



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

Administrative Office  
3416 Goni Rd, Ste D132  
Carson City, NV 89502

(775) 687-4210 • Fax (775) 687-0576  
[adsd@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:adsd@adsd.nv.gov)

RICHARD WHITLEY  
*Interim Director*

JANE GRUNER  
*Administrator*

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
*Governor*

**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities

Date and Time of Meeting: March 5, 2015  
9:00 a.m.

Location: Governor's Office of Economic Development  
808 W. Nye Ln.  
Carson City, NV 89703

Governor's Office of Economic Development  
555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5400  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

To join this meeting by phone dial 1-888-251-2909, then enter Access code 8985078 when prompted.

**DRAFT Minutes**

Members present: Brian Patchett, Gary Olsen, Karen Taycher, Bill Heavilin, Jodi Sabal; Jon Sasser, Nicole Schomberg

Guests: Mark Olson, Sue Gulas, Lorina Daviton, Dan Dinnell, David Daviton, Julie Bowers, Steve Canavero, Nicole Bennett

Staff: Jill Berntson, Laura Valentine, Desiree Bennett, Shaina Holmes-Robinson

Interpreters: Kimberly Dawson, Gerianne Hummel

- I. Welcome and Introductions  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

- II. **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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

Mr. Daviton congratulated Aging and Disability Services Division on winning the Supreme Court case, and stated he is curious on what the plans will be going forward.

Ms. Valentine stated that the partnership between the Nevada Housing Division, State Medicaid, and ADSD in applying for a competitive application to HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) resulted in Nevada receiving an additional \$2 million for Section 811 housing. The specifics of what the proposed uses for the grant were written by Mike Dang with the Housing Division.

- III. **Approval of Minutes from the February 5, 2015 Meeting (For Possible Action)**  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Mr. Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5 with corrected spelling errors. Ms. Taycher seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- IV. **Discussion and Possible Approval on Recommendations Made by the CSPD Nominating Subcommittee for Filling Vacant CSPD and Subcommittee Membership Positions (For Possible Action)**  
Bill Heavilin, CSPD Nominating Subcommittee Chair

Mr. Heavilin stated that the CSPD Nominating Subcommittee met on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss any recommendations to filling vacant membership positions and recommendations to update CSPD bylaws. The subcommittee received an update on the proposed new members to the CSPD that were recommended to administration. There is a bill draft that was created regarding the commission and its membership; it is also a clean up to member term limits.

- V. **Discussion and Possible Approval on Recommendations to Update CSPD Bylaws (For Possible Action)**  
Laura Valentine, Chief of Disability, ADSD  
Bill Heavilin, CSPD Nominating Subcommittee Chair

Ms. Valentine has been working on updating the Commission bylaws regarding membership term limits. She is currently waiting for feedback from the Deputy Attorney General's office. 95 percent of the CSPD members term out at the same time. Adding language to the bylaws would allow for the staggering of terms and give the Commission members who are terming out an extra year on the Commission to find appropriate replacements. Ms. Valentine will provide a final draft of the updated bylaws at the next CSPD meeting.

VI. Update and Overview on Budget and Bill Draft Requests from the Department of Education

Representative from the Department of Education

Mr. Canavero, Deputy Superintendent with the Nevada Department of Education, stated his responsibilities include student achievement in Nevada. He commented that materials and everything that the Department of Ed has presented to the Legislature is located on the department website (<http://www.doe.nv.gov/home/HotTopics/>). Mr. Canavero read through the "Educational Initiatives of the New Nevada, Governor Sandoval's Recommended Budget: 2015- 2017 Biennium" handout (Attachment A). The state received an award for the preschool development grant; the Department is planning to specifically target communities of high need. The high need is 200 percent or greater below the poverty line. The grant requires a state match. The Legislature has to approve a budget with that state match included.

Ms. Valentine asked if each school district can individualize how to use the funds under the college and career readiness grants.

