

# Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

## Five-Year Strategic Plan Development

### Historical Background and Context

The Commission was created by Governor Jim Gibbons Executive Order on Nov. 19, 2008 to continue the work of the Nevada Autism Task Force, which was created by an act (AB 629) of the 2007 Nevada Legislature. Governor Brian Sandoval issued Executive Order 2011-21 which expanded the Commission to five members appointed by the Governor and required biannual reports to the Governor.

The primary task of the Commission is to *“continue the work of the Task Force by developing strategies to implement, to the extent possible, the recommendations made by the Task Force.”*

In 2007 and 2008, the Task Force conducted a comprehensive review of autism in Nevada, including available services and shortfalls within the state’s available supports for families with autistic children. The final product of the Task Force was a 335-page report that includes 146 specific recommendations on how to address autism in Nevada, submitted July 28, 2008 to the Governor.

In 2010, the Commission created Subcommittees to focus on implementing these recommendations and to continue researching a broad range of issues. While several of the Task Force recommendations have been accomplished through policy and legislation, the Commission is committed to prioritizing these recommendations to see they are implemented timely and in a manner that best serves the residents of Nevada.

It has been six years since the original 2008 Task Force report. The prevalence of ASD and the number of Nevada residents impacted continues to rise at a rate far outstripping the supply and availability of supports and services. A focused, results-oriented, person-centered strategic plan is required to address the next five years. **The 2008 Autism Task Force Report provides the foundation and starting point for developing a five-year strategic plan to address ASD in the State of Nevada.** In addition, subcommittee reports compiled in 2013 should be considered in formulating the new plan.

### Plan Development

The Commission envisions the development of the five year strategic plan to be overseen by a steering committee consisting of the five members of the ASD Commission and the four chair persons of the subcommittees. The four subcommittees established are: 1) Early Childhood, 2) Youth and Transition, 3) Adults and Aging, and 4) Rural Services.

A final draft of the plan is targeted for December 2014 with the plan adopted by the Commission in January 2015. The Commission desires input on the plan from Self-Advocates, Parent Advocates, Subject Matter Experts, Educators, Service Providers, Agencies, Non-profits, Government, Disability Councils, Private Advocacy Groups, Businesses, and other Key Stakeholders. Outreach may include the following: a statewide survey, focus groups, key informant interviews, town hall meetings. and/or a summit.

It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will meet monthly from August to December 2014, The subcommittees will meet as determined by the chairperson, but will report progress of the subcommittee at the steering committee meetings.

The point of any plan should be to produce results and outcomes that can be measured, and that form a foundation upon which to build the next steps. The development of this Five-Year Strategic Plan, must emphasize and articulate specific, measurable actions to be taken that will achieve measurable results and outcomes in the five-year period.

### **Sources of Data**

There is a wealth of information readily available from which Subcommittees can draw to develop their plan components. These include, but are not limited to:

- 2008 Autism Task Force Report
- 2008-2014 Nevada Autism Commission Reports
- 2010-2013 Subcommittee Reports
- Reports/Plans from Other Nevada Commissions, Councils, Agencies, Local/Regional/State Governmental Entities
- Five/Ten-Year Plans from Other States (e.g. Delaware, Michigan, New Jersey)
- Major Initiatives Existing and Proposed from Other States
- New and Ongoing Input

Responsibilities of the contractor include:

- Act as a neutral facilitator in meetings to ensure assignments and task allocations related to the activities, resources, and timelines, in order to achieve the near-term and full-term goals and objectives described in the “Five-Year Strategic Plan Development” document accepted by the Commission in its May 2, 2014 meeting.
- Assist the Commission and steering committee in conducting research and facilitating steering committee and possibly some subcommittee meetings
- As directed by the Commission and steering committee, conduct stakeholder outreach, including agreed upon activities such as: statewide survey, focus groups, key informant interviews, town hall meetings. and/or a summit,
- Prepare drafts and final five-year strategic plan for review and approval by the Commission and steering committee
- As directed by the Commission and steering committee, analyze and prepare summary documents, such as survey results, key informant interviews, town hall and summit meetings
- Assist the Commission and steering committee to plan and manage the project, including regular status communications with all participants and stakeholders.

Report to ADSD, as supervisor of the master services agreement (“MSA”), on the contractors’