

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.*



Dena
Schmidt,
Administrator

NEVADA COMMISSION ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: April 18, 2025, 1:30 PM

Location of Meeting: Virtual

Microsoft Teams:

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:**

Presenter: Wendy Thornley

Members Present: Korri Ward, Anna Marie Binder, Corey Nguyen, Amy Coyne, Nicole Muhoberac

Members Excused Absent: Amy Walch

Guests: Diana Collins, Steven Cohen, Jennifer Spencer, Autumn Blattman, McKensie, Cecelia Alonso, Ivy Burns, Jolene Walker

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 Meeting ID, enter [664 294 21]. 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.)

Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair

Autumn Blattman: Introduced herself as an ADSD support for the Commission and gave her contact information. Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator
autumn@adsd.nv.gov

3. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Approval of the Meeting Minutes of the February 28, 2025, meeting.
Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair
Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the draft minutes. Amy Coyne seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.
4. **For Information:** Open Meeting Law presentation.
Presenter: Diana Collins, Deputy Attorney General
Diana Collins: Presented the Open Meeting Law Training. It was a brief overview of Nevada Open Meeting Law. It covered NRS Chapter 241 and when the OML applies.
Meeting Notice and Agendas information found in NRS 241.020, and what happens when the OML is violated.
- Jennifer Spencer, Deputy Attorney General, presented a power point. Here are some components of her Open Meeting Law (OML) presentation.
 - Quorum is based on the number of active members. So, if there is a vacant seat on the commission, quorum is determined by how many positions have been filled. (CASD has 7 positions and one vacancy, so our quorum for now is based on the 6 filled positions.)
 - Commissioners should email each other individually.
 - Avoid constructive quorum. This is when a quorum of members (3) speak with each other individually, but make a unified decision based on those conversations.
 - Agenda items for the full commission and subcommittees must be specific, and care must be taken to avoid industry and disability-specific lingo.
 - All action items must be by “for possible action”.
 - Public comment can be with each item or just at the beginning or at the end of the meeting.
 - Additional public comment may be taken at other times.
 - Public comment is for members of the public only.
 - Public comment is limited in time.
 - Agendas must be posted on the third working day before the meeting.
 - Members who were absent can vote on approving minutes from the meeting that occurred during their absence.
 - An emergency meeting can only be called if there is a disaster (fire, flood, earthquake) where the health and safety of the public is at risk.
 - Main committee provides direct instruction to subcommittees.
 - Discussion of items not on the agenda must be stopped and taken up at a later meeting.
 - No action may be taken on items that don’t say, “for possible action”.

5. **For Information and Discussion:** Overview of any presenter's presentation orally or in written materials and representation during the Legislative session on behalf of the Autism Commission and its subcommittees.

Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair

Korri Ward: When commissioners are presenting to the legislature or submitting an opinion, they may identify themselves as a commission member, but they must indicate that they are not presenting on behalf of the commission. They can do this by saying, "I am not testifying in that capacity". Now, if the commission has requested that a commissioner presents to the legislature, they would indeed identify as a commissioner and make it known that they were asked to testify on behalf of the commission.

6. **For Information:** Clark County School District Autism Services.

Presenters: Amy Coyne and McKensie Kever, Director, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Intensive Intervention Team

Amy Coyne: Presented a PowerPoint on Applied Behavior Analysis in Clark County School District. Clark County School District offers School based Individual Intervention Services and a Family Connection Center. Families may refer themselves using the referral on the website or school team members can refer a family. About 110 families are currently being served. The Least Restrictive Intensive Intervention Team (LIIT) partners with schools to help transition kids into less restrictive environments. At the comprehensive campuses they provide classroom budget planning, crisis response, data-based decisions and data based Least Restrictive Environment decisions. They provide support to teachers including class design, behavior management, reinforcement and curriculum. The LIIT designs individualized interventions. CCSD Autism Services offers several professional learning opportunities including Autism 101, STAR-social emotional teaching, Reinforcement, Prompt Hierarchy, Foundations of Behavior, Data Collection, Training for Specials Teachers and Inclusive Classroom Strategies.

Corey Nguyen asked if there is data on the number of children transitioning out of special schools. Amy Coyne will get actual numbers to follow-up at a future meeting, but it is about 20.

Anna Marie Binder asked how comprehensive schools get support. The Regional Support Directors make the request.

Anna Marie Binder asked about individual and school budget related to the program. Schools are not charged individually.

