

Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Friday, January 9, 2026

Time: 1:30pm

Pursuant to NRS 241.020(3)(a), as amended by Assembly Bill 253 of the 81st Legislative Session, this meeting will be held using remote technology only. The meeting can be listened to via telephone or viewed live over the internet.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Roll Call & Opening Statement

Members: Corey Nguyen, Anna Marie Binder, & Amy Walch

Guests: Tyler Donaldson, Matthew Winterhawk, Katie Pfister, Carolyn Wilson, Sarah Horsman, Erika Garcia, Randi Humes, Amanda Mata, Estephania Jimenez-Sabree, Jessica Roew, Loren Gonzalez, William Hammargren, Cade Grogan, Casey Melvin, George Hernandez, Gujuan Caver, Jaimarie Mangoba, Sheila Garner, Stephanie Vrsnik, De Yates, Lupe Sanchez, Kaila Briggs, Korri Ward, Karen Medina,

Staff: Autumn Blattman, Wendy Thornley, & Hodan Edan

2. Public Comment:

Autumn Blattman: Bryan Wulfenstein has been appointed as a new member of the Commission.

Carolyn Wilson: Here to present and answer any questions.

Matthew Winterhawk: According to the Early Intervention....

William Hammargren: Here to answer any questions that people have.

3. For Possible Action: Review and Possible Vote to Approve the Meeting Minutes of the December 5, 2025, meeting. Corey Nguyen, Chair

Anna Marie Binder motioned to approve the draft minutes. Amy Walch seconded. The members voted and the motion carried.

4. For Information Only: Follow up on Developmental Services program report regarding current caseload, program growth, and waitlists (continuation of discussion on December 5, 2025, CASD meeting)

Presenters:

Carolyn Wilson (Sierra Regional Center)
Michele Klem (Desert Regional Center)
Gujan Caver (Desert Regional Center)
William Hammargren (Rural Regional Center)

Highlights:

Funding: No new legislative funding; budgets remain flat for FY26–27.

Waitlist Management:

Service coordination waitlists implemented statewide since June 2025.

Priority given to emergent cases (e.g., homelessness, institutional risk).

Staffing Challenges:

Only 3 intake specialists statewide; caseloads average 269 families each.

Progress:

Rural region eliminated respite waitlist temporarily; opened two new homes (behavioral and accessible needs).

Sierra region offered ~924 hours of Supported Living Arrangements; expanded respite and self-directed programs; launched Project SEARCH partnership with Renown Hospital for job training.

Discussion:

Benchmarks for funding escalation currently undefined; Commission suggested future development.

Agencies requested inclusion of success stories in future reports.

Anna Binder disclosed upcoming legislative presentation on Feb 23; requested real-time data for advocacy.

5. **For Information Only:** Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP), Data Regarding Caseload, Referrals, and Waitlist Numbers.

Presenter: Randi Humes

Key Points:

Transitioned to THERAP data system in July 2025; current report reflects FY26 data only.

Referral & Waitlist Trends:

Average wait time from referral to active status: ~6.1 months.

Intake team limited to 3 staff; managing 269–322 cases each.
Caseload:

Active caseload stable but below projected levels; demand rising.
Plan Types:

60% Insurance Assistance; 30% Service Coordination with Medicaid; 10% other plans.

Workforce Concern:

No additional funding for intake positions; need to build intake into caseload ratios.

Policy Impact:

AB 257 (effective Jan 1, 2026) expands provider authority to diagnose autism; expected to reduce diagnostic delays but may increase service bottlenecks.

6. **For Information Only:** Presentation and Discussion Regarding Early Intervention Services Annual Summary Report, Fulfilling NAC427A/NRS427A requirements, Early Intervention Waiting Time for Diagnosis

Presenter: Randi Humes

Highlights:

Increase in children served with autism diagnosis compared to prior years.

Average age of diagnosis: 32 months; program serves up to 36 months.

Average wait time from M-CHAT screening to diagnosis: 6.1 months (improved from prior years).

Workforce shortages remain a critical challenge; partnerships with UNR, UNLV, Nevada State, and LEND program ongoing.

Commission discussed need for tracking out-of-home placements and additional outcome metrics in future reports.

7. **For Possible Action:** Review of assigned work from December 5, 2025, Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders Meeting, to include:

Social Media Post:

Revised by PIO for improved design; approved unanimously with caveat for inclusive graphic if feasible.

Appreciation Letter:

To be finalized on official letterhead and sent to Korri Ward (hard copy and electronic).

Annual Report:

Submitted to Governor's Office on December 29, 2025.

8. **For Information Only:** Status report on concerns regarding the Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders subcommittee membership and continued plans for reconciliation (continuation of discussion from October 17, 2025, Commission meeting).
Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator, ADSD

Autumn Blattman reported ongoing review of past subcommittee records and compliance with Open Meeting Law.
Commission discussed wiping slate clean and reappointing members for transparency; DAG guidance pending.

9. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Tentative Agenda Items for Next Meeting February 26, 2026

Motion by Anna Marie Binder (approved unanimously):

- Keep standard items (Roll Call, Public Comment, Approval of Minutes).
- Add:
 - o Standing item for Five-Year Strategic Plan (discussion and possible action on workbook).
 - o Update on subcommittee reestablishment and possible work assignments.
 - o Discussion and possible action on advocacy letter regarding ABA therapy insurance changes, including data from DD Council.

10. Public Comment:

Matthew Winterhawk: Commended developmental gains post-service but urged for transparency on efficiency metrics (cost per child, cost per outcome, administrative vs. direct service ratios). Emphasized urgency of reducing delays during critical developmental years.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at: 4:08 pm

**Future 2026 Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders meeting dates are listed below.
All full Commission meetings start at 1:30 PM PST.**

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Monday, August 17, 2026

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

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Accommodation Requests: ADSD program applicants, participants, and board/committee members who require an accommodation may make a request for an ADA accommodation to:

- ADSD Administrative Support in writing (listed below); or,
- Via the [ADSD ADA Inquiry Form](#) located on the ADSD webpage at ADSD.nv.gov.

AGENDA POSTING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations:

- 1550 E College Parkway, Carson City, NV 89706
- Aging and Disability Services Division webpage: [Autism \(nv.gov\)](http://Autism(nv.gov)).
- Nevada Public Notices webpage: <https://notice.nv.gov/>