration. ATAP would consider looking at increasing the supervision hours, so Commissioner Kryk volunteered to put together a proposal of what would be wanted. She hopes to have it completed before the next commission meeting.

Commissioner Kryk said that it seems like straight ATAP plans may be getting less providers, where it seems like Medicaid kiddos or getting picked up faster, which is awesome. The requirement part of the ATAP application piece that would potentially change, as far as applying for Medicaid. Some families have shared concerns about it and had a hard time getting a Medicaid provider. So, with the Medicaid kiddos being picked up quickly, that would be something that could end up being a pro and hopefully wouldn't have to have a wait list, as far as a provider that would be funded under Medicaid.

Another thing Commissioner Kryk discussed was special consideration, which is an additional application process that families had to go through to get the distribution of their insurance assistance funding to be different than the standard cap of the \$700.00 per month. Maybe potentially having ATAP consider looking at applying for Medicaid being a part of the process at the beginning so the distribution may not be much of a concern.

Commissioner Lozano asked if they could get feedback from families about how they feel about having to apply for Medicaid, in the process.

Commissioner Kryk answered that it may be possible. Maybe emailing out a poll or survey. She will take this back to the subcommittee to hear their thoughts on exact questions to ask.

Commissioner Ward thinks that a lot of families do not know that Katie Beckett program exists in Nevada. So, if they are going to be advised to file for Medicaid maybe they should be counseled. Also, the Medicaid packet is there's a little intimidating. Maybe this is something ATAP could help them with.

Ms. Jayme answered yes. The Developmental Specials can support in something like this and actually have a training coming up with Welfare and DHCP, meaning that they can hopefully come train.

Commissioner Kryk mentioned the subcommittee also talking about adult services and wanting the Regional Centers to present a little bit more about their rates and how it can be impacting adult services. They talked about ABA board applications and the concerns about the increase in staffing RBT 's, which might be more related to the Workforce Development Subcommittee so they may want to pass this along to that subcommittee. Lastly, this subcommittee talked about potentially in the future to look at maybe reaching out to different private insurance's who have barriers to access and how their policy is written. So potentially thinking about the Commission supporting some meetings or discussions with insurance is in the future.

Commissioner Gratrix did not have an update for the Workforce Development Subcommittee, as she is still working with Ms. Chalupnik to set a date for the meeting.

## **9. For Possible Action: Discuss and Approve Agenda Items and Discuss Future Commission Meeting Dates**

Commissioner Ward would like an update Supported Living Assistance and Home and Community Based Waiver.

Ms. Chalupnik said she can try and get an answer to this so it may not need to be included in the next agenda.

On motion by Commissioner Ostrovsky, seconded by Commissioner Ward, and approved with a unanimous vote, the next meeting will be, April 26th at 3:45pm and no longer April 19<sup>th</sup>, with the following agenda items:

- Commissioner Kryk' s introduction letter to the legislators
- Review Strategic Report – Action Item
- ATAP proposal
- Juvenal Justice Presentation

**10. Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**11. Adjourn**

Adjournment was unanimously approved at 4:55 p.m.

DRAFT