7. **Information and Possible Action:** Presentation of SB380. Review position letter. Vote to transmit letter to legislation.
Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair
Korri Ward read the letter out loud. The letter is available on the Commission's website:
Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the draft of the SB380 letter with the minor edits and transmit it to the legislature. Corey Nguyen seconded the amended motion. The members voted and the motion carried.
8. **For Possible Action:** Review Position Letter for SB78. Vote to Transmit Letter to Legislation.
SB78 has been withdrawn from the legislative floor. (and the action may be addressed in the 2027 Legislative Session.
Korri Ward: Read the letter out loud.
Changes were recommended for this letter. Nicole Muhoberac motioned for Korri Ward to make changes to the letter and transmit to the legislature. Anna Marie Binder seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.
9. **For Information:** Clarification of Medicaid Funded Applied Behavior Analysis treatment for People of All Ages.
Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair

3704.1 APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS POLICY

Medicaid will reimburse for ABA rendered to Medicaid eligible individuals of all ages, under age 21 years old in accordance with Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) coverage authority benefit plan. The EPSDT benefit plan encourages providers to follow the recommended schedule for screenings offered by the AAP for individuals under age 21. The behavior intervention must be medically necessary (reference MSM Chapter 100) to develop, maintain or restore to the maximum extent practical the functions of an individual with a diagnosis of ASD, FASD or other condition for which ABA is recognized as medically necessary. It must be rendered according to the written orders of the Physician, Physician's Assistant (NRS 630.271), Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners or an Advanced Practitioner Registered Nurse (APRN)/Nurse Practitioner (NP). The treatment regimen must be designed and signed off on by the qualified ABA provider.

The services are to be provided in the least restrictive, most normative setting possible and may be delivered to a professional medical clinic/office, within a community environment or in the recipient's home.

All services must be documented as medically necessary and appropriate and must be prescribed on an individualized treatment plan.

Here is a link to the policy:

https://dhcfp.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhcfpnavgov/content/Resources/AdminSupport/Manuals/MSM/C3700/MSM_3700_24_04_01.pdf

Korri Ward read the September 16, 2024, Nevada Medicaid Web Announcement 3442

Attention Provider Type 85 (Applied Behavior Analysis) Age Limit for Applied Behavior Analysis Services Removed

During the 82nd Nevada Legislative Session (2023), Senate Bill 191 was passed, which removed the age limit of recipients receiving applied behavior analysis (ABA) services. Per this requirement, effective on claims with dates of service on or after April 1, 2024, all procedure codes billable by provider type (PT) 85 (Applied Behavior Analysis) have been updated in the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) to allow recipients of any age to receive ABA services.

Claims submitted by PT85 with dates of service on or after April 1, 2024, for recipients aged 21 or over that denied with error code 4714 (Age restriction on Proc Billing Rule) will be automatically reprocessed later. Results of the reprocessed claims will appear on a future remittance advice.

10. **For Possible Action:** Workforce Subcommittee Report of Findings. Vote to draft a position letter.

Presenter: Korri Nguyen, Chair

Mr. Nguyen stated that their survey was ready to be translated into Spanish and transmitted to the same listserv that was used for the CASD surveys. He stated that he needed access to the listserv. Wendy Thornley and Commission members stated that they would help find the listserv. Recommendations were made to use Google Translate, which is in the Google Forms, to translate the survey into Spanish.

Anna Marie Binder stated that Medicaid sent out a provider survey and recommended reviewing that data as well. Anna Marie Binder motioned that she assisted in retrieving the Medicaid survey response specific to ASD and ABA in Nevada. Corey Nguyen seconded. Motion passed.

Corey Nguyen mentioned that Linda Tran had prepared a list of universities that support workforce development. Wendy Thornley agreed to facilitate getting that list from Linda Tran.

11. **For Information:** Role of Subcommittees and Information Regarding Formatting Items to Be Included on Website.

Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair

Subcommittees will carry out work that they have been assigned by the full commission. Korri Ward clarified that the role of the subcommittees is to assist the Commission in the performance of its duties. Furthermore, the Commission assigns tasks specific to subcommittees based on their focus. She elaborated that the role of subcommittees is to gather data and make recommendations to the full commission. She stated that moving forward specific tasks will be assigned to subcommittees.

Korri Ward stated that when possible documents should be submitted in Word Document format for ease in developing accessible materials to upload to our website. So, it is possible in many cases to develop a document in Pages or Google and export it in Word for attachment to the agenda.

12. **For Possible Action:** Review Analysis of 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and Assign Chairs and tasks.

Presenter: Korri Ward

Korri Ward indicated that she had sent out a Google Form for each Commissioner to identify the current state of each goal and objective in the current strategic plan. Each item is to be rated as met, partially met, not met, and no longer needed. Two commissioners had completed the form. Corey Nguyen and Nicole Muhoberac indicated that they did not receive the form and requested to have it resent.

Korri Ward motioned to assign to the Funding and Insurance subcommittee;

1. Review the status of the ADSD assessment of the billable rate for job and day training, supported living assistance, intensive supported living assistance with cost of running a business and cost of living required to maintain ample workforce and provide services in the community. Specifically to identify the NRS, where ADSD is in the assessment process and what recommendations do they have for the five-year plan in relationship to this issue.

2. Regional Center funds BCBA oversight training of contracted providers of JDT, SLA and ISLA services. How is their rate assessed? Is the rate comparable to the

Medicaid rate? Who pays for the contracted staff to attend the training? How can more than one staff member be trained at a time?

Corey Nguyen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

13. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Review and Discuss Legislative Updates Related to the 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature, Which Began on February 3, 2025. Discuss the Impact of the Following Bills and Possible Vote to Approve Related Position Statements.

