

State of Nevada Autism Task Force
Best Practice Guidelines Subcommittee
MINUTES

Thursday, December 20, 2007
Teleconference

Members Present: Jan Crandy, Dr. Matt Tincani, Dr. Pat Ghezzi, Randy Figurski, Debra Meinberg, Jennifer Van Tress, Teri Vaughn, Angela Tripp, Diane Branson, and Dr. Nancy Sylvanie.

Members Absent: Assemblyman James Ohrenschall, Dr. Johanna Fricke, Erik Lovaas, Dr. Ron Leaf, and Cynthia McCray.

Staff: Melanie Stevens

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Melanie Stevens opened the meeting at 2:25 pm by welcoming those present and asking all to introduce themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN:

Randy Figurski and Dr. Nancy Sylvanie both motioned for Jan Crandy to be named as subcommittee chair. It was seconded by Dr. Tincani and the motioned carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF EXPECTATIONS:

The committee discussed possible ways to establish Best Practice Guidelines for the State of Nevada. The consensus was to look at what the current range of services available to families and children living with Autism are and what other state's have established as Best Practice Guidelines, to see what we need to move towards. The main focus should be the Best Practice to serve an individual with Autism for their life time.

DISCUSSION OF EVIDENCE BASED TREATMENTS:

Jan Crandy suggested the committee use the Association for Science and Autism Treatment (ASAT) as a base for evidence based treatment. She stated they have looked at every treatment that is available and established which are evidence based, which don't have enough evidence to support them, and what type of clinical trials they have done. Randy Figurski agreed, stating others have used it also. **Ms. Crandy will disseminate information on ASAT and the full list of treatments with stated research for the group. She asked that each member of the committee disseminate definitions of 'evidence based' and what it means for Best Practice.**

OUTLINED PLAN OF ACTION:

Ms. Crandy offered to distribute to the group, what other states have organized for Best Practice Guidelines, and their State Autism Task Force Documents.

Dr. Ghezzi and Dr. Tincani will research what Applied Behavior Analysts (ABA) use for evidence based treatments. Mr. Figurski will research Best Practice as it pertains to case management and paraprofessional training. Dr. Sylvanie will research what other states are doing in their Best Practice guidelines for social skills development. Mr. Figurski will also put together a list of some basic assumptions that need to be in place for an effective Guideline's standard to work. It was suggested the committee aim to be specific with their recommendations for the Legislature and possibly include a glossary of terminology for the Legislators to identify with.

Ms. Crandy asked that all information be disseminated by the first week of January, so the committee members will have plenty of time to review it before the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE:

The committee members agreed to meet again on Tuesday, February 19th, at 2:00 p.m., by teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT:

With an aspiration to set a gold standard for the State of Nevada in the areas of Best Practice, and no other business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.