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**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

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

Date and Time of Meeting: May 23, 2018  
10:30 am until adjournment

This meeting will be in person at the following locations:

Reno: Aging and Disability Services  
9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 200  
Reno, NV 89502

If you are unable to attend in person, you can also call into the meeting for your comments to be heard (888) 363-4735, Access code 5517730

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call  
Jeff Klein, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 am  
  
Members: Jeff Klein, Chris Giunchigliani, Mary Liveratti, Diane Ross  
  
Staff: Homa Woodrum, Jill Brenton, Kate Lucier  
  
Guests: Jane Gruner, Connie McMullen, Niki Rubarth, Julie Kotchevar

- II. Public Comment: No public comment
- III. Review, discuss and consider comment on “Recommendations of Committee to Study the Need Related to the Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons” that Senator Woodhouse has been chairing. They have had three hearings and Jeff Klein presented twice. The Legislative Subcommittee will be giving Senator Woodhouse and LCB feedback before they go to work session in June.

Niki Rubarth, Regional Director from the Alzheimer’s Association showed the presentation that was given for the interim legislative committee which was a listening session on behavioral care and dementia needs. Sixty-two caregiver and professional testimonies were collected. In summarizing the testimonies four common needs were identified:

- More opportunities for respite care
- Additional dementia competency training
- Dementia capable transportation options
- A need for more incentives to entice providers to work in the rural parts of the state

Based on the feedback received there were three recommendations that were presented to the committee:

- Expanded respite funding
- Expand public awareness of services
- Conduct a comprehensive review of training and education requirements for all providers

A question and answer session followed.

There was a discussion about the Recommendations for Consideration that will be delivered to LCB, with the hope that there will be 5 BDR’s that will advance the case for the older persons population.

Diane Ross stated that therapists would like to partner with others to have overlap training. Mary Liveratti asked if there was a specific recommendation that addresses this issue. Jane Gruner discussed her working with the Cleveland Clinic and they have suggestions for LCB and that there needs to be a plan for the next three sessions to get items through each session. Homa Woodrum mentioned that there needs to be awareness for people to be able to access resources.

Julie Kotchever, Administrator for DPBH discussed elderly suicide that was presented to the committee. There’s a large percentage of homeless that are elderly. There’s a large group not in the system who are aging and have mental illness. She discussed Recommendation 39 and the need for team-based training. She discussed health-homes that could provide services that will integrate all different forms of care at a bundled rate. Also, including pharmacists as part of the treatment team. They are looking at whole health Medicaid expansion. DPBH is working on educating people on what services are available to them and making it easier for them to access the services. She discussed 1915i and how to keep people in their homes and maximizing housing. Connie McMullen stated that there will be a meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup> regarding senior housing and recommended that those attending the subcommittee meeting attend the housing meetings. There was a discussion about the lack of

affordable housing in the state. Chris Giunchigliani asked if the state worked with the Regional Housing Authority. Julie Kotchever stated that DPBH works with them.

Discussion of Recommendations:

Recommendation 29 – says health care workers and it should be changed to providers. Jeff Klein motioned that the language be changed, Chris Giunchigliani agreed, Diane Ross seconded.

Recommendation 32 – broaden the concept to have the language add tenants bill of right and education. Jeff Klein made a motion to approve.

Recommendations - 34, 37, 41 – housing – Connie McMullen liked.

Legal Issues – Homa Woodrum discussed public guardian referrals and the issues involved in assisting people without guardianship. Large counties usually have a dedicated public guardian, smaller counties it's usually the district attorney. People need to have someone come in to navigate resources to make that informed consent for medical procedures and manage finances. There is confusion about public guardians feeling they couldn't come in on a referral basis, but only with an order basis. This has created a barrier to people who really need help now.

Jane Gruner suggested that issues and recommendations need to be combined so that a bill can be passed.

Jeff Klein discussed study commissions and that the Commission on Aging should take policy recommendation stances to the Legislature.

Jeff Klein discussed the need to change public policy on people with dementia, behavioral and cognitive issues, mental illness, and the home alone issues to find solutions to issues in Nevada.

Recommendations 21-30 – Caregiver support – no wrong door - creating a no wrong door is a philosophy rather than a program. Jill Berntson is going to get some follow-up information from Cheyenne Pasquale regarding her presentation. Jeff Klein discussed issues for people with dementia, cognitive issues or mental health, wind up with the ADRC's. Do we fund a different pathway, do we enhance the capacity of the ACRC's? As we go forward we need to have a recommendation. Jill Bernston discussed getting people to go to the right door is important. Jeff Klein stated that the underlining issues for these people need to be addressed. We need to make recommendations on these issues before we have a crisis in Nevada.

Recommendation 22 – Mary Liveratti suggested building on this recommendation. She also asked what is the strategy on how this is coming together. Jeff Klein stated that notes are being taken and we're voting language and will incorporate notes into the recommendation. We will be able to provide clarification or recommendations. We will provide written feedback to LCB on the items we've discussed to be part of the workshop. Jeff Klein stated that we should give comments on the BDR's, comments on the others and here's what we hope they will do going forward. Jane and Mary will work on this together.

Recommendations 1-12 – Diagnosis and Treatment – Redundancy in this, Jane Gruner is working on this. Recommendations 1 and 4 should include Diane Ross’s earlier comments about training and Jane Gruner and Diane Ross will work on this together. Jane Gruner stated that they are trying to have more supports, every day supports in the rural areas and still address policy issues across the state.

- IV. Elder Issues in Nevada – Jeff Klein discussed the document and the process and stated that what COA will do is to put together the important issues that need to be addressed by the Legislature. Once the Legislature is in session, the “Asks” will eventually go away and become BDR’s and then eventually Bills. Between now and early fall, we will revisit the issues, make changes, consolidate and edit. There can be as many as ten issues and items move in and out. Administrative issues are not included. When the document is completed, it goes to the Commission on Aging for approval before it goes to the Legislature. If other issues come up during the session, we will address them at that time.

Jeff Klein asked for thoughts on categories:

- Housing – capacity, development, family care givers, support, legal issues, unsafe discharges
- Respite – could be under family care givers, paid family leave
- Waivers – maintenance unit for case load growth and maintenance unit to address Olmsted for people waiting over 90 days
- Medicaid reimbursement rate issue
- Spousal allowance (belongs to DWSS)
- Residential rate increase – Senior Center support for rural areas or Community Resource Centers where all ages can go. Get buy-in from legislators in rural areas.
- Legal issues
- Managed long term services and support

The Silver Haired Legislative Forum was discussed. Jeff Klein stated that they have a BDR that is right up our alley which is for respite. Hopefully, this will get us one of the BDR’s we are asking for. Homa stated that the group is comprised of a member from each senate district.

- V. Senior Day at the Legislature – The Subcommittee has a request in for a date the first few days of the session – February 2019. There will be conference space, a day program, reissue materials from last session, AARP to participate, refreshments.
- VI. Plans for forums and candidate nights during candidacy period – participate in forums, encouraged ADSD’s grantee network and other organizations to invite a legislator(s) and discuss what they do and present an issue that affects seniors.
- VII. Public Comment: No public comment
- VIII. Adjournment: Jeff Klein motioned that the meeting be adjourned, Jane Gruner seconded. The meeting ended at 1:00 pm

