

State of Nevada Autism Task Force
Education Subcommittee
MINUTES

Thursday, December 20, 2007
Teleconference

Members Present: Cheryl Jung, Randy Figurski, Diane Branson, Cathy Scott, John Flamm, Frankie McCabe, Korri Ward, Cynthia McCray, Debbie Martino, Jennifer Van Tress, Cathy Armstrong, Jan Crandy, Assemblywoman Francis Allen, Carol Lamkins, and Assemblyman James Ohrenschall.

Members Absent: Dr. Elizabeth Moore and Gary Kuhre.

Guests: Toni Richards

Staff: Melanie Stevens

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Randy Figurski opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m., by welcoming those present and asking all to introduce themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

Korri Ward volunteered and was accepted without dissent as chair of this subcommittee.

DISCUSSION OF EXPECTATIONS:

The committee discussed the need to identify specific barriers in providing quality education to children and adults living with Autism. They discussed the need to have representation for all levels of education on this subcommittee, from birth through college. **Randy Figurski offered to invite Nevada Early Intervention Service's (N.E.I.S.) supervisors to the next subcommittee meeting. Jan Crandy will invite someone from the Regional Centers. Frankie McCabe will notify school districts not already represented, of the next Education subcommittee meeting so they may be included. Cheryl Jung will identify parents with children in the University System, to identify some of their challenges.** It was recommended that someone from the University or Community College systems be represented on the committee, to further identify necessary assessments and support systems available for students with Autism.

OUTLINED PLAN OF ACTION:

In an effort to identify barriers within the school districts, Cynthia McCray will research the range of services available through the schools in Southern Nevada for students with Autism. It was suggested the committee possibly survey the other school district's range of services and assessments being done. **Ms. McCabe will send out the Nevada Administrative Code (N.A.C.) website address for the committee members**

to review the school district requirements for assessment. The committee discussed the need to retain qualified teachers and paraprofessionals by offering them more incentives and training opportunities. There was discussion on what the standards for teachers and paraprofessionals are, what the minimum qualifications are, and what type of on-going training they receive. **Ms. McCabe offered to identify how many teachers are licensed and the child count data for children with Autism currently enrolled in the districts. Jan Crandy offered to send out to the committee, information from other state's Autism Task Force committees.** Mr. Figurski suggested if anyone has any other targets they would like the committee to explore, they should put them in the form of a question to present at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The committee agreed to meet again on Thursday, February 21st, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Figurski motioned for adjournment. Cathy Scott seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.