



Meeting Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting:

June 29, 2020

1:00 pm until adjournment

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Dena Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

Members Present:

Dena Schmidt
Chris Giunchigliani
Jeff Klein
Mary Liveratti
Leilani Kimmel Dagostino
Niki Rubarth
Stacy York

Members Absent:

Senator Chris Brooks
Assemblywoman Susan Martinez
Daniel Corona
Natalie Mazzullo

Staff:

Shannon Sprout, Health Program Manager, ADSD
Jennifer Richards, Elder Rights Chief, ADSD
Miles Terrasas, Executive Assistant, ADSD
Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief, ADSD
Cheyenne Pasquale, Social Services Chief, ADSD
Adrienne Navarro, Social Services Chief, ADSD

Other attendees:

Kimbra Ellsworth, LCB Fiscal
Marla McDade Williams
Allison Genco, Ferrari Public Affairs
Brittany Comis, R&R Partners

2. **Public Comment – None**

(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. **Review and Approval to Support the Commission’s Policy and Legislative Subcommittees Recommendations listed below to the Interim Committee on Seniors, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs. Nomination of a member to present at the Interim Committees July 6th meeting.**

a. **Request DHCFP request a waiver to the Home and Community Based Settings Rules for the rural/frontier communities.**

Discussion ensued among Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Klein, Ms. Liveratti, and Ms. Giunchigliani on the following:

- Frontier definition being a more isolated community with limited access to resources and so many miles from medical facilities.
- Issue with the settings rule. The proposal being a study allowing an assisted living to operate adult day care and other respite services which are forbidden by the settings rule. Because of limited space in the rural/frontier area, the main question is, can the services take place on one campus in one setting?
- A broad federal waiver to allow the shared space instead of reviewing on a case by case basis.
- Protection against self-referrals. Only allowing the waiver of the settings component and setting regulatory/statutory requirements.
- Adherence to Stark Law and protection for the kick back issues. Allow stark law as a guidance instead of creating state law.

Ms. Giunchigliani moved to approve and stated to add language that regulation includes stark 1 and 2 be pursued. Mr. Klein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

b. **Request support for funding a technology solution to streamline the application and enrollment process for all three home and community-based waiver services.**

Ms. Schmidt gave an overview of the technology solution which would improve enrollment times and provide a reduction in paper use. Ms. Giunchigliani asked if the technology initiative is only pursuant to ADSD? Ms. Schmidt answered it can be expanded to any program across the Department. Ms. Rubarth asked if they are purchasing an existing technology or if it needed to be created and developed? Ms. Schmidt responded it is connecting existing systems and adding modifications. Mr. Klein expressed his support for the efficiencies in enrollment systems and other needs, especially during the state budget crisis.

Mr. Klein moved to approve. Ms. Rubarth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Request the committee consider legislation mandating flexibility of sick leave to be used to care for family members. AB90 failed to pass in the 2019 Legislative Session, among COVID sick leave to care for loved ones is more relevant.**

Ms. Giunchigliani expressed her support and asked to incorporate allowing other employees to donate sick leave for those activities. She added hopefully it will not be limited to a narrow use.

Ms. Giunchigliani moved to approve. Ms. Liveratti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Request the committee to consider legislation mandating the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (DHCFP) to provide coverage of CPT code 99483, which involves care planning services to individuals with cognitive impairment, including Alzheimer's disease.**

Ms. Giunchigliani asked if Alzheimer's is inclusive of dementia? Ms. Rubarth stated it is for any kind of cognitive assessment. Mr. Klein expressed his concern for the need of wide review and support on cognitive impairment. He stated the Covid-19-unit cases were 95% with a cognitive impairment. He added to avoid diagnosis. Ms. Rubarth stated the patient does not need to have a diagnosis for the assessment to be covered.

Ms. Giunchigliani moved to approve. Ms. Liveratti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Terrasas asked about the nomination needed under agenda item 3, the request to do a presentation on those recommendations. Ms. Schmidt stated she is happy to do it on behalf of the commission but wanted to allow the opportunity to have someone from the commission/subcommittee present. Mr. Klein stated to have Ms. Schmidt present and any support from the commission as needed. Ms. Liveratti asked what time the meeting is on the July 6th? Ms. Schmidt clarified it has not been rescheduled with the new meeting date or time but will make sure Miles sends it out to the group.

Mr. Klein moved that Ms. Schmidt make the presentation to the interim committee. Stacy York seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Nevada CAN Update**

Ms. Schmidt provided the following updates on Nevada CAN.

- Reviewing next steps with Nevada CAN. The transition to another model and/or maintenance of current model.
- Expand the effort to lifespan including the disability population. If referrals come through, they are still triaged to the appropriate resource.
- Review efforts with Nevada Can and add to Nevada Care Connection. Create a no wrong door approach and change the home page and assess my needs to reflect.
- Focus on social services needs and long-term support services.

