

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: May 27, 2025, 1:30 PM

Location of Meeting: This is a virtual meeting and there is no physical location.

Microsoft Teams:

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:**

Presenter: Wendy Thornley

Members Present: Korri Ward, Amy Walch, Corey Nguyen, Anna Marie Binder,
Members Excused Absent: Nicole Muhoberac

Members Unexcused Absent:

Guests: Lori Lutu, Lindsey Wood-Lopez, Autumn Blattman, Steven Cohen, Eve Eriksson, Randi Humes, Samantha Jayme, Yeni Medina, George Hernandez, Cecilia Alonso,

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 Meeting ID, enter [621 495 778#]. 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

Steven Cohen: SB-497: The rate freeze bill and the data based bill passed the Senate and will be heard in the Assembly.

3. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Approval of the Meeting Minutes of the April 18, 2025, meeting.

Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair

Korri Ward: the 11th line of item number 6, Take out "they look like"

Corey Nguyen motioned to approve with the correction. Amy Coyne seconded. Members voted and the motion carried.

4. **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.

Samantha Jayme: In April 2025, there were 271 new applications due to increased referrals from the No Wrong Door program through welfare, significantly boosting caseload growth. However, it is still too early to determine how many of these applications will become active cases, especially as processing has slowed due to the influx. By the six-month mark, which began in February, more definitive data on active cases should be available. Currently, there are 1,138 active children with an average age of 8.6 years, while 75 inactive children remain eligible for services at an average age of 6.8 years. The average time on the waitlist is now 45 days, but this is expected to rise due to ongoing referral growth.

The waitlist continues to grow, particularly within Straight ATAP and Service Coordination categories. While Straight ATAP clients wait for funding to access services, Service Coordination clients often need developmental specialist support, though they can receive services via Medicaid without additional funding. Monitoring these trends ensures families are informed about providers available to them. A peak in wait times occurred in February, but hiring additional staff has improved this issue. One vacancy remains in the South for a bilingual developmental specialist, and despite legislative approvals, only one new developmental specialist position has been allocated, maintaining capacity limits. Referrals have steadily climbed since February, coinciding with the No Wrong Door initiative, yet the number of referrals converting to active cases remains unclear. The service breakdown began during COVID-19 to assess funding needs; Service Coordination cases are fully covered by Medicaid, while Straight ATAP cases require external funding. The professional growth within BCBA levels and RBTs has remained stagnant across February, March, and April, after previously showing growth. Among the total caseload, 877 clients have active providers,

while 261 do not. Medicaid leads service coordination categories, followed by insurance assistance.

Efforts to expand provider capacity continue, including outreach to border-state providers who could enroll in Nevada Medicaid. A practicum student aids in developing outreach packets, supported by provider liaisons. The active client breakdown shows 365 children aged 0–5, 482 aged 6–10, 206 aged 11–15, and 85 aged 16–20. Waitlisted children from early intervention services include 42 aged 0–5, 16 aged 6–10, 13 aged 11–15, and 4 aged 16–20. Leadership changes effective June 9 include Rique Robb as Administrator and the promotion of the deputy administrator, who will oversee children’s services, early intervention, and long-term care programs.

5. **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
Randi Humes: At the time of entry assessment, 25% of children were able to independently engage and play with a variety of toys, while 22% were not. This mixed response highlights the variability in developmental abilities among children served. The graphic representation in Graph 3A visually displays the distribution of responses across different developmental domains. On average, children assessed were 29 months old chronologically but had a developmental age of 15 months, indicating a 48% delay at the time of entry.
The exit assessment data provides a comparative look at progress made over time. Across the five developmental domains, there was an increase in the number of children responding positively to assessment questions. One notable improvement was in visual discrimination, where the number of children who could match items increased from 8% at entry to 13% at exit. The graphic presentation in Graph 4A further illustrates these gains, demonstrating overall developmental progress.
At the time of exit, children had an average chronological age of 35 months, with a developmental age of 19 months, reflecting a 45% delay—a slight improvement from the 48% delay at entry. This reduction in developmental delay suggests progress, although challenges remain, especially for older children with autism. As skills become more complex with age, mastery becomes increasingly difficult, impacting the degree of measurable developmental gains.
The report includes data notes outlining exclusions and definitions related to assessment parameters. Some children, particularly those who received fewer than 90 days of service, were excluded from certain reporting requirements. The findings underscore the importance of targeted intervention and continued

support to help children develop skills despite inherent challenges in mastering developmental milestones.

