



MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Date and Time of Meeting: September 14, 2021 4:00 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 4:06 pm.

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

A quorum was declared.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of the Minutes from the August 31, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky made a motion to approve the minutes from August 31, 2021. Ms. Gratrix seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Revise and Finalize Recruitment Letter and Nominate Subcommittee Chair to Replace Dr. Capurro's Resignation from the Commission (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ostrovsky stated that they already have the letter, and it was great. She suggested that the commission just change out the dates and position in search.

Ms. Lozano agreed with Ms. Ostrovsky.

Ms. Kryk agrees as well. Her only question is where is the letter going to get sent out?

Ms. Gratrix said that the information was shared to her by the Collaboration Center and from a colleague from Voc. Rehab.

Ms. Lozano confirmed with Ms. Chalupnik that it went out on the listserv as well.

Ms. Ostrovsky mentioned sharing it on social media as that seemed very helpful. Also sharing it with non-profits.

Ms. Kryk suggested to post it and/or get it out to different boards and commissions as some members like to be a part of multiple commissions/boards.

Ms. Chalupnik reminded the commission members that if they post under their business or personal posting it is fine, but do not post as a commissioner.

Ms. Ostrovsky moved to update the letter with the new position that is available and share on the listserv, social media and each commissioner ensures they share with organizations or potential applicants. Ms. Wards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ms. Lozano asked if anyone was interested in taking over Dr. Capurro's role as chair for the Workforce Development Subcommittee, or if there is any discussion around this?

Ms. Gratrix is not aware of what that role consists of.

Ms. Lozano referred Ms. Gratrix to the Workforce Development objectives that are listed on the website.

Ms. Kryk believes that the objectives listed on the website are the old objectives.

Ms. Lozano stated that goals #2 and #3 from the strategic plans got assigned to the Workforce Subcommittee.

Ms. Kryk stated that there were 3 new objectives to this Workforce Subcommittee aside from the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Lozano tabled this agenda item and will go back and look up the information on this so that someone can be nominated to take over chair for this subcommittee.

Ms. Ostrovsky moved to table the second part of this agenda item, picking a chair, for their next meeting. Ms. Kryk seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Updates

Ms. Jayme shared ATAP's presentation. This presentation is available on the ADSD website.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked two questions: With the Insurance assistance, is it capping a certain amount each month? Are we working with TriCare?

Ms. Jayme stated that they do not have a contact with TriCare, but if anyone listening does, she is willing to share information. Currently ATAP is working with Aetna, HPM and Culinary. Some kids are completely covered with TriCare but live in a rural area, so ATAP has been paying for travel, so it is worth the provider going out there.

Ms. Jayme continued, for the Insurance Assistance Plans it is a set \$700 each month, but if the families have a high deductible, they're able to apply for Special Consideration, then ATAP looks at the deductible and services needed and get more money up in the first couple of months of their insurance plan type.

Ms. Kryk stated, as far as the capping of the \$700, it works well for Culinary and HPN because she believes they have \$10 and \$15 co-pays per session, but if they have a co-pay over \$20 then it does not work for them for the number of hours the client is getting. If they have co-insurance, this does not work at all for them, and even special consideration does not work for all families. Ms. Kryk gave an example of a family she works with having co-insurance, 30%, and out of pocket max is \$8150. This family applied for special consideration and were able to get the \$4200; however, they met their out-of-pocket max before June and now they owe another \$4000. Ms. Kryk continued, in reality the Insurance Assistance Plan can cover \$8400. So had it been distributed differently and not capped at \$4200, the family could be getting all of that. Ms. Kryk stated where she works, they only have three clients that \$700 fits with.

Ms. Jayme stated ATAP's Clinical Program Planner, Sheila Garner, is great at pulling data on Insurance Assistance and Special Consideration, so ATAP can put this information in a slide so the commission members can see as there are exceptions that are outside of what ATAP can cover but also a lot of people fit into it.

