



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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DRAFT MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Aging
Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee (SPAC)

(Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427A.034)

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: This will be a call-in meeting, originating from Aging &
Disability Services in Reno

To Join the Telephone Conference: **Call-in number: 888-363-4735**
Access Number: 8529740

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Present Members: Connie McMullen, Kathy McClain, Barry Gold, Jerry Johnson, Sue Rhodes

Absent Members: Charles Perry

Present Staff: Sally Ramm, Tina Padovano

II. Welcoming Remarks
Connie McMullen, Chair

III. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an action item.)

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee Meeting of November 25, 2013 (**For Possible Action**)
Connie McMullen, Chair

The November 25, 2013 Minutes are approved.

V. Announcements from Members
Connie McMullen, Chair

Jerry Johnson announced that on February 12, 2014, he will have Supreme Court Justice Hardesty and County Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak as guest speakers at Seniors United. There has been an average of eighty to ninety members attending the meetings.

There will be a Senior Safety Fair on May 14, 2014 at Paradise Community Center.

Barry Gold announced on February 5, 2014, Human Services Network (HSN) will be holding a meeting to talk about priorities for the upcoming year.

- VI. Discuss and make recommendations on issues to be addressed by the Legislative Committee on Seniors, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs.
(For Possible Action)
Connie McMullen, Chair

The next Subcommittee Concerning Legislative Issues meeting will be held on February 4, 2014.

Sally Ramm will send a copy of the list of issues prepared at the next Subcommittee Concerning Legislative Issues meeting to subcommittee members. The purpose of this list is to educate legislators on senior issues.

Connie McMullen brought attention to the Alzheimer's State Plan. In the recent report on behavioral health done by the Director's office, the report pointed to people between the ages of 18 and 64 as being the population that is using the majority of services. People over the age of 65 are only using 1 to 2 percent of services. Ms. McMullen's concern is that the focus will be on the population that uses the majority of services. Seniors over the age of 65 should be included even though they will be the most costly. The COA agreed that somebody from the aging community be included in the discussion with the Governor regarding mental health at his Behavioral Health and Wellness Commission

Sue Rhodes stated that she and Connie McMullen are vocal at the Integration Committee meetings about the possibility of seniors losing services. Both Ms. Rhodes and Ms. McMullen expressed concern over loss of senior services.

Barry Gold expressed concern over the distribution of waiver slots when the full allotment is available to both seniors and people with disabilities. Mr. Gold's concern is regarding people that go into the disability waivers staying in the waiver longer due to their age. In future years, 75% of slots could be disability.

Sue Rhodes stated there will be a lot of pressure to cut the waiver waitlists. The WIN Waiver waitlist is currently around 26 months. Ms. Rhodes expressed concern regarding the seniors.

Barry Gold recommended combining the waiver populations to be sure there is availability of slots for both populations.

Connie McMullen suggested that the subcommittee form recommendations on the waivers. She mentioned possibly forming an economic development plan to facilitate money and goals in the assisted living and residential care communities. She also stated there is a lot of money that is going out of state that should be staying in this state. There should be a solid study regarding the money that is going to other states. Ms. McMullen asked if this is something that the Legislative Committee on Seniors, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs should consider looking into.

- VII. Report on Status of Availability of Facilities for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and other types of dementia and other Information regarding activities of the Nevada Health Care Association.

Daniel Mathis, Executive Director, Nevada Health Care Association

Connie McMullen introduced Daniel Mathis to the subcommittee.

Mr. Mathis provided notes from a PowerPoint presentation to the Subcommittee explaining the supplemental payment calculations for skilled nursing facilities. The supplemental payment is something that is called the provider tax. Mr. Mathis will be talking about the distribution portion during this meeting today.

Mr. Mathis will be meeting with Director Willden in March to discuss the behavioral issues in the state. There is a state plan to allow skilled nursing facilities to admit some behavioral patients at a higher rate, so far facilities have not moved forward with this. They are talking about increasing the calculation of the acuity and shrinking the Medicaid occupancy. Mr. Mathis stated that in a classic Alzheimer's unit the acuity is low. When they take away the Medicaid occupancies, and increase acuity, this is going to make providers try to admit a higher acuity patient. This is going to have impact.