Mr. Canavero replied yes, he has met with the rural superintendents who had a strong interest in offering the advanced coursework for students, but they do not have the teachers to provide it. That is where the idea to develop the 12<sup>th</sup> grade year of high school into engaging with the community colleges and universities to provide dual credits. Also include internships and externship opportunities within the community.

Special education funding in Nevada is based on units. It is a unit value of 39,000 from 2010; the unit is proposed to go up to 45,000 in 2016. There are over 3,000 of these units. These units are distributed to school districts and district uses that pot of money and encroaches on their general fund to provide students with disabilities the appropriate services. The Governor and Superintendent are suggesting that special education is the first category of pupil that will go to a weighted funding formula this biennium. The Zoom, Victory and the GATE proposals is funding to test the waters and to see if 1.5 is the right amount for those students. It was suggested that special education should be a 2.0 weight. The Department would like, during this biennium and under this budget, to take all the units in the second year of the biennium and put them into a pot of money and allocate it as a weighted funding formula based on students with disabilities. A stand-alone contingency fund of \$5 million will ensure that a district is not put into receivership, when they need any additional units.

Mr. Canavero commented that 78 schools were identified by the state as underperforming. Those 78 schools were underperforming based on total achievement, the greatest achievement gaps and schools that meet federal definitions for underperformance.

Ms. Taycher commended Mr. Canavero, Mr. Erquiaga and the Governor on the all the efforts around special education. She also commented that she is happy about the cap in place so that each school district is limited to 13 percent of children with disabilities in their district. She is concerned that with a weighted formula, districts would make more children eligible for special education in order to receive more money.

Mr. Canavero stated that as of currently there is no plan to remove that 13 percent cap. The cap does impact smaller school districts. One or two students could get the school over that cap.

Ms. Taycher asked the Department of Ed to keep special education in mind while moving forward in expanding charter schools.

Mr. Olsen asked if there are any initiatives to improve the quality of interpreters in school districts.

Mr. Canavero stated that there are not any that he is aware of. The department hears about pipeline challenges and the qualifications of teachers and special education staff, but not specifically interpreters. He will pass on the concern to Marva Cleven, who is the director of special education for the department.

Mr. Canavero stated that SB 13 was amended to everyone's best interest. Changing the language from best feasible to appropriate is what most people were concerned with. He apologized to the Commission and stated that approving the changed language was an oversight and that he was not trying to be disrespectful to all the work that had been done in the last session. The new version of SB13, which was approved to go through, has the amended language. "Appropriate" has been removed and "best feasible" has stayed in. the definition is still changed to align with the federal codes. "Emotional disturbances" was also kept instead of "serious emotional disturbances". The change to the diploma was also kept, by getting rid of the "adjusted diploma".

Ms. Taycher expressed concern about the Board of Trustees and its compliance with the Department of Justice and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) guidance. Mr. Canavero stated they will take another look at those guidelines. He told the Senate Committee on Education that the department is ready with the new amended language to SB 13. He would like to get the bill moving so that there can be further conversations and suggestions made about following those guidelines.

The Department of Education has had two budget presentations to the Legislature and will have another one on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Olsen thanked Mr. Canavero and Ms. Bowers for attending the meeting and expressed gratitude for the positive results coming out of the Department of Education.

VII. Update and Overview, Including Any Recommendations for Further Action  
On Budget and Bill Draft Requests (For Possible Action)  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson  
Jon Sasser, Commission Member

March 6<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of budget hearings for the Division of Aging and Disability Services.

Ms. Berntson stated that the budget hearing will include some maintenance units for caseload growth for the waivers and for the long term care ombudsman program. ADSD wants to be able to hire more staff to handle EPS intake calls and administrative supports. There are a few Information Technology positions that are needed to support the Division. A large budget item is for the ATAP program.