Ms. Jayme mentioned how ATAP is currently working with Ms. Follett with DHCFP to offer a training/seminar on enrollment, prior authorizations, etc. for the providers. ATAP will also be inviting providers that are currently not ATAP providers but plan to become ATAP providers. Ms. Jayme gave Ms. Follett a huge shoutout because anytime ATAP has had a prior authorization hiccup or enrollment issue, she has been able to help work through it. The first meeting is set for the end of the month, but ATAP plans to schedule more in the future. ATAP will continue to reach out and educate providers who are not yet Medicaid providers.

Discuss and Decide on Commission Objectives as it Relates to ATAP Budget Planning and Appoint (For Possible Action)

The commission chose Ms. Kryk to be their point of contact in the last meeting.

Ms. Kryk is happy to be the point of contact.

Ms. Ostrovsky asked if Ms. Kryk can get the following information: When ATAP sends in their budget and if there happens to be any money for resource directory.

Ms. Kryk met with ATAP and gave a brief summary. ATAP is building out their budget and Ms. Kryk believes the commission may have a little bit of time, but she does believe SB96's rate change is going to impact ATAP's budget, so they are doing what they can until they receive this information. Ms. Kryk mentioned the meeting on the 28th of this month regarding that and hoping everyone can attend.

Ms. Kryk asked ATAP what they need from the commission and how they can help them since this is the commissions goal. The hope is to gain more providers and serve more kids with the rate change, but with that, ATAP needs to have the staff for serving more kids. Another thing that was discussed was just knowing what will happen with the rate change. So, to possibly have Medicaid update us on how this will look.

Ms. Kryk thanked ATAP and their time to answers all the questions.

Ms. Kryk wanted to open the door to see what commissioners wanted to work on. She mentioned the straight ATAP plans, the amount of supervision to the amount of 1x1 hours, isn't remotely close to what the standard is. Ms. Kryk suggested this could be something to work with ATAP on.

Ms. Kryk stated that as a commission they have been speaking a lot about adult support and what young adults with autism are getting and are not getting. To see what is already out there and how can we make things more efficient. Ms. Kryk sparked this conversation with ATAP. Ms. Kryk thinks it may be a good idea for the Regional Centers and DETR to present and go from there. Once getting through there, then ATAP could possibly be a resource to support that.

Review and Discuss the Proposed Rate Models for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Prepared for Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Decide on Drafting a Position of Commission Letter (For Possible Action)

Ms. Ward mentioned her concerns about the new rate for adults and how it is very hard to find employees to work with adults with autism for \$10.50 an hour.

There is a lawsuit in the state of Maine, that Maine was not providing adequate services in the community-based living.

One avenue would be to raise the rate and what Ms. Ward would like the commission to do is help draft a letter in support of raising the rate to the recommended rate in the report, which Ms. Ward will get this report to Ms. Chalupnik send out to the commission members. There are different rates per individual's needs. Ms. Ward even mentioned how some adults need two employees to help meet their needs.

The Interim Finance Committee has a meeting on October 21st, so the letter would need to be done before this.

Since this is a timely matter, Ms. Lozano asked Ms. Ward if she could draft a letter to bring to the next commission meeting so that the commission members can review and finalize together.

Ms. Kryk made a motion for Ms. Ward to draft a letter regarding the rate changes and a position letter to review to potentially submit to the Interim Finance Committee. Ms. Ostrovsky seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Public Comment

Ms. Ostrovsky is wondering how it works with other boards and commissions on time, as she has served elsewhere but seems to feel really rushed here in the meetings. She knows it could be due to work schedules but would just like more information on how other boards and commissions do it.

Mr. Brian Hager from the Ackerman Center with Grant a Gift said regarding the resource guide, they updated one in 2018/2019 and made it digital on their website. He said the commission can use this as a resource and they will continue to keep it up to date.

Adjourn

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

Ms. Lozano adjourned the meeting at 5:04 pm.