



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: March 17, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Carson City: Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S Carson Street
Room 3137
Carson City, NV 89701

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

I. Call to Order/Roll Call
Edrie LaVoie, COA Member

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

Members Present: Edrie LaVoie, Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel, Lee Drizin, Lisa Krasner, Connie McMullen, John Rice, John Thurman, Patsy Waits, Bonnie Weber, Senator Mark Manendo

Excused: Michael Willden, Jane Gruner, Minddie Lloyd, Maria Dent, Stavros Anthony

Guests: Jeff Klein, Sue Rhodes, Jose Tinio, Michael Lam (Washoe County Senior Services), Dr. John Yacenda (Nevada Silver Haired Legislature Forum), Jeanette Belz (J.K. Belz and Associates), Jacob Harmon (Alzheimer's Association of Northern Nevada), Lindsay Wheeler (High Sierra Legal), Anthony Ruggiero (City of Las Vegas)

Staff Present: Dale Ann Luzzi, Desiree Bennett

- 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.)

Mr. Jacob Harmon, Regional Director of Alzheimer's Association in Northern Nevada and member of the Lifespan Respite Coalition in Nevada, asked the commission to think about ongoing respite care funding and to work with the Lifespan Respite Coalition as well as the community organizations that deal with the expanding respite services throughout Nevada. It is a service that in the long run saves money and healthcare costs. A small investment in respite will go a long way towards balancing budgets and improve the health outcomes of our families' caregivers in Nevada. Ms. LaVoie thanked Mr. Harmon for his comments and stated that the Commission on Aging NRS 439 Subcommittee is working on recommendations for the Independent Living funding and may be in touch with Mr. Harmon.

- III. Approval of the Minutes from the January 13, 2014 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**
Edrie LaVoie, COA member

Mr. Thurman made a motion to approve the January 13 minutes as written. John Rice seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- IV. Welcoming Remarks
Edrie LaVoie, COA Member

Ms. LaVoie read comments provided by Ms. Jane Gruner, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) who unable to attend the meeting. The comments were "ADSD is gearing up for the Legislative Session, the budget process and has already had discussion with Director Michael Willden on the budget concepts. One areas that ADSD would like to include in the budget is a rate increase for providers of service and a program for behavioral health for seniors. Rates are important because they closely related to the quality component of our programs. The providers need to be individuals that are able to make decisions and follow program plans. The rates for providers of community living programs have not had an increase since 2007. Nevada has had two minimum wage increases since that time. The last rate study was completed in 2002 and the recommendations for increase were not followed".

- V. 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 stated that the letter to the Governor had been drafted and signed by Administrator Gruner and sent to the Governor. The Behavioral Health and Wellness Council have met twice since the Commission has met last. The Council discussed the prices of emergency rooms and the placement of people

with mental health problems and children who are affected by mental health. There was no discussion or representation of seniors on the council. The council's next meeting will be on March 24 and 25 regarding children's mental health. The following meeting will discuss the Legal 2000 (Nevada Process of Civil Commitment). Ms. McMullen wrote a personal letter to the Chairman requesting that they consider that seniors are also a big portion of the population living in Las Vegas, with emergent health needs and are a good portion of the population in emergency rooms as well as any other population. Ms. McMullen also wrote a letter to Senator Wiener, Chairman of the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, to express concern. Senator Wiener stated she would consider those mentioned concerns. The Washoe County Senior Coalition had a meeting that hosted Senator Debbie Smith, who is a member of the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council. Senator Smith discussed behavioral health needs, felt there was a gap in representation of children in education, and believed there is room for expansion of membership regarding a subcommittee on that council. Senator Smith will be making a recommendation for children and senior citizens to the council at the end of the month.

VI. Update on the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Meeting on
March 21 2014 Teleconference
Edrie LaVoie, COA Member

Ms. LaVoie thanked Ms. Gruner and Commissioner Weber for working with NACO President, Jeff Fontaine in putting the teleconference together. The conference is an opportunity to reach out to Boards of County Commissioners and educate them on issues surrounding seniors in Nevada. The teleconference will take place March 21 starting 9 a.m. There will be presentations from Peter Reed, Sanford Center on Aging, Kevin Schiller, Washoe County Assistant County Manager, and Jane Gruner, ADSD. The presenters will be discussing demographics, current issues, and focus on collaboration of the state and counties. Ms. Gruner would like to make sure the counties have contact names and numbers to call at the state if they have questions or want to work collaboratively. Ms. LaVoie stated the teleconference is an opportunity for individuals to encourage their Board of County Commission Members to participate and become aware of the growing senior population and the dwindling resources to support them staying in their homes. Any questions about participating in the conference, please contact Jane Gruner.

