

State of Nevada Autism Task Force
Transition, Employment and Community Inclusion Subcommittee
MINUTES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007
Teleconference

Members Present: Flo Laroy, Korri Ward, Barbie Lauver, Dena Minton, Carol Lamkins, Dr. Tessie Rose, Tammy Garrison, Scott Harrington, Richard Weathermon, and Jessica Lomboy.

Members Absent: Jennifer Fenrick, Melissa Pegg, and Joan Shaffer.

Staff: Melanie Stevens

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Flo Laroy opened the meeting at 11:20 am by welcoming those present and asking all to introduce themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

Korri Ward motioned for Flo Laroy to be named as subcommittee chairperson. It was seconded by Dr. Tessie Rose and the motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF EXPECTATIONS:

The committee discussed the need to look into providing training for Vocational Rehabilitation (V.R.) case managers, school administrators, parents and employers concerning the support needs of individuals living with Autism. It was suggested we use a team approach to transitioning into the community workforce and make a recommendation of what that should look like.

OUTLINED PLAN OF ACTION:

Ms. Laroy circulated the 32nd Institute on Rehabilitation Issues – Rehabilitation of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders for the committee to review. The document has recommendations outlining the needs of individuals living with Autism. Dick Weathermon stated the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Counsel and the Nevada Disability Advocacy Law Center have made a commitment to address the issues surrounding integrated community-based employment. They have a group that is working to put together a summit and a report. Mr. Weathermon suggested the committee coordinate with this group as we move forward. The group is still organizing, but should have some information by the end of December. **Mr. Weathermon and Mr. Harrington will forward those documents to the committee.**

Dr. Rose offered to contact the local Recreation Departments and ask for the number of people they're serving with Autism Spectrum Disorders (A.S.D.) and what types of opportunities are available to them.

It was suggested the committee contact V.R. to see if people living with Autism are being employed in a sheltered workshop or in the community, and what steps are need to integrate those. There was discussion on the use of job coaches and in-service training, with the focus being customized employment and finding jobs that fit the individuals' skills and interests. **Ms. Laroy offered to gather information from V.R. concerning how many people with Autism are accessing and being served by their programs.** Part of the barriers to community inclusion has been a misunderstanding of the A.S.D.'s and the needs of individuals living with Autism. **Mr. Harrington offered to summarize a Best Practice guide for employment for people with A.S.D. and send out the data to the group.**

The committee discussed the need to begin transitioning high school students at 14 years old, rather than waiting until they turn 16 – as is current practice in some school districts.

The committee unanimously agreed it would be beneficial to have V.R. represented on this sub-committee to provide information and response to questions the committee members have.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The committee agreed to tentatively set the next meeting for February 20th, 2008, at 11:00 a.m., depending on member availability.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.