Mr. Patchett stated that right now there is a waiting list of over 500 kids for the autism program and is projected to be over 700 by the end of the session. Some of the issues consist of the lack of funding and lack of providers. There is still a lack of understanding on what the Medicaid regulations will be for funding autism.

Ms. Valentine added that there will be some funding for Olmstead and Alzheimer's related activities, as well as funding for assistive technology for independent living. She also stated that within the Governor's budget and the budget that will be submitted to the PUC, ADSD is looking at adding additional staff. The specific position that will be in the Governor's recommended budget is the Social Services Specialist 3. That position would supervise the program specialists and the current support staff.

Mr. Olsen commented that the Commission recommended a staff position to focus on the interpreter registry.

Mr. Sasser read through the Disability Legislation Update list (Attachment B). AB6 is the autism bill that is scheduled for the Assembly Commerce Committee on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

AB29 passed out of the Assembly and the Senate without any amendments.

AB128 is a bill that came out of interim committee and talks about having a durable power of attorney for adults with intellectual disabilities. The problem is with healthcare providers unwillingness to believe that person has consented to receiving medical treatment. Some amendments have been made and sent back to Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson who introduced the bill.

AB157 was heard on March 4<sup>th</sup> regarding the service animal statute proposed by the Nevada Resort Association.

AB200 is a bill that came out of the interim committee relating to the surcharge coming from the PUC and the funding that goes to the centers. There was a dispute between the PUC and the Division regarding the PUC's authority to approve or disapprove the Divisions proposed budget for the centers. The Supreme Court decided that the PUC did not have the authority to go through the Division's budget line by line. The PUC can reject the proposal as a whole. The case was not heard by the full court, it was heard by a three Judge panel. The

PUC can still move, within 18 days of the decision, for reconsideration. The Division recommended providing a budget amendment that includes the funding for the centers for this year and say that the payment source will be the PUC, so everything will line up if a bill is passed by the Legislature.

Mr. Sasser made a motion to send a letter to the Legislature supporting SB13 with the new language. Mr. Olsen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was a hearing on the Medicaid piece of autism during the budget hearing of the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy.

Mr. Olsen stated that he would like to hear more information about the Rehabilitation Division's budget and discuss further interpreter issues.

The Division's budget hearing is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Patchett stated that the NSRC is the advisory commission to Vocational Rehab and he doesn't believe there is anyone on that commission who is deaf or hard of hearing. He will reach out to the Chairperson of the Commission about adding an appropriate member.

SB132 is a bill that the Commission agreed to support. The bill was sent to the Senate Committee on Finance. Mr. Sasser expressed concern that the bill does not state who will actually provide training to the para professionals in the school districts.

Ms. Taycher commented that she would be supportive if each school district gets to choose and contract the appropriate service to meet their individual needs.

Mr. Olsen, Ms. Taycher and Mr. Patchett agreed to read more information about the concerns of SB132 and inform the rest of the Commission at a future meeting.

Mr. Sasser clarified that there is no money in the Governor's budget for an interpreter pool. BDR 420 is also a BDR for the Commission to keep an eye on.

VIII. Update and Report from the Subcommittee on Communication Services, Discussion and Possible Recommendations From Council (For Possible Action)  
Julie Balderson, Social Services Program Specialist, ADSD

The Subcommittee on Communication Services voted to schedule all future meetings on the second Wednesday at the beginning of each quarter. This allows the subcommittee to review the most recent caseload information and budget monitoring on a fiscal year calendar. The next meeting will be April 8<sup>th</sup> in Reno.

IX. 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

1. Department of Education
2. Medicaid representatives to discuss new regulations for autism.

X. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings (For Possible Action)  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Ms. Valentine stated concerns about the budget accommodating monthly Commission meetings. Mr. Patchett asked if ADSD can provide the Commission with a budget breakdown of meeting costs. Mr. Patchett also suggested postponing the CSPD Nominating Subcommittee meeting until there are new members applicants to review.