Sue Rhodes asked which Alzheimer units have closed.

Mr. Mathis answered Ms. Rhodes' question by stating the Henderson and TLC units are closed or in the process of reducing their Alzheimer units.

Barry Gold asked that by increasing acuity will this reduce admitting Alzheimer patients with lower acuity.

Mr. Mathis answered yes to Mr. Gold's question.

Mr. Gold asked if they are reducing the Medicaid occupancy and asked if Mr. Mathis knows if Alzheimer patients are more or less likely to be Medicaid patients.

Mr. Mathis stated that he could send Mr. Gold a breakdown of Medicaid patients.

Mr. Mathis stated that Nevada currently has the lowest percentage of behavioral patients in skilled nursing facilities in the country. Director Willden has approved that the behaviorists can bill Medicaid outside the skilled nursing facility.

Connie McMullen asked if Nevada has the lowest rate due to people with behavioral issues being shipped out of state.

Mr. Mathis stated it is not due to people being shipped out of state, it is due to the compliance issue being tough.

Sally asked if there are statistics on deficiencies.

Mr. Mathis does have a breakdown of deficiencies. Nevada is higher than most states in deficiencies. Mr. Mathis will provide the subcommittee with the stats on deficiencies.

Mr. Mathis brought attention to sanctions which is also worrying providers.

Barry Gold stated that he does not regularly hear about the state sanctioning for behavioral issues.

Sue Rhodes stated that there is only one facility right now that has a ban on new admissions.

Mr. Mathis stated that Health Care Quality and Compliance would have information on the numbers of sanctions in the state.

Heather Korbolic, Connie McMullen and Sue Rhodes would like to attend Mr. Mathis's meeting with Director Willden in March.

Mr. Mathis distributed statistics via e-mail to the subcommittee. The stats distributed were discussed among the subcommittee.

Mr. Mathis stated that distributed data is from CMS.

Mr. Mathis would like to have people from the subcommittee in attendance at the meeting with Director Willden.

Mr. Mathis is happy to be on the agenda at the next subcommittee meeting.

- VIII. Report on Joint Meeting with Commission on Aging SPAC Subcommittee and Commission on Services for People with Disabilities and Recommendations on a Possible Joint Activities. **(For Possible Action)**
Connie McMullen, Chair

Connie McMullen announced there will be a small joint telephone meeting with the Commission on Aging, SPAC and Commission on Services for People with Disabilities. The Disability Advocacy and Law Center will be involved with this meeting. They have an update on the two plans and an update on Olmstead for people with disabilities. Ms. McMullen suggested that the word Olmstead should include seniors. When they speak of facilities, memory care facilities and aging nursing facilities should be included. Ms. McMullen read the 2010 Olmstead Update stating that nursing homes had remained flat. Ms. McMullen stated there is too much going on for us to not be observant and accountable over the next five years.

Sue Rhodes expressed concern with the relation with an adult with disabilities and a senior with disabilities because one is going to age into the other.

Ms. McMullen agreed with Ms. Rhodes.

Sue Rhodes stated that the needs of children and their families are very unique and they should be in their own division. This could be a concern not only with seniors, but with adults with disabilities.

Barry Gold believes this brings up the advocacy side. Mr. Gold stated that people always show up at the Legislature for children, but seniors cannot get there. The advocacy needs to be equal. We are the people at the Legislature speaking for the seniors.

Connie McMullen stated that she will go to the Commission on Aging to push for funding. Money will be what drives the issue on services for seniors.

IX. Report on Ombudsman Program Regarding Activities and Performance Statistics.

Heather Korbolic, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Heather Korbolic stated that the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is mandated in the Older Americans Act which means that every state must have a program. The role of the ombudsman is to advocate for long-term care residents.

