

Joe
Lombardo,
Governor

Richard
Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
*Helping people. It's who we are,
and what we do.*



Rique Robb,
Administrator

NEVADA COMMISSION ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING

Date and Time of Meeting: October 17, 2025, 8:00 AM

Location of Meeting: Virtual Only, No In-person location.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:**

Wendy Thornley

Members Present: Korri Ward, Anna Marie Binder, Amy Walch,

Members Excused Absent: Corey Nguyen

Members Unexcused Absent: Nicole Muhoberac

Guests: Katie Pfister, Lisa Sherych, Jessica Roew, Loren Gonzalez, Lynda

Tache, De Yates, Yeni Medina, Randi Humes, Sarah Horsman, Abbie Chalupnik,

Staff: Autumn Blattman & Wendy Thornley

2. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1(775)-321-6111. When prompted to provide the Phone Conference ID, enter 503 675 723# Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

Korri Ward, Chair

No public comment.

3. **For Information:** Review of concerns raised regarding Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Subcommittee membership and plans for reconciliation.
Autumn Blattman, ADSD
Autumn Blattman: I just wanted to take a moment to address a few important updates regarding subcommittees and some recent concerns that have been brought to our attention.
First, there have been some concerns raised regarding the validity of subcommittee members, specifically, whether or not some individuals were formally appointed by the by the Commission to subcommittees as required in your bylaw.
Due to these concerns, our team has reached out to our Deputy Attorney Generals for guidance and based on their advice on the current and future agendas for the main Commission, we will include only those items that were not influenced by subcommittee input.
As part of this process, we will also be cancelling any future subcommittee meetings for the time being.
Our team is working on looking into past records for subcommittee membership details as well as logging any action taken that may have been done without an official quorum due to the subcommittee membership.
We will provide a full report at a future meeting, as well as any additional actions that may need to be taken to ensure that we meet open meeting law requirements.
And in closing, I just want to thank each of you for your continued Commitment to this work. Your time, your insight and collaboration are all deeply appreciated as we navigate these matters together. It is possible to have an update at the next CASD meeting.
4. **For Possible Action:** Review and Possible Vote to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the August 15, 2025, meeting. Korri Ward, Chair
Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the draft minutes. Amy Walch seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.
5. **For Information:** Presentation of Nevada Early Intervention Service Autism and MCHAT Reporting – Quarterly Roll-up Summary Report for Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. NEIS Report Team
Randi Humes: Early Intervention Services (EIS) – FY25 Summary
1. Children Served
- Total children served: 7,298
 - Children with autism diagnosis: 11%

- 8% diagnosed during FY25
- 3% diagnosed prior to FY25
- Children without autism diagnosis: 89%

2. M-CHAT Screenings (Autism Screening Tool)

- Total initial screenings: 3,123
 - Failed screenings:
 - 18-month: 614
 - 24-month: 717
 - Other ages: 281
 - Declined screenings: 109
- Breakdown of failed screenings:
 - 44% – 24-month category
 - 38% – 18-month category
 - 17% – Other (typically over 30 months)
- Reasons for failed screenings:
 - 71% – Autism concerns
 - 14% – Global developmental delays

3. Autism Diagnoses During FY25

- Total diagnosed: 560 children
 - Average age at diagnosis: 32 months
 - Services end at 36 months, so transition planning is critical
- Additional notes:
 - 76 completed diagnostics but did not meet criteria
 - 99 declined the diagnostic process
- Referrals to ATAP (Autism Treatment Assistance Program):
 - 499 referred
 - 15 declined referrals

4. Regional Breakdown of Diagnoses

- 65% – South Region (Las Vegas, Pahrump, Mesquite)
- 27% – Northwest Region (Carson City and surrounding rural areas)
- 8% – Rural Region (Ely, Winnemucca, Elko)

5. Children in the Diagnostic Process (as of June 30, 2025)

- Total in process: 689 children
 - 130 had completed at least one diagnostic appointment
 - 53 had appointments scheduled but not yet started
 - 506 had no appointments scheduled yet, though diagnosis was recommended

- Challenges:
 - Provider shortages (speech therapists, psychologists, pediatricians, audiologists)
 - Delays in scheduling due to family readiness or availability
 - Data tracking issues (lag in updates, stale records)

6. Diagnostic Process Timing (Discussion Highlights)

- No formal data on time from failed screen to diagnosis
- Anecdotal insights:
 - Children must meet cognitive thresholds (e.g., 12–24 months) to proceed with testing
 - Wait time from failed screen to diagnostic eligibility: 6–8 months
 - Time to complete diagnosis: varies by region, child’s development, and waitlists
- Concern raised: Need for more specialists to reduce delays and improve access

7. Data System Improvements & Longitudinal Trends

- New data system (Nevada Early Intervention Data System) implemented in FY25
 - Allows better tracking of autism-related data (e.g., ATAP referrals)
 - All EI providers (state and community) now use this unified system
 - Includes case management, service logs, and billing
- Historical data limitations:
 - Prior systems relied on self-reported data with limited validation
 - COVID years saw lower caseloads and diagnoses
- Current trends:
 - Caseloads have rebounded post-COVID
 - EI is serving more children than ever before
 - Autism diagnosis rate remains consistent as a percentage of total children served