Ms. Giunchigliani asked if the Older American's Act restricted who they could serve, and is there a way to open that up or ask for additional money to augment an expansion? Ms. Schmidt responded to open and use current funding but also refer to community partners and expand collaboration to some of the disability providers. Ms. Giunchigliani asked if the tribes are involved? Ms. Schmidt replied not a lot of tribal participation, they are on the list to bring into the collaboration. She continued that the ADSD tribal liaison has built close collaboration and can reach out. Mr. Klein stated they have good collaboration with the tribes on the nutrition side.

Ms. Schmidt stated the NEST collaborative is transitioning to long term and assisted living facilities. They have full time student volunteers doing 1300 hours of outreach to help with social isolation and getting seniors connected virtually. They are supporting with laptops and other technologies along with providing training. Mr. Klein asked if it would be useful to have the commission act for budgetary support and policy? Ms. Schmidt responded the transition plan is still progress. Mr. Duncan stated they are always seeking funding to expand Nevada Care Connection but are still early in the process and budget asks would be difficult in the current state. Mr. Klein asked to have Nevada Can as a standing item for future agendas. Ms. Schmidt provided an update on the Telehealth Team including the continuance of telehealth services, with a focus on provider training and expansion across the state through program and federal dollars they received. The Nevada Can effort has created collaborations that were not there before. Focus to keep the collaborative effort going among the provider networks as part of the transition. Ms. Giunchigliani asked about the Governor's budget cut request, are they allowing ADSD to prioritize and add things back and if so, what would they be? Ms. Schmidt responded they have no guidance yet, Nevada Can can be sustained with current funds, does not need extra funding, and will not be impacted by budget cuts.

5. **Acknowledge Commission member Chris Giunchigliani for her service on the Commission and her term expiring June 2020.**

Ms. Schmidt, Mr. Klein, and Ms. Liveratti thanked Ms. Giunchigliani for her service, experience, valuable input, dedication, and passionate work done for the commission.

Ms. Giunchigliani thanked Dena for her leadership and acknowledgement and the others for their acknowledgement and kind words.

6. **Update: ADSD Budget**

Ms. Schmidt stated the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) reviewed several work programs for budget reversions for FY20. They were fortunate to do a lot of reversions with salary savings and natural reversions. The Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP) was a substantial part of budget reversions. After some programmatic changes that enabled them to have a larger reversion than normal, helped offset the need to do deep program cuts. For SY21, proposed budget reductions up to a 14% cut were submitted to the Governor's Finance Office. They are currently waiting on which will be accepted and implemented going forward. There has been talk about potential special session dates to accept those reductions. Ms. Liveratti asked to have the budget update added as a standing agenda item

7. **Biannual COA Report**

Ms. Schmidt provided the following updates:

- The committee is statutorily required to submit a report biannually for funding recommendations to the Director's Office by June for the Funds for Healthy Nevada.
- Fell through among COVID priorities and the advocacy attorneys' excused absence and usual oversight over the report.
- Once the draft is complete, she will send to the commission and ask for questions, review, and edits. She asked for them to send back to her individually to avoid breaking OML compliance. The Director's Office has been informed the report will be submitted late.
- Changing the report focused on the recommendations instead of the overload of statutory information. Focus the recommendations already voted on in the state plan. Recommendations that Jeff Duncan and Cheyenne Pasquale have submitted.
- Add COVID-19 changes and impact to service array. Add initial recommendations and be cognizant of impact on older adults and people with disabilities.

Ms. Liveratti asked when the draft will be done? Ms. Schmidt stated she is currently drafting and will set a meeting for the following week. Mr. Terrasas will send an email requesting availability and schedule the meeting.

8. **Review, discuss, and approve tentative agenda for the next meeting.**

- Nevada Can Update
- Budget Update
- July 14th

Ms. Liveratti asked for an update on the office closures of ADSD. Ms. Schmidt responded the offices are closed to the public and about 90% of staff are working remote. Two workgroups are currently assessing for space planning and recovery framework. She stated they are successful in the current environment and are seeking space reduction for cost savings. There is no time frame to come back into offices and unsure if it will be soon because of the uptrend in positive cases. She mentioned they already closed two small offices for cost savings.

9. **Next Meeting Date**

Set meeting in early August after special session.

10. **Public Comment –**

- Chris Giunchigliani thanked everyone.
- Mary Liveratti stated the Alzheimer's Association is still having their walk, virtual opening ceremony, and kickoff. Calling the walk is everywhere. Walk in your own neighborhood. All the rural areas can experience if they want to be involved. If they sign up, they get a flag to put in their front yard. Raise 100 dollars and get a free shirt. Going to be October 24th. Raise some money and awareness. Great to get some of the areas that they have been serving. Dena Schmidt added anything we can share on our social media pages we will be happy to do that. Niki Rubarth added there will be a drive by and a livestream. Most of it will be virtual. Important to raise the funds and raise the awareness. Mary Liveratti continued to add flags out in other areas. Promise garden people can drive by and see the flowers. They are asking people to walk in their neighborhood and take pictures of people walking everywhere.

11. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 2:09pm