Over the past fiscal year we have had 9.5 ombudsman staff in the field, we had 51 nursing homes, 491 group homes, with a total of 13,578 beds. Each ombudsman staff person currently has approximately 1,430 beds. During Fiscal Year 14 we had 748 cases with 1,586 complaints. 833 of the complaints were from nursing homes and 752 were from group homes. 83% of the complaints that were brought to the long-term ombudsmans' attention were resolved.

The top three complaints from nursing homes are:

1. Dignity and respect issues;

2. Discharge and eviction; and
3. Failure to respond to requests for assistance.

The top three complaints in group homes are:

1. Dignity and respect issues;
2. Discharge and eviction; and
3. Concerns and issues with medications.

We currently have 18 volunteers who go only to nursing facilities. The volunteers contributed 798 hours to our program last year.

Connie McMullen asked if you feel there are enough people on the ground. Ms. McMullen asked Ms. Korbolic if she feels that we need more people working in the ombudsman program, and what is the ratio of ombudsman workers in the north and in the south.

Ms. Korbolic stated there are currently 6 ombudsman in Clark County; .5 in Elko; 2 in Reno; and 1 in Carson City. Ms. Korbolic stated she would like more staff in each office.

Ms. Korbolic stated that when abuse is involved, the case is referred to Elder Protective Services. The ombudsman program works closely with Elder Protective Services. All facilities are mandated reporters.

Ms. Korbolic stated that any suspected unlicensed group homes are referred to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Kathy McClain asked that Ms. Korbolic send her information on suspected unlicensed group homes. Ms. Korbolic agreed.

Jerry Johnson asked if the facility visits are announced or unannounced. Ms. Korbolic stated that the visits are always unannounced.

Ms. Korbolic is currently working on a budget request for more staff in the north and in the south, and also in the rural areas.

Kathy McClain would like to go on a tour in the south with an ombudsman.

- X. Make Recommendations on Nevada Health Link Outreach to Seniors and Ways SPAC can Help to get Information to Older People about how the Affordable Care Act Affects Them. **(For Possible Action)**

Barry Gold

Mr. Gold stated that Nevada Health Link was referring people to other agencies. People who were applying for Medicaid were being referred to community agencies and Access to Healthcare was charging Medicaid applicants \$30.00.

Barry Gold stated that the Board was aware Nevada Health Link was not taking applications due to being overwhelmed.

It was decided that when referrals were made to Access to Healthcare, Nevada Health Link tells applicants they may be charged \$30. Welfare stated that it is legal for an outside agency to charge.

The next Nevada Health Link Board Meeting is on February 13, 2014. Mr. Gold strongly encourages everyone to attend.

According to Mike Willden there are 30,000 pending Medicaid applications with the Department of Welfare.

Mr. Gold stated the call center was still not taking applications a week ago. Mr. Gold has not heard anything different at this time.

- XI. Make Recommendations for Agenda Items and Date and Time for the Next Meeting. (For Possible Action)
Connie McMullen, Chair

The next Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee (SPAC) meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.

Connie McMullen will be sending integration plan information to the subcommittee members. Ms. McMullen stated that it is mainly targeted for staff and what they need to do by certain dates. We should have the report by February 18, 2014. Jane Gruner should be included on the next agenda.

The following items should be included on the next agenda:

- Item VI
- Item VII
- Item VIII
- Item X
- Integration (Jane Gruner)

- XII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an action item).

There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who have disabilities and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Tina Padovano at (775) 687-4210 as soon as possible and at least two days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at tpadovano@adsd.nv.gov

Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Rd, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Tina Padovano at (775) 687-0502 or by email at tpadovano@adsd.nv.gov

Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
2. Aging and Disability Services Division ,Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
3. Aging and Disability Services Division ,Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
4. Aging and Disability Services Division , Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104 Elko, NV 89801
5. State Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson Street, Suite 3138, Carson City, NV 89701
6. Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave, Suite 4401, Las Vegas, NV 89119
7. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City 89706

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://aging.state.nv.us/>