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

Ms. McMullen stated that she and Susan Rhodes were members of the Aging and Disability Services Integration Plan Committee that submitted a report to the Director's Office for review. The strategic plan is posted on the main page of the

ADSD website. The Strategic Plan will last five years moving forward for staff and providers collaborating with the state. The SPAC subcommittee met and is working with the Commission on Services with Persons with Disabilities on plans of moving forward with the Strategic Plan update and an update on the Olmstead plan. The committee voted to have a meeting with Olmstead specialist Tony Records. Mr. Records was last in the state in 2008 and gave an update on how the state was doing on its progress on the Olmstead Plan. Mr. Records will be in Reno on April 11 to give the two bodies an update on where Nevada stands and a possible update on Strategic Plans moving forward. The Commission on Aging members are invited to attend.

- VIII. Including but not Limited to Seeking Approval for a List of Senior Issues and White Papers to Support the List That Will be Distributed to State Legislator and Candidates for the Legislature. **(For Possible Action)**
Jeff Klein, Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Klein stated that the Subcommittee has been working towards the development of a package that will be in use this spring for educating and orienting Legislatures who may not be familiar with senior issues in the state. It can also be used as a basis to create a foundation of knowledge as issues come up in the future, and are a way to speak more directly with Legislatures when using a common reference point entering into the Legislative season. Mr. Klein distributed and explained the White Papers to support the list that will be distributed to the State Legislature and candidates for the Legislature. A list of some senior issues presented was; transportation, nutrition, caregivers, behavioral health, work force, legal rights, Medicaid, and budget issues. Mr. Klein would like the Commission to review the list and the White Papers and provide feedback. Ms. Weber would like to see the White Papers posted on the ADSD website for the use and reference for the NACO meeting on March 21. Ms. LaVoie asked Dale Ann Luzzi to discuss with Ms. Gruner, how many of Bill Draft Requests ADSD has and what that process looks like. Mr. Klein stated he would like to add approval of the COA on the work of the Subcommittee on the list of senior issues and the White Papers to the next agenda.

- IX. Report from the NRS 439 Subcommittee
Edrie LaVoie, Subcommittee Chair

Ms. LaVoie stated that the NRS 439 Subcommittee was established to draft a report recommending funding priorities for the Independent Living Grants. The grants include transportation, respite, and other support services that may delay or prevent institutionalization. This is the second report submitted by the Subcommittee. The first report was submitted in June of 2012. The Subcommittee is in the process of analyzing several different existing reports including the Integration Plan previously discussed by Ms. McMullen and the 2013 Independent Living Report. The Subcommittee will be looking the ADSD waitlist information and other statistical data. The report is currently in draft form

and will be submitted for approval at the COA May meeting and submitted to Director Mike Willden in June.

- X. The next meeting is for May 19, 2014. Consider Agenda Items
(For Possible Action)

Edrie LaVoie, COA Member

Ms. LaVoie stated that the next COA meeting will be on May 19. Updates on committee reports, a SPAC update, NRS 439 Subcommittee report draft approval, a debriefing by MS. Gruner of the March 21 NACO will be included on the next agenda.

- XI. 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.)

Dr. John Yacenda, member of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislature Forum, commented that the reference to elder abuse under the Strategic Plan glossary is very thin and anemic. Dr. Yacenda commented that when elder abuse is mentioned it needs to include the words in reference to abuse: neglect, isolation and exploitation. Elder abuse can be very harmful and can lead to death and destruction of families.

Patsy Waits made a comment that Washoe Legal Services received a grant from the Justice League of Nevada to help provide a full time lawyer in several of the counties. Lyon County has already approved the position and will start in July 2014. The position is for the representation of abused and neglected children and needy senior citizens.

- XII. Adjournment

Ms. Weber made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Waits seconded the motion. Motion passed.