6. **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).
This item was tabled.
7. **Information and Possible Action:** Review of Letter of Gratitude for Linda Tran, vote on approval and transmittal of letter to Linda Tran.
Presenter: Korri Ward, Chair
Korri Ward: Read the letter into the record...
Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the letter with the suggested changes and for Korri Ward to send the letter to Linda Tran. Corey Nguyen seconded.
The members voted and the motion carried.
8. **For Information:** Update on CASD Bylaws and public record requirements to post bylaws. Presenter: Nicole Muhoberac
Korri Ward has requested the final version from Abbie Chalupnik. Autumn Blattman will reach out to Abbie Chalupnik.
9. **For Possible Action:** Review and Discuss Legislative Updates Related to the 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature. Discuss impact of Autism Spectrum Disorder related bills and possibly vote on drafting of CASD position, letter development, testimony and transmittal of letters to legislature. Presenter: Korri Ward and Commissioners with bill specific informative updates.

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. This bill made autism specific training available to law enforcement. Once they pass the National board, RBTs may start working under direct supervision of a BCBA while they wait for their state licensing.

SB78: Revises Provisions Relating to Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Bodies.

Steven Cohen: Reintroduced as a BDR by the Assembly minority leader.

SB140/BDR 62: Expands the jurisdiction of certain specialty courts for juveniles to include children with fetal alcohol syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders.

Anna Marie Binder: It is on the Governor's desk.

SB174/BDR53: Requires School Districts to Coordinate with Certain Providers of Services for Enrolled Pupils with Autism Who Have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Anna Marie Binder: It has passed both houses, was in Senate Finance last week. The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities was able to add amendments. She will send a link to Wendy as well as send it out.

SB 257/BDR 106: Senator Dondero Loop sponsored bill. Seeks to provide better diagnostic criteria for ASD.

Anna Marie Binder: This bill was brought forward through the Ackerman Center. She will send it to Korri Ward and Corey Nguyen. Anna Marie Binder motioned for the Commission to draft a support position statement for SB 257 that encompasses their reservations and hesitations, and their request for oversight, so that their children may receive a timely diagnosis that is supported or that is honored by insurance companies. Amy Coyne seconded. Members voted and the motion carried.

10. **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. Possible vote and approval of survey results and possible next steps for the Workforce Subcommittee for strategic Plan development. Presenter: Corey Nguyen

Corey Nguyen: The survey went out and the Commission was looking to have it translated and use the listserv that Linda Tran used previously.

Translating into Spanish, the Commission used funds to get it translated appropriately. Autumn will reach out to the language access coordinator and will report back to Korri Ward.

Corey Nguyen motioned for the Commission to move forward with sending out the survey once he has the translation and the listserv. Anna Marie Binder seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

11. **For Information:** Funding and Insurance Subcommittee Update regarding review of the status of the ADSD assessment of the billable rate for services contracted through Regional Centers. Presented by Anna Marie Binder

Anna Marie Binder will send materials to Wendy Thornley to send to the members.

12. **For Possible Action:** Review Analysis of 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. Vote to approve assignments for research and writing tasks to members. Presented by Korri Ward will send the document to Corey Nguyen
13. **For Possible Action:** Review and Approve Tabled and Future Agenda Items; Discuss and Set Future Commission Meeting Dates and Times.
Bylaws
Tabled items #8
#10
#12
Insurance and Funding Subcommittee has no more scheduled meetings per the poll that all the members of the full Commission voted on.
Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the above items. Corey Nguyen seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

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

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

14. **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 [621 495 778#]. 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
Autumn Blattman: Introduced herself and gave her contact information.
Anna Marie Binder: The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities will have one biking event in Northern Nevada. Information is on their website.
Encouraged members to write to their Senators and Congress members regarding issues for the developmental disability community.
Steven Cohen: Will send Korri Ward and Wendy Thornley information to send to the members about the volunteering at the Sunshine Nevada Organization/Torino Foundation event in Southern Nevada.
15. **Adjournment:**
Presented by: Korri Ward, Chair
Meeting adjourned at 3:43pm

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>