8. Data Quality & Training

- Data entry training: Primarily on-the-job, provided by each program
- System support:
 - A detailed user manual outlines expectations for autism-related data entry
 - Definitions and timing for data entry are standardized
- Ongoing data validation:
 - Periodic data reports are issued to programs
 - Programs are asked to review and clean up stale or outdated records (e.g., children listed as waiting for diagnosis for over a year)
- Goal: Improve accuracy and timeliness of data entry across all providers

6. **For Information:** Presentation of Lynda Tache Global New Autism Concierge and Educational Services. Description of Upcoming Monthly Education Webinars, "Office Hours". Lynda Tache
- Lynda Tache: Background & Experience
- Longtime parent advocate, nonprofit founder, and policy leader in Nevada's autism and disability community.
 - Founded Grant a Gift Autism Foundation, helped establish the Ackerman Center, and later launched the Collaboration Center Foundation.
 - Her new venture, Lynda Tache Global, focuses on empowering families through personalized support, community connection, and future planning.

Key Services & Initiatives

1. Monthly "Office Hours" Webinar Series

- Free, interactive webinars are open to all families.
- Based on a statewide needs survey (200+ responses).
 - Top need identified: Education and IEP support
- Features:
 - Expert speakers
 - Live Q&A and polling
 - Archived recordings
- First session: October 22 at 6:00 PM
 - Hosted at lyndatache.global

Clarification on Scope:

- While Nevada-specific terminology may be used, the topics are generalized to be relevant across states.
- Speakers often cover multiple states (e.g., CA, UT, NV, FL).
- Families from other states are welcome to attend and can follow up for tailored guidance.

2. Concierge Planning Services

- Personalized life planning for families navigating complex systems.
- Services include:
 - Referrals to IEP advocates, attorneys, and financial planners
 - Support with guardianship, SSI, and long-term care
 - Coordinated care and secure documentation
- Designed to help families plan for the future, especially in "what if I'm gone?" scenarios.
- Emphasizes empathy, empowerment, and lived experience.

3. Spectrum Legacy Hub (Launching December)

- A secure digital platform for families to store and manage their child's full care history.
- Inspired by Lynda's personal experience managing her son's SSI reassessment.
- Features:
 - Centralized storage for IEPs, assessments, medical records, legal docs, etc.
 - Controlled access for professionals and family members
 - Continuum of care across life stages
 - Affordable subscription model
- Goal: Create a "personal legacy vault" that evolves with the individual and supports future readiness.

Survey & Community Engagement

- Statewide survey remains open through end of the year (may be extended).
- Available via:
 - Website
 - QR code and flyer (shared with Wendy)
- Purpose: Identify real-time family needs and inform future webinar topics.
- Results will be shared with the Commission and community partners to support:
 - Legislative planning
 - Program development
 - Avoiding duplication of future surveys

Contact Information

- **Email:** info@lyndatache.global.com
- **Website:** lyndatache.global

7. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Recommendation to Nevada Governor Lombardo for Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Chair. Korri Ward, Chair
This item was tabled.
8. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Recommendation to Nevada Governor Lombardo for Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Vice Chair. Korri Ward, Chair
This item was tabled.
9. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve the Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders 5-Year Strategic Plan and Priorities 2025-2030.
Korri Ward, Chair

Korri Ward: Corey Nguyen was not at the meeting but had communicated to the Chair that he had read and approved the portion of the Plan relating to his subcommittee.

Amy Walch motioned to approve the five-year strategic plan as written with adding table of contents, legislative overview and minor edits. Anna Marie Binder seconded. The members voted and the motion carried. The members also chose a second version of the cover page of the Plan.

10. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Tabled and Future Agenda Items; Review Future Commission Meeting Dates and Times. Review memberships of members who miss two or more meetings and are unexcused.
ATAP presentations
Regional rural center presentation
Governor's letter

Remainder of the 2025 Autism Commission Meeting Dates and Times:
December 12/5/25: (1:30pm-3:30pm) Full Commission
Korri Ward, Chair

11. **Public Comment:** (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial 1(775)-321-6111. When prompted to provide the Phone Conference ID, enter 503 675 723# Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)
Korri Ward, Chair

Wendy Thornley: Korri Ward's term as Chair of this commission will end at the end of her commission membership on October 30th. The Commission is currently waiting for Chair and Vice-Chair appointments from the Governor's Office.

Autumn Blattman: Until the Governor appoints a Chair, ADSD staff will support the members with getting the letter to the Governor written as well as any other work the Commission is working on. ADSD staff will keep the Commission updated on any new information.

12. **Adjournment:**
Korri Ward, Chair
Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 1550 E College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706, 7150 Pollock Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89119, and 10375 Professional Circle, Reno, Nevada 89521. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at <https://adsd.nv.gov> and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>