



**BRIAN SANDOVAL**  
Governor

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

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## MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 426.365)

Date and Time of Meeting: March 3, 2014  
9:00 a.m.

Location: State of Nevada Health Division  
4150 Technology Way, Suite 303  
Carson City, NV 89706

This meeting was teleconferenced at the above location.

- I. Welcome and Introductions  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Members attended in person and by teleconference.

**Members Present:** Brian Patchett, Mary Bryant, Bill Heavilin, Gary Olsen, Karen Taycher, Jon Sasser, and Nicole Schomberg

**Staff Present:** Kristen Rocha, Laura Valentine, Tina Gerber-Winn

**Guests:** David Daviton, Nevada Association of the Deaf; Julie Balderson, Aging and Disability Services Communication Access; Chelsea Szklany, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services; Kirsten Coulombe, Legislative Counsel Bureau; Ellen Richardson-Adams, Public and Behavioral Health Division; Jack Mays, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Legal Center; Farrell Caferata Jenkins, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center; Katherine Edwards, Interpreter and Abigail Coyer, Interpreter

A quorum being present Mr. Patchett called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

- II. Public Comment

Mr. Patchett informed the Commission of the Governors Council for Developmental

Disabilities meeting last Thursday. He stated there was a discussion during the meeting regarding Employment First. The Governors Council for Developmental Disabilities voted and decided to appoint a group from the council to meet with the Governor's office and have a Subcommittee complete a document to be presented to the Governor to make Nevada become an Employment First state for persons who have developmental or intellectual disabilities. Ms. Taycher requested to have a member of the Governors Council for Developmental Disabilities report to the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities on the status of Employment First.

Mr. Olsen passed out a handouts for the following:

- The United States Council the House of Representatives 4040 related to pushing new legislation for enabling deaf and blind children.
- Fire Safety Program for the Deaf Community and School Programs.

III. Approval of Minutes from the February 04, 2014 Meeting **(For Possible Action)**  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Mr. Olsen expressed his concern with the wording in his motion regarding opposing Ms. Frank for the Subcommittee on Communication Services. He explained that he wasn't opposing her for the Subcommittee but stating that her background did not fit in one of the vacant positions on the Subcommittee. He would like to have his motion rephrased to state that she is not an appropriate fit for the Subcommittee at this time. Mr. Heavilin stated the options available for the vote are to either approve or deny her. Mr. Patchett requested that Ms. Rocha rephrase Mr. Olsen's motion per his request.

Ms. Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Olsen made a second. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carries.

IV. Update on the Status of Nevada's Olmstead Plan and Possible Recommendations for Plan Revision **(For Possible Action)**  
Bill Heavilin, Commission Member

Mr. Patchett stated he and Ms. McMullen have a meeting scheduled with Mr. Willden on March 10, 2014 at 11:00am.

Ms. Gerber-Winn stated she spoke with Mr. Tony Records and he is tentatively scheduled to meet with the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities Olmstead/Strategic Planning Subcommittee and the Commission on Aging Strategic Plan Accountability Subcommittee in a joint meeting on April 11, 2014 to discuss the state of the current plans for the Strategic Plan for Services for People with Disabilities, the Strategic Plan for Seniors, and the Olmstead Plan. The subcommittees will then report back to their commissions.

Ms. Gerber-Winn requested any members of the committee who have any topic items they would like Mr. Records to discuss, give them to her to be added to the agenda.

V. Discuss, Draft and Develop Oral and or Written Testimony to be Presented to Interim Committees **(For Possible Action)**  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Mr. Sasser stated he contacted Ms. Kirsten Coulombe, who is the staff person for the Interim Committee on Veterans, Seniors, and Adults with Special Needs, about their meeting on March 12, 2014 to request presentations on:

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Issues
- Issues for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired
- Employment Issues

Ms. Coulombe stated:

- The agenda for the Interim Committee will be out soon.
- There will be two meeting locations, one in Carson City, Nevada and the other in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- There will be interpreter services at both locations.
- The timeframe for the meeting is 9:00am to 1:30pm.

Ms. Coulombe stated the Interim Committee will have a total of four meetings. The meeting on March 12, 2014 is the second one, the third meeting will be in May that will focus on Veteran issues, and the final meeting in June is when they will have their work session to vote on any bill draft requests. She stated the Committee is allowed a maximum of ten bill draft requests for the 2015 legislative session.

Ms. Coulombe stated there are representatives from Aging and Disability Services Division, representatives from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Ms. Tina Gerber-Winn, Mr. Gary Olsen, Ms. Mary Bryant, Mr. Scott Harrington, Ms. Sherry Manning, Ms. Michelle Merrill, and Mr. Brian Patchett who will be presenting on the agenda for the Interim Committee meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the topics that the members of the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities would discuss at the Interim Committee meeting.