The next Commission meeting will be scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am. Mr. Patchett clarified that the subcommittee previously referred to as the NRS 439 is now the named the Legislative Subcommittee for the CSPD.

XI. Public Comment (May Include General Announcements by Commissioners) (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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

No public comment was made.

XII. Adjournment  
Brian Patchett, Commission Chairperson

Mr. Olsen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Patchett seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

**Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities Members**

Brian Patchett (Chair), Mary Bryant (Co-Chair), Bill Heavilin, Gary Olsen, Jodi Sabal, Jon Sasser, Karen Taycher, Nicole Schomberg, Jennifer Pharr, Shelley Hendren

**NOTE:** Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/ or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. 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.

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**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 Desiree Bennett at (775) 687-0586 as soon as possible and at least five days in advance of the meeting. If you wish, you may e-mail her at [dabennett@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:dabennett@adsd.nv.gov). Supporting materials for this meeting are available at: 3416 Goni Rd, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Desiree Bennett (775) 687-0586 or by email at [dabennett@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:dabennett@adsd.nv.gov)

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

1. Aging and Disability Services Division, Carson City Office, 3416 Goni Road, Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706
2. Aging and Disability Services Division, Las Vegas Office, 1860 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104
3. Aging and Disability Services Division, Reno Office, 445 Apple Street, Suite 104, Reno, NV 89502
4. Aging and Disability Services Division, Elko Office, 1010 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 104, Elko, NV 89801
5. Nevada Community Enrichment Program, 6375 West Charleston Boulevard, Ste. L200 Las Vegas, NV 89146
6. Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 6039 El Dora Street H-8, Las Vegas, NV 89101
7. Disability Resource Center, So. E. Greg St., Suite 102 Sparks, NV 89431
8. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 North Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89706
9. Desert Regional Center, 1391 South Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89146
10. Sierra Regional Center, 605 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Reno, NV 89431
11. Rural Regional Center, 1665 Old Hot Springs Road, Carson City, NV 89706
12. Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, 999 Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431
13. Dept. of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706
14. Early Intervention Services, 2667 Enterprise Road, Reno, NV 89512

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

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES FOR THE NEW NEVADA

### Governor Sandoval's Recommended Budget: 2015-17 Biennium

Governor Sandoval has proposed a plan to modernize Nevada's PreK-12 education system. Saying that "we live in a state that is transforming before our eyes," the Governor recommends significant investments in our schools. These programs will serve the full spectrum of grades and the diverse needs of students and educators. A partial list of the Governor's key investment proposals is included below; full details are available at <http://budget.nv.gov/StateBudget/Upcoming/>.

#### EARLY LEARNERS

##### FUND PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT MATCH \$10 MILLION

The recent federal grant to expand quality and access in preschool services in identified high need communities (Churchill, Clark, Lyon, Nye, and Washoe) includes a match requirement. The grant will double the number of students at risk being served and provide access to full-day programs with quality control. For the biennium, the State match equals just over \$10 million. Federal dollars received during the first year of this grant total \$6.4 million (\$43 million over four years).

##### EXPAND FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN \$85 MILLION

Completes the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten, reaching all schools by the second year of the biennium, including class-size reduction funding at 21:1. Also includes money for portables where space is not available. This represents a total investment of approximately \$85 million over the biennium.

##### READ BY GRADE THREE \$27.2 MILLION

State General Fund of \$4.9 million in FY 2016 and \$22.3 million in FY 2017 to support activities found to be effective in improving the academic achievement of students in reading in grades Kindergarten through third grade (e.g., literacy coaches, grants, contracts, etc.). The Department will establish a grant program to augment reading proficiency programs in schools (district and charter) not served with Zoom or Victory reading centers/programs. Literacy plans with performance measures will be required from elementary schools that apply; the State Literacy Plan will provide a foundation. A policy bill will be introduced in the Senate to refine and carry out the provisions of the appropriation.

