

Steve Sisolak  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Aging and Disability Services Division  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

Name of organization:

Nevada Commission on Aging  
(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 427A.034)

Date and Time of Meeting:

November 19, 2019  
1:00pm until adjournment

This meeting will be held at the following locations:

Carson City:

Aging and Disability Services Division  
3416 Goni Road, Building H Conference Room  
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Las Vegas:

Aging and Disability Services Division  
Early Intervention Services  
3811 W. Charleston, Suite 209  
Las Vegas, Nevada

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

1. Roll Call and Verification of Posting

Dena Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

Members: Jeffrey Klein, Leilani Kimmel Dagostino, Niki Rubarth, Chris Giunchigliani, Mary Liveratti, Natalie Mazzulo

Staff: Dena Schmidt, Shannon Sprout, Jeff Duncan, Cheyenne Pasquale, Miles Terrasas, Adrienne Navarro, Carrie Embree

2. Public Comment – No 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. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

3. Introduction of New Member and Discussion of Vacancies: New Member: Natalie Mazzullo, person of experience. Introduction of new legislative representatives, Senator Chris Brooks, Assemblywoman Susan Martinez. Two vacancies, one for member of governing city, one for member of governing county. Please refer interested individuals to the Governor's website.

Natalie introduced herself and gave history on her background and experience. Discussion of legislative members assigned to the Commission. Senate side Chris Brooks and Assembly Woman Susan Martinez.

Two vacancies: One for a member of a governing city. One for a governing county. Dena reached out to City of Las Vegas. They recommended their Office of Community Services Director Nalani Aki. She is in the process of applying. One remaining seat representing member of a governing county. Dena asked for any recommendations for member of a governing county.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the July 16, 2019 Meeting (For Possible Action)

Mary motioned to approved, Nikki Rubarth seconded, motion passed.

5. Subcommittee Updates and Approval of Subcommittee Recommendations (For Possible Action)

Legislative Subcommittee - Jeff Klein, NV Senior Services, Subcommittee Chairperson

- Review subcommittee recommendations

Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee - Connie McMullen, Subcommittee Chairperson

- Subcommittee recommendation to incorporate legislative measures into the Strategic Plan

Jeff reached out to several organizations in the state to ask about legislative priorities and is waiting to hear back from the Alzheimer's Association, AARP, and Nevadans for the Common Good. Met with NCG and they are having their delegate assembly in January and they will not commit the positions until after that. Housing, transportation, are priority areas if nothing else arises. RPC planning process for seniors for redeveloping the strategic plan. He provided them with testimony and input, and they agreed upon completion of their plan to provide the Commission input on the legislative side for public transportation SUVs before the Legislative Subcommittee meeting on December 17th.

They continue to interact with federal delegation over the Older Americans Act funding – they passed the CR until the end of December. Senate to adopt the house funding levels which will bring Nevada more money in both OAA reauthorization and recurring budget. Received testimony before house Senator Horsford and is being supportive on this issue.

General issue of state prerogative as the regulatory environment is changing in Washington, its effects, and how it impacts the states regulations. If we have a more protective state regulation, the hope is the state law will prevail.

Dena stated for the record Mary Liveratti joined (1:12pm) and quorums made. Dena provided feedback to Jeff's update that Senator Ratti asked about regulatory priorities. Department perspective, what is the settings rule, federal versus state, and between HCQC, ADSD Waivers, and Medicaid. Awaiting feedback from CMS after heightened scrutiny on ADSD sites.

Connie reviewed the 4-year strategic plan at the last meeting. Connie stated much of the state plan reflects goals and strategies that are in the 5-year strategic plan which ends in 2021. Services and supports incorporated in compliance with the Olmstead decision as a core component. A vision to approach to serve older Nevadans and person with physical and intellectual disabilities that ADSD is responsible for implementing. Connie reviewed the goals of the strategic plan. Connie conferred that part way through the session there were pieces of legislation working through the session that would serve well in the 4-year strategic plan and to be implemented in the strategic plan. The subcommittee could not implement or discuss everything that has been in an Administrator's report. Expansion of EPS to APS SB 540, Expansion of the Ombudsman program AB228, Enhancement of nutrition for Older Adults funding of it through congregate and home delivered meals, rate enhancements in personal care and supported living. Closing the waitlist gap between frail elderly and disabled waiver, supported funding of respite, and supported decisions act of AB480. Connie stated they voted to approve and would like the commission to vote to accept those in the 4-year plan. Discussion between the Commission members to clarify motion. The motion to incorporate new legislation into the state plan was made by Mary Liveratti, seconded by Leilani, motion passed.

