



NEVADA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday, June 28, 2023
1:00 PM

Location of Meeting: Microsoft Teams meeting

Approved Meeting Minutes

1. **Roll Call:**

Dena Schmidt called to order the meeting at 1:01 PM

- Members: Dena Schmidt, Assemblywoman Clara Thomas, Tammy Hendrix, Chris Vito, Wendy Simons, Deanne O'Rear Cameron, Richard Aguila, Natalie Mazullo, Anna Ladao, Stacy York
- Guests: Marcia Blake, Miles Terrasas, Jeff Duncan, Autumn Blattman, Adrienne Navarro, Cheyenne Pasquale, Crystal Wren, Linda Anderson, Brett, Lea Case, Anonymous, Tammy Sever, Cheryl Dinnell, Lori Lutu
- Staff: Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Administrative Assistant III

2. **Public Comment:**

- Cheryl Dinnell made public comment as the executive director of the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition letting us know that respite is still the number one request made by caregivers and the passing of AB100 which directs the Department of Health and Human Services during the 2023-2023 interim to develop assessments to the capabilities, unique needs, and quality of life of family caregivers and to implement a pilot program to collect this data. The NLRCC asks that we join them in working together on issues in common.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the January 18, 2023, meeting

- Wendy Simons made a motion to approve the minutes, Christopher Vito and Assemblywoman Claire Thomas seconded and motion carried.

4. **For Information:** Welcome and Introduction of New Members and Recognition of Previous Members.

- All members of the commission introduced themselves.

5. **For Information:**

A. Review of By-Laws, Mission, and Vision

- a. All these items were provided in the meeting materials, the Commissions role is to help us look at ways to avoid duplication of services between public and private in Nevada. Our mission is to facilitate and enhance the quality of life and services for all Nevadan seniors through partnership with Aging and Disability Services Division and other entities and the vision is to become a visible and informed organization.

B. Administrators Report

- a. We had a very good legislative session and were able to get rate increases and pay increases. We have had some staff changes, Erika Garcia is our new executive assistant, Miles Terrasas is our Public Information Officer and Legislative Liaison, Ellen Crecellius is our new deputy administrator over administration, Nikki Haag is our community engagement manager, and we have three new regional coordinators, Autumn Blattman, Lori Lutu, and Kelcy Meyer.

C. Commission Vacancies and SB43 changes to membership

- a. We have struggled in the past to get a member of a governing body of a city and county, so those seats are usually vacant, so SB43 allows us to open it up to any officer or employee of a county or city government to those seats.
- b. AB119 that was our vulnerable person fatality review was passed. The state now will be implementing and creating a review committee to look at the death of seniors and vulnerable persons from a root cause analysis, purpose trying to identify ways we could get upstream and prevent that death.

6. **For Information:** Program Updates

A. Adult Protective Services (APS) Update and Caseload Information

- Tammy Sever reported that we currently have a 60% vacancy rate in Las Vegas and that the Reno staff have been coming down and helping in Las Vegas. She reported on the caseload numbers and they can be found here: [APS Stats SFY 2023 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/aps/stats/sfy2023)

B. Office of Community Living – Supportive Services

Adrienne Navarro, Social Services Chief, Office of Community Living Supportive Services, ADSD

- Adrienne Navarro reported that like APS, we are experiencing a high staffing vacancy rate for our case managers and reported the numbers for the PAS and COPE programs which can be found

here: [Aging and Disability Services Division Caseload Statistics for March 2023 \(nv.gov\)](#)

C. Office of Community Living – Intake and Operations

- Crystal Wren reported that as of July 1st the facility outreach Community Integration Services program which is called FOCUS will be transitioning to ADSD from Medicaid. She also reported on the waiver numbers which can be found here: [Aging and Disability Services Division Caseload Statistics for March 2023 \(nv.gov\)](#) and let us know about the RX program that had some changes in the legislative session and we are looking at a remodel of the program to be able to expand to assist recipients with the cost of prescription medications rather than just the premium as the program does currently.

D. Olmstead Planning Update

- Cheyenne Pasquale gave a presentation on the Olmstead Planning Committee updates and that presentation can be found here: [COA Olmstead Updates 6/28/23 \(nv.gov\)](#)

7. **For Information:** Policy Subcommittee update

- Connie McMullen gave the COA policy subcommittee update on the outcome of the legislative bills that the COA had approved for support. That report can be found here: [NV COA Policy Subcommittee Report 6.28.23](#)

8. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Agenda Items for Next meeting tentatively August 2023. Doodle poll will be forthcoming to determine date.

- Having the office of Minority Health give us an update on the implementation of the DEI training.
- What Policy recommendations we want to make to the subcommittee.
- Medicaid budget
- SNAP Education program.

9. **Public Comment:**

- Marcia Blake with Helping Hands of Vegas Valley stated that ADSD sent out some program updates that was the inclusion of the Older American act changes and I would like to know if ADSD would be able to provide some information about these changes.
- She also spoke about the respite vouchers and the need to increase the amount as the providers need to increase their

expenses and the cost of providing service and it reduces the amount of hours families can use the vouchers for.

- Lastly, she commented that since the reduction of SNAP benefits they have seen a 74% increase in request for emergency food, they have distributed 352 emergency bags to senior who have never received their services before in the last month.
- Deanne O’Rear Cameron the chairperson for the Las Vegas Senior Citizens Advisory Board and the chair for the Board of Directors for the National Aging in Place Council introduced herself as a member of the commission. She also stated that she recently took a tour of The Courtyard and counted over 30 wheelchairs and walkers there and whether its due to unsafe discharge or reduction in SNAP benefits people are having to make the decision between housing, prescriptions, and food, it’s become a real concern.
- Lori Lutu introduced herself, she’s the regional coordinator for Clark County and southern Nye County.
- Christopher Vito commented on the importance of the data and statics and using those to make recommendations.
- Wendy Simons just got the task for Alzheimer’s Disease agenda and suggested the other members look at it as two of the topics overlapped our discussion today.
- Dena Schmidt and Miles Terrasas let everyone know that ADSD has listservs, and we will send out a link to everyone so they can sign up for the various boards and commissions.

10. **Adjournment (For Possible Action): 3:30 pm**

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at www.adsd.nv.gov and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>