Ms. Bryant stated she would discuss guardianship in regards to how it affects people with disabilities as opposed to seniors.

Mr. Olsen stated he would discuss interpreting issues within the deaf community and ideas to talk about the main issues:

- Lack of interpreters requires a need to have to fly in interpreters from other states
- No interpreter trainings at Colleges or Universities in Nevada
- Criteria for certification
- Quality and qualifications for interpreters
- Creating a pool of interpreters for State use
- Public Utility Commission Issues and lawsuits
- Telecommunication issues

Ms. Gerber-Winn stated she would discuss the issues with funding from the Public Utilities Commission regarding NRS 427A-797 and give an update on status of the review that is currently being appealed to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Patchett stated he would discuss the need for persons who are newly blind, visually impaired, or blind who haven't received services to help them live independently and prepare for employment. He stated he would also discuss assistive technology, training, and support in job related situations.

Ms. Coulombe state the Interim Committee can provide the following options:

- Bill draft request
- Resolution
- Write letters of recommendation to money committees, senate finance, or assembly ways and means urging them to take an action
- Write letters of recommendation for an executive order

Ms. Coulombe stated that any requests for recommendations need to be submitted in writing. She stated that anyone who wants access to their agendas and minutes needs to sign up online. She will provide her contact information to anyone who would like it.

VI. Update on Policy Process for Persons with Dual Diagnosis  
Chelsea Szklany, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

Ms. Szklany stated there is no single way that hospital's report or capture data regarding dual diagnosis. She stated that due to this she was unable to get national data related to hospital specific information. She stated that their discharge policy states that prior to individuals being discharged, they will make sure that all elements of the individual's aftercare plan are in place, documented, and agreed to. Once an individual is released they document a conversation with the receiving party that the individual has arrived safely if the hospital does not directly transport them.

Ms. Taycher expressed her concern regarding children with dual diagnosis. Ms. Szklany verified that her hospital does not serve children but she is willing to work with other agencies on the way they report those numbers so they are consistent. Ms. Taycher stated she would like information from the Regional Centers, the Division of Child and Family Services, County Juvenile Justice, and Child Welfare. Ms. Taycher requested to have this topic item listed on a future agenda. She stated that since she is the one requesting this information that she will gather it and to bring back to the committee for their support. Ms. Taycher will let the staff person know how she would like the topic item to read on the agenda.

VII. Discussion and Recommendation on Drafting the NRS 439 Report Due to Department of Health and Human Services by June 30, 2014 **(For Possible Action)**  
Tina Gerber-Winn, Aging and Disability Services Division

Ms. Bryant stated the Subcommittee met last week to formulate a plan on how to move forward to gather information needed for the report that is due in June. The Subcommittee has decided to seek data from organizations and agencies that would

already have data from over the last year. She stated their plan is to put all the information they gather together and see what the needs seem to be in the community over the last year. Ms. Bryant stated the subcommittee's next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2014.

Mr. Patchett stated the Grants Management Unit would be sending out a survey to service providers and individuals with disabilities to see what people would like to see the funds for Healthy Nevada used for. Mr. Patchett requested that staff send out the results once they are in.

VIII. Update on Various Interim Committees and Discussion of Issues/Problems  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Mr. Patchett stated that he and Ms. Taycher met with Assemblyman Frierson a few weeks ago to request time to speak at his Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice meeting regarding children with various disabilities. Mr. Frierson is open to working with the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities but his focus is on juvenile justice. Mr. Patchett stated it didn't seem like the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities issues and his Interim Committee's issues were a fit.

Mr. Jack Mays stated he, Mr. Gary Olsen, Mr. David Daviton, and Mr. Scott Young have a meeting on Friday at 3:00pm with Mr. Rick Combs to address concerns regarding interpreter services at a recent Interim Committee meeting.

Mr. Mays stated last Thursday the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Legal Center in conjunction with Legal Aid of Southern Nevada conducted training at the request of Judge Voy in Southern Nevada regarding special education and children in the justice system to address the concerns of children with disabilities that are being shuttled in to corrections.

Mr. Sasser expressed his concern regarding the Autism Treatment Assistance Program waiting list. Ms. Gerber-Winn stated the Caseload Evaluation Organization numbers that were sent out this morning are from January 2014. As of right now, the Autism Treatment Assistance Program is on track to be at 307 children at the end of this biennium, which ends in June. There is a projection to add approximately 14 children each month to the program.

IX. Update on the Subcommittee on Communication Services  
Julie Balderson, Aging and Disability Services Division

Ms. Balderson stated the Subcommittee's full legal name is the Subcommittee on Communication Services for Persons who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and Persons with Speech Disabilities. It is also known as the Communication Access Council.

