



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

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

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MICHAEL WILLDEN
Director

JANE GRUNER
Administrator

Minutes

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Aging
(Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427A.034)

Date and Time of Meeting: January 13, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Carson City: Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S Carson Street
Room 2134
Carson City, NV 89701

Las Vegas: Grant Sawyer Building
555 E. Washington Avenue
Room 4412E
Las Vegas, NV 89101

I. Call to Order/Roll Call
Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD

Ms. Gruner called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Jane Gruner, Maria Dent, Stavros Anthony, Lee Drizin, Lisa Krasner, Edrie LaVoie, Connie McMullen, John Thurman, Patsy Waits, Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel, Bonnie Weber, Senator Mark Manendo.

Excused Members: Mike Willden, Minddie Lloyd, John Rice

Guests: Jeff Klein (Nevada Senior Services), Sue Rhodes (Clark County Social Services), Grady Tarbutton (Washoe County Senior Services), Dr. John Yacenda (Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum) Jose Tinio (Adult Residential Care Providers of Nevada)

Staff Present: Jeff Doucet, Dale Ann Luzzi, Desiree Bennett, Sally Ramm, Tammy Ritter, Tammy Sever

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

There was no public comment.

- III. Approval of the Minutes from the November 18, 2013 Meeting (For Possible Action)
Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD

Ms. Waits motioned to approve the minutes as written. Bonnie Weber seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- IV. Welcoming Remarks

Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD

Ms. Gruner thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed them into the New Year. Upcoming issues for 2014 include new regulations from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the waiver program and a needs assessment for seniors in preparation for the upcoming 2016-2017 budget. Several outstanding issues will be looked at this year including behavior health needs for seniors, as well as the fragile state of our providers system. Encouragingly there will be a great deal of collaboration with county partners as we move forward in building the 2016-2017 budgets.

- V. Administrator's Report

Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD

Update the Commission on Activities and Developments in the Division since Last Commission on Aging (COA) Meeting

ADSD is busy working on white papers for areas of service improvement in preparation for the upcoming budget process. Ms. Gruner stated that ADSD has presented several white papers and will be sending out more information on them following this meeting. If Commissioners have areas where they would like to see ADSD provide a budget initiative, please let Ms. Gruner know so it can be included on the next agenda. The Senior Services Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee for COA is collaborating with the Commission on Services with People with Disabilities to work together to develop a joint priority list for services. The two committees will be meeting in person in the near future. Ms. Gruner is working on an initiative with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the University system to address workforce issues. The desired outcome is to align Nevada's workforce needs with the educational opportunities in the state. The University is collaborating to ensure that students are receiving the types of training opportunities that will allow them to be prepared for positions within the state. Additional initiatives are in progress to persuade people into joining the State of Nevada workforce. One proposal is to make it easier for people to receive loan repayment in order to draw more social workers into our system, enlist current licensed staff members into mentoring incoming unlicensed staff through their licensing process. Development of paid internships and mentoring

programs may also encourage the pursuit of employment with Nevada. Another potential program will be having current staff shadow other staff and learn about positions within in ASD that they may be interested in. Ms. Gruner invited Commission Members to experience some senior programs by visiting seniors living in an Independent Living situation or an Adult Aid Program. Ms. Gruner told any Commissioners interested in visiting any additional programs to contact her.

- **Update on Sequestration**
Ms. Gruner stated that the President signed a Bipartisan Budget Bill into law on December 26, 2013. The agreement partially rolls back the Sequester for FY2014 and FY2015 by increasing the budget authority spending cap by 45 billion in FY2014 and 18 Billion in FY2015. Just as the Sequestration cuts were equally divided between defense and non-defense so was the relief.
- **Budget Update**
As a result, the total discretionary funds in 2014 are set at 1.12 trillion. There will still be a cut because of the cap but it will be much less than the cuts last year. The discretionary results going forward and the appropriations will be done in Congress, where they will decide how much of a cut each program will take.
- **ASD Integration Update**
ASD is working to get the Merger Integration Plan completed by January 31. Goals and objectives will follow the final report. Ms. Gruner will be conducting Town Hall meetings across the state in order to give consumers and community partners an opportunity to read the plan and provide comments. The Integration Plan is a fluid document so any possible changes or adjustments can easily be made going forward.
- **Update to New Federal Regulations**
CMS came out with a final ruling on several major concerns with the Home and Community Based Care Waiver programs. The new ruling allows more flexibility in merging waivers. The new regulation defines the setting for which someone will be paid under the Home and Community Based Care Waiver. The ruling defines Person Centered Planning in the requirements. The regulation is to ensure that the setting is a Community Based Care setting versus a program that is attached to a hospital, which would not be funded under the Community Based Care Waiver. This will assure that people are enjoying community living. Ms. Gruner will be analyzing and discussing these changes to see how they affect the Nevada Waiver.

- VI. Discussion and Possible Recommendations to the Silver Hair Legislation Forum on Ways to Move Forward Senior Issues. (For Possible Action)
Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD

Dr. John Yacenda, member of the Silver Haired Legislative Forum (SHLF) commented that SHLF does have one Bill Draft Request available to them, and they are currently gathering ideas using a computer chart that Dr. Yacenda described. SHLF will be having a work session in May or June to determine what their bill draft request will address.

