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**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of the  
Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders - CASD Subcommittee Meeting Insurance  
and Funding  
February 9, 2022

The Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders – Subcommittee held a public meeting on February 9, 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 3:49pm.

**2. Roll Call:**

Members Present were Lenise Kryk Korri Ward, Jennifer Thomas, Melissa Almaza

A quorum was declared.

**3. Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

**4. For Information: Discuss Subcommittee Objectives as it Relates to the Funding and Insurance Subcommittee Goals**

Ms. Kryk discussed the full Commission approved objectives for the subcommittee to work on and wanted to discuss a couple of those there is information. Ms. Kryk was unsure who knew what the objectives were and wanted to open it up for discussion as this subcommittee begins to meet more regularly.

Ms. Kryk met with Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator, and provided an update as it relates to the Subcommittee's objectives. The 2 objectives that are approved by the Commission. The first one was regarding the amount of supervision hours recommended from standard practice in our field and the number of supervisions hours to technician hours. The other one was regarding the insurance assistance plan and the amount of money that is allotted.

Ms. Chalupnik sent the Applied Behavior Analysis Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Practice Guidelines for Healthcare Funders and Manager, for the committee members to review, Ms. Kryk apologized for not sending it prior.

Ms. Kryk instructed members to page 33 and continued to explain the standard practice: 2 to 10 per 10 hours of RBT instruction hours, an RBT should receive 2 hours of supervision. She explained the ATAP plans, such as Comprehensive and Straight ATAP are not meeting the standard. Ms. Kryk recognized that the number of hours standard may have come out later, but that it would be important for this Subcommittee to work with ATAP on how to make sure that whatever services are funded, are evidence based and that it mirrors what standard practice insurance covers or as close to the 2 to 10 ratio. Making it more common practice for ATAP and hoping for ATAP to work towards that standard.

Ms. Kryk informed Subcommittee members that the intent is to ensure that all children receive the same amount and quality of services, regardless of if they are on an ATAP Insurance Assistance Plan, funded through other insurance, or are financed through a fully ATAP funded plan.

Ms. Almaza stated that to her knowledge ATAP isn't hitting the 10%, she continues that she would like to see the 2 to 10 ratio but would like to see the 10% and thinks this would be an improvement. She used the example that currently she is seeing for 18 hours supervision, is only at is 6 hours a month. Ms. Almaza stated that she does not believe this is even the bare minimum.

Ms. Kryk agreed and provided an example of the hours she is aware of. She stated, the comprehensive plan is 18 technician hours per week and then 7 supervision hours, which does include parent training. So technically its 6 for a technician's supervision hours. Ms. Kryk continued, that from standard practices, and ATAP policies for the supervision amounts from a BCBA perspective it does not line up for Straight ATAP plans.

Ms. Kryk discussed her concern that ethically it is difficult because of not being able to provide the support and supervision for technicians appropriate for the child to make progress.

Ms. Kryk state that she spoke to Deputy Administrator, Rique Robb, and she (Rique Robb) would have the discussion and read the information Ms. Kryk provider her and get back to her. Ms. Kryk continued stating that she did not know how this could increase the budgets or fit into the current budget plans for ATAP.

Mr. Ward asked for clarification of the percent of hours required and Ms. Kryk provided an example of the amount of time required to support the work of a RBT, as put forth by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB). Five percent of hours worked by an RBT.

Ms. Almanza discussed her concern for meeting hours required by the BACB and that it is a quality issue if supervision hours are split between more than one RBT.

Ms. Ward stated her concern about the amount of money going to programs that may not be effective.

Ms. Kryk wants to ensure all ATAP participants are receiving quality services, including the kids receiving Straight ATAP Services.

Ms. Kryk discussed objective two related to the ATAP Insurance Assistance Plans she stated that Sheila Garner from ATAP presented on ATAP Insurance Assistance Plans related to distributing allotted funds per child throughout the year.

Ms. Kryk created an information document with graphs for introducing the topic and concerns to subcommittee members who may not be familiar with these details yet.

Ms. Chalupnik sent an email to the Subcommittee members to review.

Ms. Kryk provides a synopsis: Insurance assistance plans provide families with assistance to cover the co-pays up to a specific amount per month per child.

