

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Teleconference

Members Present: Flo Laroy, Korri Ward, Dr. Tessie Rose, Joan Shaffer, Kathy Treants, Suzanne Thomas, Dr. Nancy Sylvania, and Jessica Lomboy.

Members Absent: Jennifer Fenrick, Melissa Pegg, Barbie Lauver, Carol Lamkins, Tammy Garrison, and Scott Harrington, Ruby Sydnor, and Michelle Canning.

Guests: Dr. Nancy Sylvania

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Dr. Rose motioned to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2007 meeting of the Transition, Employment and Community Inclusion subcommittee. Ms. Ward seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSITION ISSUES:

The committee discussed using the age range of 14 to 26 years for individuals in the transition age. They discussed the difficulties they are having gathering data on autism in the State of Nevada and suggested the possibility of having autism included as a secondary diagnosis when applicable in the Developmental Disabilities (DD) project. It was also suggested it be distinguished whether autism is a primary or secondary diagnosis in the Autism Registry project. Discussion of using the 32nd Institute on Rehabilitation Issues – Rehabilitation of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders circulated by Ms. LaRoy as a model transition plan evolved into using the transition planning guide as a tool and guideline for parents and families of children with autism to use when doing their futures planning. The guideline would be made available to people in a brochure at doctors offices and schools. **Ms. Shaffer said she would ask Autism Speaks to finish the resources section of the guide. Dr. Rose volunteered to help create the brochure. Ms. LaRoy will ask about including the guideline on the DD Counsel's rumored website when she meets with them about autism data.**

For the next meeting, Ms. Thomas will write up a draft stating the subcommittee's suggestions in the transition of students with autism into employment. It will include having children with autism integrated in social groups, after school

programs, and career development classes. Mr. and Mrs. Lomboy will draft a recommendation that middle and high school children with autism are included in social and life skills development classes. Ms. Lomboy updated the group on the new Achievement Academy that will be opening in the fall in the Las Vegas area. It is a private school being designed with autism specific curriculum including social and life skills classes. It could serve as a model for the public school district. It was suggested that the committee recommend to the Nevada Department of Education that all teachers be provided in service training specific to autism. Due to the time constraints of the meeting the committee agreed to continue this discussion via e-mail. **Dr. Rose agreed to organize a draft for the Community Inclusion portion of this subcommittee for committee review at the next scheduled meeting.** Ms. LaRoy asked that all drafts be finished by March 18th to give the committee time to review them before the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The committee agreed to set the next meeting for April 15th, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.