Ms. Balderson stated the Subcommittee had not had a meeting in a year due the lack of a quorum from too many vacant positions. Since a quorum has been established the Subcommittee has had a meeting two meetings:

- January 16, 2014: Mr. Gary Olsen is the acting chair, as he was the previous Vice Chair. The main focus of this meeting was regrouping, training, reviewing the open meeting law and determining what the purpose of the Subcommittee is.
- February 6, 2014: This meeting was cut short due to it being scheduled on the same day as the Interim Finance Committee meeting. The Interim Finance Committee had an agenda item regarding the work program that affects deaf people so the members wanted to attend that meeting. Unfortunately, the Interim Finance Committee was unable to find interpreters so that agenda item was pulled. Mr. Patchett called into the beginning of the Subcommittee meeting to express his support for the deaf community and the remainder of the meeting was spent working on the Subcommittee's bylaws.

Ms. Balderson stated that currently there are two vacancies on the Subcommittee. She stated that there is also a current member who has not attended the last two meetings so they are currently attempting to find someone better suited for his position.

Mr. Sasser expressed his concern for the amount of information that the Interim Committee will need from the Subcommittee. Ms. Balderson assured Mr. Sasser that the Subcommittee will be able to gather that information at their next meeting in April.

- X. Discussion and Vote on Making Recommendations on Drafting a Plan of Working Together Around Shared Goals to Improve the Mental Health System **(For Possible Action)**  
 Kelly Wooldridge, Children's Mental Health  
 Richard Whitely, Public and Behavioral Health Division  
 Mental Health Commission

Ms. Richardson-Adams stated that she is a Deputy Administrator with Public and Behavioral Health, her current role is over Clinical Services which include Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Rural Mental Health Services, and Lakes Crossing.

Ms. Richardson-Adams stated the Division has presented some strategic initiatives that they have identified as important areas of concern that need to be addressed to strengthen the system. There was a discussion regarding Legal 2000 and hospitals having presumptive eligibility for its patients. Please see attached handouts that Ms. Richardson-Adams provided.

Ms. Wooldridge stated that she is the Deputy Administrator for Children's Mental Health at the Division of Child and Family Services.

Ms. Wooldridge stated that Children's Mental Health has started a Mini Mobil Crisis in Clark County:

- Two mobile crisis teams: one responds to Clark County School District or University Medical Center for immediate crisis intervention. The other is a stabilization team which provides therapy services for 30 to 60 days.
- Case managers to assist with getting services.

Ms. Wooldridge stated the focus right now is to assist youths who are under insured or not insured and trying to keep them out of the hospital emergency rooms and having to go into acute care placement. Since February 1, 2014 they have had 44 calls, served 24 kids and hospitalized 1.

Ms. Taycher made a motion for the Chair to write a letter to the council for short term issues to consider encouraging the use of presumptive eligibility, expanding the mobile crisis including a mental health hotline for children and families no matter their funding source, support building greater capacity for medication system, and support the ability to suspend Medicaid eligibility while a person is in jail. Mr. Sasser made a second. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carries.

It was decided that Ms. Taycher and Mr. Sasser would word the letter for the chairperson to sign.

It was decided that the long term issue letter will be address at the next meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the issue with sending children out of state to residential treatment centers.

Ms. Taycher requested to amend her motion to include support for changing regulations to allow licensing for residential treatment centers in Nevada. Mr. Sasser approved the amendment. There was no opposition from the commission for the amendment to the motion.

XI. Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at the Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

- Follow up with Mental Health, letter and establish long term issues
- Topic V: Follow up from the Interim Committee – 3 items, Letters from the interim committee and legislation
- Follow up with NRS 439 Subcommittee
- Report from the Communication Access Council
- Caseload Evaluation Organization numbers including Autism Treatment Assistance Program and Early Intervention Services numbers
- Report from Jennifer Frischmann regarding Medicaid waivers
- Employment First Report from Developmental Disabilities Council – Sherry Manning or Chair of Commission

XII. Set and Confirm Dates for Future Meetings **(For Possible Action)**

Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 29, 2014.

Ms. Gerber-Winn stated she will check to see if there is funding for the Commission to meet in person. She suggested increasing the time of the next meeting to fit the full

agenda and allow time for breaks. Mr. Patchett stated the meeting on April 29, 2014 will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

XIII. Public Comment

Ms. Valentine requested to schedule the Commission's meetings out for the remainder of the year. Mr. Patchett stated the meeting has lost its quorum and the Commission will have to vote on the dates at the next meeting.

XIV. Adjournment

Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

This meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.