6. Presentation on the Senior and Disability Rx model change for the Commission on Aging. COA to make recommendations for implementation. **(For Possible Action)**  
Shannon Sprout, Health Program Manager III

Shannon Sprout presented on Senior Disability Prescription program. Previous discussions with the Commission evaluating a model change to the Senior and Disability drug program based off the regulatory side and other states successes. Presented at the legislative session in budget hearings and the Interim Finance Committee to seek approval. Shannon reviewed program history and explained benefit packages, and ADSD coverage. Explained federal changes, originally members were responsible for 100 percent of coverage while in the gap and with Affordable Care act (phasing in of closing the gap) members responsibility shrank over time. Nationally seeing changes with Affordable care act 2019 bipartisan budget act of 2018 increased the drug manufactured gap discounts from 50 to 70 percent and as the program compounds those changes its driven down the cost for members. Mary and Shannon discussed what gets covered in the gap. Adrienne explained that the program is no longer directly paying for medications in the gap but by increasing the subsidy amount towards a members part D premium to encourage all members to work with the SHIP program (State Health Insurance Program) to identify the best part D plan to meet their needs. Mary and Shannon discussed hardship

and possible changes to keep in mind for the program. Shannon explained they are working with Medicare programs, SHIP counselors, MIPPA and OCHA to lower cost.

Jeff Klein asked how many classes of drugs have high cost. Shannon explained specialty drugs and the complexity of contracts.

Mary stated she's an executive council member for AARP Nevada RX campaign and explained Medicare drug negotiations.

Chris asked why ADSD can't join with other departments to negotiate contracts. Shannon explained legislative and purchasing power, and that we cannot negotiate Medicare drug plans because it's a federal program. Chris asked has the department asked of congressional delegation to look at Medicare. Dena stated she would follow up. Shannon and Chris discussed the model. Chris stated an opportunity as a commission to make the recommendations and look at the changing aging population.

Chris' recommendation that the commission makes a motion to support the recommendations to implement the model change but have request an additional change to eligibility, other NRS barriers in order to relook the model and have staff report back. Mary seconded; motion passed.

7. Presentation on Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Grant Period April 2020-March 2025. COA to make recommendations. **(For Possible Action)**

Jeffrey Duncan, Social Services Chief II

Jeff Duncan gave an overview of SHIP – 3 Medicare assistance programs – Senior Medicare Patrol, Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) and plans to extend the reach of these programs across Nevada. Reviewed result of most recent focus group, 25 different locations across the state for services and gaps. Service deliveries at the local level and put Medicare assistance back in the community, delivered by the community, for the community. Jeff explained how the services are delivered today. LV Tip staff volunteers complete the direct services for SHIP, SMP, and MIPPA, covering 4 counties, Lincoln, Nye, Esmeralda and Clark. The community partner Access to Healthcare Network covers 17 counties, central rural frontier of Nevada and lacking physical presence of these programs in all 17 counties. Proposed to ship model to drive funding for all three programs to community partners across the state and align with other states who operate at the local level. Mary stated if we have funding to do all 17 counties, to have physical presence in all 17 counties. Jeff stated they are in the process for the funding formula. Dena added that they looked administrative cost for every FTE, and they are put towards the grant. Reducing administrative oversights on the state's behalf hopefully county or community level groups could absorb. Mary explained her views on expanding the program. Jeff stated the SHIP grant was submitted on October 31<sup>st</sup>. January 2020 releasing Notice of Funding opportunity to community partners to apply for funding. Implementation date is July 1, 2020. Quality Oversight, Technical assistance for the community partners to deliver these services. Chris asked about Community Partners and for an example. Jeff explained Community Partners such as Access to Healthcare Network – based out of Northern Nevada who cover 10 out of our 17 counties. Chris

voiced her concerns with the counties. Dena stated they meet with the counties every month conducting meetings with every social services Administrator to identify their capacity to do programs like this, and any other program ADSD operates. Discussion of outreach and evaluation to move away from being a direct service provider and found some communities have the capacity and others don't. Explained community partners receive grants from ADSD, family resource centers, and current grantees across the department have the capabilities to operate the program. Chris stated to ensure the chairs of the commissions are informed and to execute follow up. Dena clarified it is a community funding opportunity. Chris and Jeff discussed why these three programs need to be provided across the state. Shannon explained community feels comfortable talking to community partners rather than the state. Chris stated to start in counties where the services don't exist and then move to other counties. Dena added she will be meeting with the counties early December.

#### 8. Adult Protective Services Update

Carrie Embree, Governor's Consumer Health Advocate

Dena gave examples of a successes and challenges in roles. Jeff Klein asked if there was an alignment of regulation from Medicaid & HCQC to adjust language regarding APS vs EPS. Dena will follow up.

#### 9. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Caseload and Waitlist

Crystal Wren, Chief of Community Based Care

Crystal Wren provided graphs, accepting any feedback - Dena asked what changed in processing to improve the timeframes. Crystal stated it is not known what caused the change, but it is a good change.