Ms. Kryk's describes her concern: Current practice of ATAP: equal distribution of the allotted annual funds for a child divided by 12 and distributed as equal amount available for each month. She continues to discuss her concern: Families may have co-pay costs in the beginning of the insurance year that exceed the maximum monthly allotment. After families have met their insurance deductible or max out of pocket expense of their insurance plan, there are no more co-pays and ATAP would not need to pay any longer. In such a situation, ATAP may not have utilized the full annual funding for a child, but the changes to the allotted funding can leave the family still having to cover additional costs in the beginning of the year. Ms. Kryk's concern is that this may cause hardship for families who qualify for and who rely on ATAP funds to support the therapy for their child.

Ms. Kryk continues, this topic may need to be discussed further with ATAP. Goal is to allow families to utilize the allotted annual funding with more flexibility and when they need it, instead of having a monthly cap in the beginning and then not needing the remainder of the annual funds later anymore. .

**5. For Possible Action: Assign Tasks to be Completed by Subcommittee Members Participating in the Insurance and Funding Subcommittee, in Preparation for Upcoming Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Meeting.**

Ms. Kryk informed the Subcommittee members that this item is to assign Committee members tasks to complete activities for the upcoming Commission meeting. She informed the members that here is where they would determine how best to work to meet the objectives and complete tasks as a Subcommittee. She continued to state that there are other objectives to work on related to the Commission's strategic plan,

Ms. Kryk stated that she met with Deputy Administrator, Rique Robb and that the full public Commission needs to get a little more information regarding the second objective on insurance assistance, which she (Ms. Kryk) will provide to the Commissioners.

Ms. Almanza asked when the information for the next budget plan for ATAP was due and agreed that there might not be time to impact the current budget.

Ms. Kryk asked how to reach out to Deputy Administrator, Rique Robb and ATAP.

Ms. Chalupnik responded that the Subcommittee members could make decisions on how to reach out to ATAP. She continued to remind Subcommittee members that they would need to make a motion and vote on the tasks.

Ms. Almanza mentioned that she would reach out to Samantha Jayme and ATAP.

One motion by Subcommittee member Ward, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Thomas, and approved with a unanimous vote, Ms. Almaza to contact Sam to see if ATAP has some time available for a meeting.

Ms. Kryk informed the Subcommittee members of the other items to be worked on related to the Insurance and Funding, when making changes working with our state, to ensure that those with autism are getting the insurance and funding that they need, is to start developing more of a relationship as a community with new legislators. She continued to discuss that some advocates for autism have left so ensuring to communicate to legislators about individuals with autism spectrum disorders is important. Ms. Kryk continues to stress the importance of collaborative relationships with legislators. Ms. Kryk asked for feedback from Subcommittee members for communicating with legislators.

Ms. Almaza discussed her work last year setting up a meeting with Connie Munk, regarding a bill, however she was not re-elected. She stated that she had some concern about being at a disadvantage this year due to everything needing to be digital or via zoom versus in person. Melissa continued to discuss that she will be in Reno and could assist in starting those relationships via email and her request to think about doing so by October.

Ms. Kryk agreed the earlier the better.

Ms. Almanza asked if the Subcommittee needed to get emails approved through our meetings or through the larger Commission or is that something we're allowed to take some/having some independence with.

Ms. Chalupnik suggested that as the Subcommittee, having the ability to bring information to the Commissioners/full public body, perhaps draft something to take to the full Commission, to look at, so this would be appropriate. Ms. Chalupnik continued to explain the difference between representing themselves individually, versus as a Subcommittee on behalf of the Commission. She went on to say, drafting language to present to the full Commission for review and determination of its appropriateness, and ways for distribution, could be discussed and voted upon here.

Ms. Kryk asked if someone from the Subcommittee could be appointed to do the work, and Ms. Chalupnik answered yes, under this agenda item.

Subcommittee members Ms. Almanza and Ms. Thomas agreed that this would be a next step to contact legislators.

Ms. Almanza discussed her concern with all information needing to go through the Commission and stated that she understands that this is how it works, but not wanting to lose momentum, she suggested that ultimately creating these relationships with legislators is important. Ms. Almanza suggested that for accountability to keep the Board updated, and even invite a Board member to a meeting, but she stated she enjoys having freedom to do some things as a Subcommittee.