#### MODERNIZING THE NEVADA PLAN

##### ADD SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHTS \$25 MILLION

In the second year of the biennium, special education units will be converted to an equivalent per pupil "weighted" formula. This will begin an increase in weighted formula funding over each year of subsequent biennial budgets until the desired weight (estimated to be twice the basic per pupil guarantee) is achieved, as recommended by the SB 500 Task Force during the recent Interim Study. An additional \$25 million is appropriated to fund this expansion in the second year.

##### ESTABLISH SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT \$5 MILLION

A State General Fund appropriation of \$5 million in the second year of the biennium will be placed in a new account to reimburse districts and charter schools for extraordinary expenses related to the education of students with disabilities. In the first year of the biennium, the Department will establish regulations concerning the reimbursement qualifications and procedures; the State Board will review and approve.

**EXPAND ZOOM SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**\$50 MILLION**

Appropriates additional State General Fund of \$25 million in each year of the biennium. This will fund twice the number of current schools in Clark and Washoe (24 additional) in the first year of the biennium. When kindergarten becomes fully funded (outlined above), Zoom funds will be freed up and used to expand to additional schools. Middle and high schools should be included in this biennium's pilot. The pilot will be evaluated by an external evaluator, contracted for by the NDE, and spending information will be used to modernize the Nevada Plan next biennium by shifting to funding "weights" as recommended by the SB 500 Task Force.

**CREATE A VICTORY SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

**\$50 MILLION**

Appropriates \$25 million in the State General Fund in each year of the biennium to create a new Victory Schools Program. The funding will be allocated by the Department to underperforming schools (lowest student achievement levels) in the 20 poorest zip codes in the state. Specific services will be required, especially in the areas of wrap-around and family engagement. This program will be implemented in a similar fashion to the Zoom Schools Program. The Department will identify all schools throughout the state; schools will be managed by the local district under the conditions of a submitted plan and grant award. The pilot program will be evaluated by an external evaluator, and spending information will be used to modernize the Nevada Plan with "weights" in future years.

**FUND GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS**

**\$10 MILLION**

Increases the state program by \$10 million over the biennium to assist districts in educating students who qualify for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programs. Only students who have been identified through State-approved assessment/processes are eligible. Funds will be distributed on a per pupil basis based on a count day(s) reporting mechanism to be established by the Department. Calculations for future "weights" will be determined through this pilot program. Current State spending on GATE is less than \$200,000/year.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL**

**NEVADA READY 21 TECHNOLOGY GRANTS**

**\$48.4 MILLION**

State General Fund of \$23.2 million in each fiscal year to implement Nevada Ready 21 Technology Grant Program. This program is a One-to-One Program (see attached proposal). This is a 6-year program, whereby Middle School will be the focus for the first three years and High School will follow. Funding will be distributed via the Commission on Educational Technology in order to build whole-school capacity for instructional technology. The Commission's Nevada Ready 21 plan calls for every student to have access to the two most important educational opportunities available: (1) skilled educators who value connected, personalized, student-centered learning, and (2) continuous access to a personal, portable device that is connected wirelessly to the Internet. There is additional funding for Wide Area Network incentives and staffing to manage the program.

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) EXPANSION**

**\$8 MILLION**

State General Fund of \$4.0 million in each fiscal year to augment existing budget line item from Agency Request to GOVREC. The funding will be utilized to expand programs identified by workforce sector councils.

**COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS GRANTS**

**\$8 MILLION**

State General Fund of \$8 million over the biennium for College and Career Readiness Grants. The Department will create a new category of school aid for high schools to offer innovative programs targeted to improve the graduation rate and readiness upon exit. This expands existing work (e.g., access to dual credit courses) and is tied to the administration of the new 11th grade College and Career Readiness assessment (ACT) that will give schools information on students' readiness for post-secondary education or employment. Competitive grants would be awarded to the school districts and charter schools.

**JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES (JAG) EXPANSION**

**\$4.6 MILLION**

State General Fund increase of \$4.6 million over the biennium (up from \$1.5 million in the current budget) to support expansion of JAG to 50 schools throughout the state. JAG is a dropout prevention and career readiness program with a national track record of success.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

**\$1.2 MILLION**

The Department's request includes \$1.2 million over the biennium to expand student participation in Advanced Placement courses through additional teacher preparation and targeted grants to improve participation and passage rates among key population groups.

**INVESTING IN CHANGE**

**GREAT TEACHING AND LEADING FUND**

**\$9.8 MILLION**

Create a new fund in the General Fund for the Department to incentivize professional development and improvements to the educator pipeline. In the first year, the focus will be full implementation of the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF), new science standards, teacher recruitment and training, and leadership training and development. After the first year, the State Board will coordinate activities by establishing annual criteria for the Fund, to include Regional Professional Development Programs. Entities which can receive the grants include the RPDPs, school districts, higher education institutions, employee associations, and nonprofit organizations. Almost \$10 million of new funding is provided over the biennium.

**SOCIAL WORKER GRANTS**

**SAFE AND RESPECTFUL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT OFFICE**

**\$36.2 MILLION**

Appropriates \$11.9 million in FY 2016 and \$24.3 million in FY 2017 to create a new grant program for schools to provide a social worker or other licensed mental health worker. Includes a mental health screening survey, to be administered in the first year in order to identify schools in need. This program will operate as a block grant to local districts based on identified needs. It also includes State General Fund of \$300,000 in each fiscal year to create a new Safe and Respectful Learning Environment Office in the Department. The Director will report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS TURNAROUND**

**\$10 MILLION**

State General Fund of \$5.0 million in each fiscal year to assist in turning around persistently underperforming schools. Currently, the only funding for such schools is provided by the federal government. These funds will be used for vendor contracts, performance management assessment, staff incentives, and other services targeting student achievement in the lowest performing schools. The funds will provide a path to success before takeover of these schools (and placement in the proposed Achievement District) becomes necessary.

**CHARTER SCHOOL HARBOR MASTER**

**\$20 MILLION**

State General Fund of \$10 million in each fiscal year of the biennium will be utilized to match private philanthropy in establishing a fund to recruit best-in-class national charter management organizations to Nevada and help develop local human capital. Funds could be used to augment basic per pupil guarantee requirements for no more than two years and to provide access to construction capital or facilities. These funds will be a direct distribution to an established 501(c)(3) organization once each year upon proof of the match.

**EDUCATION REFORMS FOR THE NEW NEVADA**  
**Highlights of Governor Sandoval's Recommended Reforms**

- **Ensure every student is reading at grade level by grade three**
- **Protect student data**
- **Modernize the Nevada Plan for School Finance**
  - Move the state toward “weighted formulas” where students with differing needs receive additional dollars based on a percentage of the base amount. Start with investments in three categories:
    - ✓ Special Education Students
    - ✓ English Language Learners
    - ✓ Gifted and Talented Learners
    - ✓ Poverty
  - Adjust when we count student enrollment
  - Increase transparency in the funding model
- **Temporary rollover of bonding authority for the construction and maintenance of local schools, with state oversight**
- **Opportunity Scholarships for poor students to attend private school**
- **Appointment of local school boards**
- **Allow local governments to create smaller schools districts in urban counties and consolidate school districts in rural counties**
- **Collective bargaining reform in our school system**
- **Expand breakfast in the classroom**
- **New Office for Safe and Respectful Learning**
- **Achievement School District to manage chronically underperforming schools**

## **Disability Legislation Update as of March 18, 2015**

**AB5.** This bill requires the Division to give preference to potential providers of jobs and day training services who will employ persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with related conditions at or above the state minimum wage. Sponsored by Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. Not yet scheduled to be heard.