#### 10. Food Security Council Update

Stacy York, Commission Member

Stacy unable to attend. Tabled for next meeting.

#### 11. Home Delivered Meals Update

Shannon Sprout, Health Program Manager

Shannon gave an update of SB433 rates established for 320. Home delivered meal rate would've increased to 315. 315 to 365. Congregate meals to 320 and its impact on the waitlist. Funding allocated through the bills for notice of funding opportunity back couple months ago. Sub awards were signed in the end of September for the beginning of October. With the additional funding the waitlist was able to use the funding to reduce the waitlist by 100 individuals total. Catholic charities have an impact of 63, and City of Henderson 37 individuals. Currently reaching out to get updated waitlist. Mary asked for clarification on numbers and Jeff Duncan explained the funding formula to the Commission.

12. Commission on Aging Discussion (For Possible Action)

- Discussion of current membership structure and make recommendations for changes needed to meet mission
- Review of Subcommittees' purpose and intent. Commission on Aging to approve possible new Subcommittees

Dena mentioned commission structure and goals. Discussion on needs to change bylaws and NRS for membership. How to build capacity and recommendations for funding, infrastructure, and home supports. Create age friendly blueprints, review membership structure and membership in statute and get legislation to carry bill to make change. Explore taking out some of the membership out of NRS, broad bylaws. Motion to put strategic planning on normal agenda and create a policy subcommittee to assist with recommendations for policies for the committee to review. Chris motioned, with review of structure. Mary and Lelani seconded, motion passed.

13. Administrator's Report (For Possible Action)

Dena Schmidt

- Commission to recommend budget priorities

Dena provided a handout explaining infrastructure, division growth. Infrastructure needs including; licensing, staffing needs, that staff has the tools to do their job. Creation of Consumer Health Advocacy and Protection Unit – OCHA, LTCO, APS and Community Advocates and potentially 211. Coordination and access to information. Cross referral between programs. Working in Conjunction with Medicaid programs cross over and improving services. Reallocate Title 20 Funding from Developmental Services to Aging services, support activities by engaging the aging network and building activities goals to provide all information. Staff announcements, Tammy Server, Chief over APS, Jessica Adams, Deputy over Developmental Services, and Miles Terrasas appointed to Executive Assistant.

Cheyenne Pasquale gave update on State Plan. Outreach Summary, Partner Roundtable with CBC, Consumer Conversations throughout September. 18 rural areas, 22 including urban. Conversations with County HHS Administrators. Draft State Plan Goals and Objectives based on conversations during outreach, Division priorities, Department and federal requirements. Presented goals to the commission. Chris voiced concerns with terminology and asked to consider new organizations and language barriers. Jeff Klein provided feedback about cultural and generational shifts. Mary added to have age friendly and dementia friendly. Discussion of meals and wheels and cultural sensitivity. Discussion about broad network and organizations. Dena added that health literacy should be incorporated. Cheyenne closed that they have partner meetings in December, adding strategies and performance measures, explained status of State Plan and chain of command for approval.

14. Next Meeting Date – January 14, 2020

15. Approval of Agenda Items for Next Meeting (For Possible Action)

Agenda items to be sent to Miles Terrasas for next meeting.

## 16. Public Comment

Larry Weiss – Medication therapy management funded by different source and certified geriatric source.

Census 2020 might be useful data from the census what's happening in the state of Nevada. # 1 population and what type of population are moving in.

Chris stated it's about 3-5 years for that data to be returned.

Natalie agreed the MTM program Sandford center of aging and will provide information on that. Geriatric pharmacist that older adults on which are duplicative and attempt to reduce drug cost. Push older adults to complete the census.

Dena stated the deputy positions are overseeing census activities, that each one of our departments that meets and coordinates efforts and there is a statewide department initiative. Chris mentioned to be aware there's an undercount in Spanish but also Tagalog.

Dena to forward information to community partners senior centers.

(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. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

## 17. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm.

**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 Miles Terrasas at (775) 687-0501 as soon as possible and at least two days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at [milesterrasas@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:milesterrasas@adsd.nv.gov)

Supporting materials can be obtained by contacting Miles Terrasas at (775) 687-0501 or [milesterrasas@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:milesterrasas@adsd.nv.gov) and will be posted to the ADSD website: <http://adsd.nv.gov/>

### ***Agenda Posted at the Following Locations:***

Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706

Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 200, Reno, NV 89512

Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104, Elko, NV 89801

State Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson Street, Suite 3138, Carson City, NV 89701

Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 4401, Las Vegas, NV 89119

Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706

Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Carson City Senior Center, 911 Beverly Drive, Carson City, NV 89706

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Reno, NV 89512

Las Vegas Senior Center, 451 East Bonanza Road, Las Vegas NV 89101

Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet: <http://adsd.nv.gov> and <https://notice.nv.gov/>