Ms. Kryk stated that she agrees with the autonomy, and splitting the email lists by region, she continued to ask Ms. Ward for her input,

Due to some technical difficulties, a repeat roll call was performed Ms. Chalupnik called roll again due to technical difficulties, to determine quorum. Lenise Kryk, Present; Kori Ward, Present; Melissa Almaza, Present. Jennifer Thomas, not present.

Quorum determined and meeting was continued.

Subcommittee member Ward stated that she would like to create an introductory letter with the number of children that we represent, outcomes being addressed, introduce what are our role is, the people that we represent and the global concerns we have, to give to legislators. She continued that she likes the idea of not being constrained.

Ms. Ward reiterated and asked what part needed to be approved. She stated that when representing the Commission that part has to be approved or what they're talking about has to be approved. So, the Commission kind of knows what's going on? Is that piece correct?"

Ms. Chalupnik answered Yes. That's correct Kori, the work you all do here in this subcommittee meetings will be in support of the Commission as a full public body. So, you can think about this being sort of the behind the scenes work that you all do to help that Commission move forward, in the way that I think you will really wish to happen. That is, on a more streamlined time schedule. Yes, you are correct, it would have to be approved by the full body Commission.

Ms. Ward continued the discussion on the potential content of an intro letter or email: It may be helpful to start out with general information and introductions for raising awareness, building relationships, and getting "the ball rolling" before the next legislative session. It may be beneficial to hold off on discussing specifics about goals a little later in the process when a general understanding about the commission and its role and purpose has developed.

On motion by Subcommittee member Ward, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Thomas, and approved with a unanimous vote, Subcommittee member Ward motioned that Ms. Kryk draft, a letter introducing the Autism Commission to legislators highlighting what we've done. Historically, highlighting who we represent and maybe just beginning to touch on what we do have concerns for, as just a basic introduction.

On motion by Subcommittee member Almanza, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Ward for Ms. Thomas to update the Legislator List, and approved with 3 votes of 4, (Ms. Kryk lost connection with the meeting).

Due to some technical difficulties, Ms. Chalupnik completed a repeat roll call Lenise Kryk Present, (back at 4:44 p.m.) Kori Ward, present; Melissa Almaza, present; Jennifer Thomas, present.

Quorum determined and meeting was continued.

## **6. For Possible Action: Discuss and Approve Agenda Items and Discuss Future Subcommittee Meeting Dates**

Ms. Kryk discussed the purpose of this agenda item and recapped items from the agenda. She suggested standing agenda items: Legislator contact, ATAP, and Strategic Planning.

Ms. Ward suggested agenda items: Reimbursement rates, community-based waiver, how to ensure that employees get paid a higher rate when reimbursement rates go up instead of additional funding not trickling down to the actual employees. Also, parents who did not have the option for services early on. Reimbursement rates for employees working with adults with Autism, and retention of staff to reduce the risk of institutionalization of adults with Autism.

Ms. Thomas asked a question about rates for adults with autism, Ms. Ward respond to the question regarding the fact that there are no ABA rates for adults with autism, but instead the rate is for supported living assistance to keep adults out of institutions.

Ms. Chalupnik suggested to ask for somebody for a motion on Kori's specific topic. then go one by one through each request for agenda items, including motion, second, and vote.

On motion by Subcommittee member Ms. Thomas, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Ward, and approved with a unanimous vote, reimbursement rates for services for adults with autism to be added to the agenda

On motion by Subcommittee member Ms. Ward, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Thomas, and approved with a unanimous vote, to include the strategic plan, legislative contact and ATAP updates as a standing agenda items.

On motion by Subcommittee member Ms. Ward, seconded by Subcommittee member Ms. Thomas, and approved with a unanimous vote, the next meeting will be held, Wednesday 3/2/2022 at 3:45 p.m.

## **7. Public Comment:**

Ms. Ward made a public comment, "You did a great job Lenise thank you for getting the subcommittee together."

Ms. Kryk made a public comment, “This is when I will throw it in a public comment. But I'm so happy, Melissa, Jennifer, and Korri to be working with you guys and getting things moving. I'm really excited about this year. I think we're going to get a lot accomplished so, thank you for putting in the time and effort. It's much appreciated by me, and I know a lot of people in the community as well so it's my public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

Ms. Kryk stated this is now agenda item number 8, which is to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kryk asked a question; we must vote to adjourn the meeting right Abbie? Ms. Chalupnik answered the question, yes.

Adjournment was unanimously approved at 4:59 p.m.

DRAFT