

# Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders

## Five-Year Strategic Plan Development

### PROCESS OVERVIEW

#### **Nevada Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)**

The Commission was created by Executive Order 2011-21 from Governor Jim Gibbons 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. The Commission is comprised of five members appointed by the Governor and makes 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.”*

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.

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.

#### **Introduction**

It has been more than five years since the original 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. This document provides the framework and process for developing a five-year strategic plan to address ASD in the State of Nevada.

### GOALS

#### **Near-Term**

Considerable research and reporting have been done between 2008 and the present and detailed recommendations have been made and discussed. The Commission and the Plan Development Subcommittees (discussed below) should identify and advance action on the following:

- **2014 Issues.** Urgent issues that can be affected and/or solved through Commission meetings and related actions in 2014
- **2014 Solutions.** “Shovel-ready” solutions/changes in the ASD community in Nevada that can be implemented in 2014
- **2015 Legislature.** Issues that can be addressed/solved through legislation during the 2015 Legislature

## Full-Term

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 Commission and the Plan Development Subcommittees, in 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 full five-year term.

- **100 Percent Reach.** Identify and create a person-centered plan for every Nevadan with ASD. While progress has been made in tracking children with ASD through the school system, many adults and persons with ASD outside the school system remain unaccounted.
- **Capacity Development.** Expand existing programs that are working and reinvent programs that are not. Look at every resource to explore ideas and opportunities to get more benefits out of our existing capacity, and where we need to invest to meet the demand.
- **Systems Change.** Eliminate barriers to success and innovate new approaches in all areas. Changes rules, regulations and policies where needed to incentivize new and existing providers to develop market-driven solutions.

## METHODOLOGY

### Subcommittees

Nevadans with ASD face a wide range of issues and challenges based on their age, abilities, potential, location, and resources. A person-centered approach to plan development creates solutions based on the needs of individuals first instead of fitting individuals to the availability and types of systems and services.

The Commission establishes the following Subcommittees to address the full range of issues and solutions as they apply to these population segments statewide:

- **Early Childhood Subcommittee** (ages 0-6)
- **Youth and Transition Subcommittee** (ages 6-18)
- **Adults and Aging Subcommittee** (ages 18+)
- **Rural Nevada Subcommittee** (all ages; This Subcommittee will be comprised of Voting members of the other three Subcommittees who are representing Rural Nevada interests on those Subcommittees.)

### Subcommittee Member Composition

The Commission will appoint a Chairperson for each Subcommittee. The Chairperson will identify and recommend to the Commission for approval the voting members for his/her respective Subcommittee.

- **Chairperson** – Because the Plan will take a person-centered approach, the Commission intends to appoint as Chairperson a Parent Advocate and/or Self Advocate.
  - Self-Advocate is defined as an adult Nevada resident with a diagnosis of ASD or Asperger's.
  - Parent Advocate is defined as a Nevada resident who is the parent or legal guardian of a Nevada resident child or adult diagnosed with ASD or Asperger's.

- **Members** – Each Subcommittee should have five (5) total Voting Members, including the Chairperson.
  - Voting Members – No less than 50 percent of Voting Members should be Self-Advocates or Parent Advocates. Voting Members must commit to attend all scheduled meetings of their Subcommittees. Attendance is critical to ensuring a quorum that is required for the Subcommittees to conduct their business.
  - Non-Voting Members – No limit is placed on the number of Non-Voting Members, but they are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible.
  - Voting and Non-Voting Members should represent all geographic regions of Nevada.
  - Rural Nevada Subcommittee Members should all be Voting members from the other three Subcommittees who are presenting Rural Nevada interests on those Subcommittees.

### **Open Meeting Law**

All Subcommittees will be required to conduct business in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting law.

### **Scope of Work**

Each Subcommittee will consider the full range of information, data, issues, recommendations and resources that pertain to the age ranges of individuals with ASD they address. Each Subcommittee will consider the transition of individuals into and/or out of their age range. See *Appendix A – Scope of Work* at the end of this document for a table of areas to be addressed by each Subcommittee. Some areas may have greater significance to one Subcommittee over another. Additional areas not listed in the table may be considered.

### **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 from Self-Advocates, Parent Advocates, Subject Matter Experts, Educators, Service Providers, Agencies, Non-profits, Government, Disability Councils, Private Advocacy Groups, Businesses, and Key Stakeholders

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **June 10, 2014** – NV Autism Commission meeting to appoint Subcommittee Chairpersons, and possibly Voting members of all Subcommittees.
- **July 1, 2014** – Subcommittee meetings commence.
- **Sept. 1, 2014** – Reports due from Subcommittees to the Commission on specific, actionable items that address the Near-Term Goals, especially matters that could be brought before the 2015 Legislature. (see this document, page 1, “Goals / Near Term / 2014 Issues & 2014 Solutions”)
- **Dec. 31, 2014** – Commission annual report due to Governor
- **Feb. 2, 2015** – 2015 Legislature is in session.

**APPENDIX A – SCOPE OF WORK**

<b>SUBCOMMITTEES</b>	<b>Early Childhood</b>	<b>Youth &amp; Transition</b>	<b>Adults &amp; Aging</b>	<b>Rural Nevada</b>
	Ages 0-6	Ages 6-18	Ages 18+	All Ages
<b>SCOPE</b>				
Screening & Diagnosis				
Early Intervention				
Treatments & Therapies				
Health & Wellness				
Education				
Programs & Services				
Medical Services				
Transition				
Employment				
Housing				
Funding & Finance				
Insurance				
Workforce Development & Compensation				
Social & Recreational				
Transportation				
Advocacy, Choice & Self Determination				
Regulations, Legal & Legislation				
Law Enforcement & First Responders				
Accessibility (including non-English speakers)				
Quality Assurance, Data, Measurement & Reporting				
Sustainability				
Crisis Intervention				
Spirituality				
Sexuality				