- VII. Discuss Governor's Appointment to Behavioral Health and Wellness Council and Consider Writing a Letter to the Governor Requesting Representation from the Aging Network (For Possible Action)
Connie McMullen, Commissioner

Ms. McMullen read the report that was prepared by the Social Entrepreneurs group. There was a recommendation that a strategic plan on behavioral health concerns be made for the state. What was gathered from the report, Comprehensive Gaps Analysis of Behavioral Health, is that there is a huge need in the state for the age group 18-64. This group accounts for half the state's population and represents more than two thirds of the people who are served by Nevada's Public Behavioral Health Services. The system serves significantly fewer younger people, children under age twelve and older adults 65 plus, in comparison with the other population. Ms. McMullen would like to narrow down to the 65 plus group. Over the past twelve years there has been plenty of anecdotal evidence and gap analysis reports, including the one that came out of the Second Judicial District Court in Washoe County. That report said that people with Dementia and Alzheimer's disease with behavioral issues are stigmatized, labeled and discriminated against, by providers who are worried about liability issues, capacity issues, and security and safety issues. They are eventually transferred out of the state. One or two percent of elders over the age of 65 needed behavioral health treatment and are the most highly impacted and in need of the most expensive level of care. Ms. McMullen said the State needs to considered that people over 65 with Dementia should be included as part of the Integration Plan that is currently being developed. Ms. McMullen would like to ask the Commission to consider writing a letter to the Governor requesting representation from the Aging Network. She would like to see someone representing the older aged demographic, which is an area that is missing in the report. Ms. McMullen has a letter addressed to the Governor that she would like COA to endorse and send. Ms. Gruner asked for a vote to pass the letter requesting representation from Aging Services. The motion passed.

VIII. Update on the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Meeting
Jane Gruner, Administrator

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) teleconference meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2014. Ms. Gruner stated the agenda for that meeting will comprise of an overview of Senior Services in Nevada including services funding Sequestration and its effects on Senior Services. Other areas of concern include : transportation, nutrition, and workforce issues. Statistics regarding the increase of seniors in Nevada and an overview of how the increase of seniors with Alzheimer's and other forms of Dementia will look over the next ten years will be discussed. Other agenda topics will include long-term care issues, caregiver issues, and the care of the caregivers in Nevada. Trends in Community Based Services effects on small communities in Nevada will cause a new look at what types of care could be adjusted so that smaller communities have options for people. Another agenda item will be a discussion with NACO regarding how to form a mutual vision for where to go with senior services and collaboration on planning an implementation of senior issues. Ms. Gruner commented that we have great examples of the state and the county working together with help from Mr. Tarbutton with Washoe County, which can be utilized by other counties. Ms. Gruner has a letter as a part of the agenda to send to NACO as soon as it gets approval. It is an opportunity for the Commission to share information with our Counties and prepare for the surge of senior issues that will be surfacing. Ms. Weber asked that all Commissioners throughout the state plan on attending in person or listen to the NACO meeting.

IX. Report from the Senior Services Strategic Plan Accountability (SPAC)
Subcommittee
Connie McMullen, Subcommittee Chair

Ms. McMullen discussed the subcommittee's drafted report (attachment A) on the Senior Services Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC). The subcommittee is preparing for a joint meeting with Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD) on January 29, 2014 in an effort to update the State's Olmstead plan for disability services. It will be the first time the SPAC and CSPD committees have met.

X. Report from the Legislative Subcommittee
Jeff Klein, Chair

Mr. Klein presented the subcommittee report (attachment B) on a time line for action leading up to the Legislative session. He commented that it is important that every Legislator knows the senior issues and the different agencies in their immediate community. A priority is to conduct Town Hall meetings to allow citizens to voice their concerns to their Legislator. Ms. Weber invited Mr. Klein to participate in the February 7, NACO teleconference meeting.

- XI. Report from the NRS 439 Subcommittee
Edrie LaVoie, Chair
Sally Ramm read the report from NRS 439 subcommittee (attachment C) on behalf Ms. LaVoie.

- XII. Report from the Bylaws Subcommittee
Sally Ramm, Chair
Ms. Ramm read the report from the Bylaws Subcommittee. (Attachment D)

- XIII. Date of Next Meeting (March 17, 2014) and Consider Agenda Items
(For Possible Action)
Jane Gruner, Administrator, ADSD
Ms. McMullen stated she would like to see a follow up on the Behavioral Health issue and if the Governor does not respond, Ms. McMullen would like to have an additional discussion on it at the next COA meeting. Connie McMullen would also like an agenda item following the NACO conference. The motion passed to add Ms. McMullen’s agenda items to the March agenda.

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

Ms. Gerber- Winn told the Commissioners that every year in collaboration with Nevada Geriatric Educational Center, Aging and Disability Services Division sponsors an educational session primarily targeted toward Group Home Administrators and the smaller operations that run Homes for Individual Residential Care (HIRC). The educational session provides an opportunity for them to upgrade credentials or maintain them as well as give them relevant information about observations during visits to group homes, HIRC, and nursing homes. The Northern session is February 6, 2014 at the Airport Plaza and February 27 in the south at United Health Care.

Jose Tinio from Adult Residential Care Providers of Nevada and a representative of the smaller group homes would like to be involved in future meetings to make recommendations on how to keep seniors and adults with mental health issues living in the state of Nevada.

- XV. Adjournment
Ms. Gruner adjourned the meeting.