**AB6.** Removes \$36,000 cap and removes requirement that in order to be paid by private insurance paraprofessionals must be certified by the state as CABIs. This bill was heard on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The hearing went well, and we are currently meeting with the Insurance Commissioners and in the process of setting rates that we hope will attract quality out-of-state providers.

**AB29.** This bill requires facilities to register with Aging and Disability Services Division to provide jobs / training and prohibits the use of aversive interventions except under specific circumstances and requires such facilities to make a report when restraints are used. This bill passed out of the Assembly and the Senate without amendments.

**AB38.** Revises provisions governing the admission of persons with certain mental conditions to and the release of such persons from certain facilities. This bill has not yet been heard.

**AB91.** This bill expands the list of persons authorized to file an application for the emergency admission of a person alleged to be a person with mental illness to facilities and the release of persons deemed not to be mentally ill. This bill is sponsored by Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson and has not yet been heard by Ways and Means.

**AB 128.** Creates a durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions to be used by adults with intellectual disabilities. Heard in Assembly Judiciary on 2/23. Opposed by Mark Olsen in Las Vegas. Amendments prepared and submitted to the sponsor by Mary Bryant, Jon Sasser and Sally Ramm. Passed out of assembly judiciary with amendments on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**AB157.** Revises provisions relating to service animals to only include dogs and miniature horses. Assemblymen Oscarson, Ellison and Goicoechea

are the sponsors. Commission supported this bill, it was passed with an amendment in the assembly health and human services on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**AB200.** This bill revises provisions relating to the program funded through the PUC impose surcharge to provide devices for telecommunication to persons with impaired speech or hearing and funds related centers. No hearing yet. Preliminary discussion with Chairman and Assemblywoman Benitez Thompson. Supreme Court ruled against PUC, they plan to appeal but have expressed that they are okay with a cap being set.

**AB223.** This bill revises provisions dealing with elder abuse to help deal with this growing problem. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman O'Neill, and will be heard for the first time on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Assembly Judiciary.

**AB284.** This bill requires students with disabilities to take an adaptive behavior assessment and expands programs and referrals for students with autism spectrum disorders. The bill is sponsored by Assemblywoman Woodbury and is labeled as containing an unfunded mandate. The bill has not been scheduled to be heard.

**AB307.** This bill expands services for children with intellectual disabilities to include preventative services and the creation of a new wrap-around pilot program. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Spiegel and Assemblyman Ohrenschall. This bill has not been scheduled to be heard.

**AB310.** This bill expands Medicaid managed care programs in the State. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Anderson and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

**AB328.** This bill makes improvements to the selection and training of hearing officers in special education due process cases between parents and the school district. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Elliot Anderson and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

**AB341.** This bill mandates enhanced screening and intervention for children with certain disabilities. This bill is sponsored by 16 assembly democrats, is listed as containing an unfunded mandate, and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

**SB13.** This bill deals with IEPs and provides for students with disabilities to receive standard diplomas instead of adjusted diplomas. The original text of the bill removes "best feasible" language to "appropriate," but Julie Bowers of NDE has submitted the change to allow "best feasible" to remain in the statute. This bill has not yet been scheduled to be heard. Karen Taycher has agreed with the department on new language for an amendment.

**SB35.** Ratifies and enacts the Interstate Compact on Mental Health. This bill has passed in the Senate with support from the ACLU and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Assembly Ways and Means currently has the bill.

**SB132.** This bill requires paraprofessionals working with students with disabilities receive necessary training. This bill is sponsored by Senator Kieckhefer and was heard by Senate Education on February 19<sup>th</sup>. No action taken.

**SB177.** The "CARE Act." This bill allows a person to designate a caregiver when admitted to a hospital or in an advance directive. This bill has been heard once by HHS on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The Commission unanimously supported this bill and was joined at the table by many other organizations. The bill has passed with an amendment in Senate Health and Human Services.