

Nevada Commission on Aging
3416 Goni Rd. D-132
Carson City, NV 89706

Governor Steve Sisolak
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

The Commission on Aging's (COA) mission is to facilitate and enhance the quality of life and services for all Nevada seniors through partnership with the Aging and Disability Services Division and other entities. The Commission reviewed budget concepts at their August 11, 2020 meeting and voted to support the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) technology initiative to streamline the enrollment process for home and community-based waiver programs.

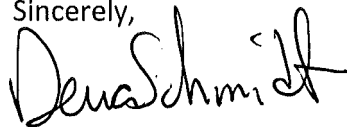
The current process for evaluating and determining eligibility for waiver services is manual, time consuming and involves three different agencies. It requires physical documentation and written approval by three different DHHS divisions using interoffice mail and e-mail.

The Department is required to process eligibility and begin providing services to individuals applying for home and community-based waiver services within 90 days. As of March 2020, the average processing times for the Frail Elderly waiver was 93 days, the Physical Disabilities waiver was 86 average days and the Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Related Conditions Waiver was 88 average days, meaning many individuals are waiting over the 90 day timeframes to receive services.

Developing and implementing a streamlined electronic process will improve case processing timeframes and the customer's access to critical services and avoid unnecessary institutionalizations. This is a critical step toward meeting the Department's Olmstead plan and ensuring timely access to community-based services for vulnerable Nevadans.

We thank the staff of DWSS and ASD for developing this initiative which we strongly support, for the next legislative session. We are grateful for all your interest and continued support of vulnerable populations in Nevada. We appreciate your support of this budget initiative and look forward to working with you during the legislative session to support its approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dena Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

Dena Schmidt, Chairperson

On behalf of the Nevada Commission on Aging

Cc: Richard Whitley, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Beth Handler, Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Jessica Adams, Deputy Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division
Steve Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services