SB 380 (BDR 118): Senator Ohrenschall sponsored bill. Seeks to provide law enforcement training concerning ASD. Authorizes a certified registered behavior analyst, applying for registration as a registered behavior technician, to engage in the supervised practice of applied behavior analysis under certain conditions. Korri Ward stated that in agenda item 7 SB380 position letter with edits was approved for transmittal.

SB78: Revises Provisions Relating to Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Bodies. Korri Ward stated that in agenda item 8 SB78 position letter with edits was approved for transmittal.

SB140 (BDR 62) Expands the jurisdiction of certain specialty courts for juveniles to include children with fetal alcohol syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders. Korri Ward stated that this letter was approved in October 2024. The CASD position has not changed. The letter will be updated with Senate Bill number transmitted to the legislature.

SB174 (BDR53): Requires School Districts to Coordinate with Certain Providers of Services for Enrolled Pupils with Autism Who Have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Amy Coyne recused herself and stated that she would abstain from voting. Anna Marie Binder read the draft position statement for SB174. Anna Marie Binder made a motion that Korri Ward and she will work over the weekend to include facts and data in the letter for transmit early Monday morning to legislators and Finance Committee (Dondero Loop and Cannizaro). Amy Coyne will be indicated as recused and abstaining from voting. Anna Marie Binder and Korri will transmit Monday morning. Corey Nguyen seconded. Motion passed

SB 257 (BDR 106): Senator Dondero Loop sponsored bill. Seeks to provide better diagnostic criteria for ASD. Anna Marie Binder read the draft position letter for SB257. Korri Ward expressed concern about confusion of the bill and rural needs. Anna Marie Binder stated that the bill has changed since the original letter

composition. Anna Marie Binder motioned to provide contacts and legislature information with the letter to commissioners for them to submit to the Legislature as they see necessary. Corey Nguyen seconded. Motion passed.

14. **For Information, Discussion, and Possible Action:** Review and Approve Tabled and Future Agenda Items; Review Commission Meeting Dates and Times.

Next Funding and Insurance Subcommittee meeting is May 23 at 1:00.

Next full commission meeting is May 27 at 1:30.

Items to be included as attachments should be provided as a Word Document, if possible and are due 15 *business* days before the meeting.

Corey Nguyen motioned to include the typical items on the agenda and the following:

- For Possible Action: Review Analysis of 2015-2020 Strategic Plan and assign Chairs and tasks. Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair
- For Discussion and Possible Action: Review and Discuss Related Legislative Updates Related to the 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature, Which Began on February 3, 2025. Discuss impact of ASD related bills and possibly vote on CASD position, letter development, testimony and transmittal of letters to legislature. Presenter: Korri Ward and Commissioners with bill specific informative updates
- Information and Discussion and possible action to review State Agency reports that were transmitted to the legislature. Presenter: Anna Marie Binder
- For Information: Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) Updates as it Relates to Current Caseload, Caseload Growth, Waitlist Elimination Progress, Referrals, Applied Behavior Analysis Profession Growth in Nevada, and Status of Active Providers.
- For Information: Presentation from Nevada Early Intervention Services on Nevada Early Intervention Services NAC 427 A, Section 8 / NRS 427A.872 Summary Reporting Fiscal Year – July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024
- For Information: Presentation from Regional Center, Management Analyst for Statewide Updates on Service Provisions from the Regional Centers for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- For Possible Action: Workforce Subcommittee Report of Findings including Workforce Survey Update and discussion of list of post-secondary education providers in field of ASD services. Presenter: Corey Nguyen
- For Possible Action: Review of CASD Bylaws and public record requirements to post bylaws. Presenter: Nicole Muhoberac
- For Possible Action: Review of Letter of Gratitude for Linda Tran, vote on approval and transmittal of letter to Linda Tran.

Nicole Muhoberac seconded. Motion passed.

Remainder of the 2025 Autism Commission and Subcommittees Meeting Dates and Times

April

4/18/25: (1:30pm-3:30pm) Full Commission

May

5/23/25: (1:00pm-3:00pm) Insurance & Funding

5/27/25: (1:30pm-3:30pm) Full Commission

June

6/20/25: (8:00am-10:00am) Full Commission

July

7/18/25: (1:00pm-3:00pm) Resource Subcommittee

August

8/15/25: (1:30pm-3:30pm) Main Commission

September

9/19/25: (1:00pm-3:00pm) Workforce Subcommittee

October

10/17/25: (8:00am-10:00am) Full Commission

November

11/21/25: (1:00pm-3:00pm) Resource Subcommittee

December

12/5/25: (1:30pm-3:30pm) Full Commission

Presented by: Korri Ward, Chair

15. **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 Meeting ID, enter [664 294 21]. 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.)
Presented by: Korri Ward, Chair
No public comment.
16. **Adjournment:**
Presented by: Korri Ward, Chair
Meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

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, 1010 Ruby Vista Dr, Suite 104, Elko, Nevada 89801, 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>