



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

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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)
Driving and Dementia Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, April 25, 2016
11:00 a.m.

Location: Sanford Center for Aging
Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM) Room 155
1664 N. Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89557

Driving/Parking Directions: <http://dhs.unr.edu/aging/contact-us>

To Join the Telephone Conference
Call-in Number: 877-336-1831
Access Number: 9186101

Agenda

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call
Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair
Department of Psychology
University of Nevada, Reno

Member present: Jane Fisher, Ph. D.

Member participating by telephone: Gini Cunningham

Member absent: Peter Reed, Ph. D.

Guest present: Susan Longchamp

Staff: Sunadda Woodbury

- 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.)

No public comment.

- III. **Welcoming Remarks**

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Jane Fisher, Ph. D. stated that today the subcommittee will be summarizing the progress made to date in the data gathering process from stakeholders across the state of Nevada. There are also updates from contacts with professionals across the field.

Dr. Fisher remarked that the subcommittee will use the information gathered from the process of looking at the infrastructure in Nevada, the challenges of persons with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, and agencies stakeholders have in determining whether an individual is safe to drive, to inform recommendations that will be submitted to the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD).

- IV. **Approval of Minutes from the March 16, 2016 Meeting (For Possible Action)**
Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Gini Cunningham motioned to approve the minutes. Dr. Jane Fisher seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

- V. **Report on Carson City Town Hall Meeting and Possible Recommendations (For Possible Action)**
Susan Longchamp, M. A.
Nevada Caregiver Support Center

Susan Longchamp reported on the outcomes from the Carson City town hall meeting on Friday, April 22, 2016. Highlights included:

- Approximately 25 attendees were in attendance.
- Sergeant Craig Lowe from the Carson City Sheriff's Office was a guest.
- Elyse Monroy, Health and Human Services Policy Analyst, also attended.
- The audience comprised many caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.
- Ten surveys were completed.
- Input from the audience included issues with transportation difficulties, concerns about assessment and the frequency of assessment, and challenges in family communication about the loss of driving privileges.
- No other driving and dementia town hall meetings are scheduled at this time.

Discussion ensued about data gathering in southern Nevada. Ms. Longchamp reported that she has been in touch with LeeAnn Mandarino at the Cleveland Clinic regarding the distribution of the shortened surveys. She has also asked the Alzheimer's Association of southern Nevada if they would be willing to administer the surveys.

Dr. Fisher shared that she received information from Albert Chavez regarding Dementia-Friendly town hall meetings, sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association, which will be held in May, and this may be a good venue to distribute the survey. Gini Cunningham confirmed that the event will be held in both Reno and Las Vegas on May 11, 2016.

VI. Report on Surveys to Providers and Possible Recommendations **(For Possible Action)**

Peter Reed, Ph. D
Director
Sanford Center for Aging

Dr. Reed is excused due to another conflict.

Dr. Fisher commented that Dr. Reed is preparing a summary of what he has been involved with as far as surveying health care providers across Nevada about their experience in working with persons with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

This discussion will be deferred until the next meeting.

VII. Report on Meeting with Professor Melanie Duckworth, Ph.D. Regarding Driving Simulator Assessment and Possible Recommendations **(For Possible Action)**

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Dr. Fisher stated she met with Dr. Melanie Duckworth on April 20, 2016 to have a discussion on driving simulator assessment. Dr. Duckworth is a clinical psychologist at the University of Nevada Reno who is conducting research on motor vehicle accident trauma and recovery from motor vehicle trauma. Dr. Fisher explained that the intent of her interview with Dr. Duckworth was to learn her views of what is happening in terms of driver simulator assessment, and what the research is indicating as far as the most effective, valid method of assessing driver safety and competence.

Since that meeting, Dr. Duckworth has sent several articles and links to research in this area. Dr. Fisher summarized that she learned that the most effective assessment is one that involves physical health issues, including vision, hearing, functioning, flexibility, leg strength, and hand strength, not just cognitive assessment but a comprehensive study that also includes cognitive functioning. The interest is looking at whether there are cognitive measures that are predictive of driver safety. Another element is the driver simulation assessment.

Dr. Fisher described that research is focused on developing an algorithm or a formula for determining how the above factors converge in predicting accurately how safely someone will be able to operate a motor vehicle. There is now research looking at healthy older adults, older adults with mild cognitive impairment, and persons with dementia.

After examining the research data, Dr. Fisher commented that what seems to be emerging is a model that involves some type of screening any time there is concern about cognitive impairment and driver safety. The result of the screening, depending on the person's performance, could trigger a more thorough assessment involving those three areas--cognitive assessment, physical health status, and then driving simulation.

Dr. Fisher expressed that the draft of the recommendations should reflect what the empirical research is showing as the most effective approach. She shared that some of the best research is being done in Europe in various laboratories that are looking at this comprehensive assessment strategy, with the idea of building a way of efficiently determining whether someone will be able or is able to competently drive. Dr. Fisher and Ms. Longchamp are working together to distill the research to see what is the most predictive strategy for determining driver safety and weighing that with practical issues.

VIII. Analysis of Data and Preliminary Discussion of Recommendations to TFAD (For Possible Action)

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Information presented during the analysis of data included:

- ADSD Social Services was approached to see if they could distribute surveys to social workers beyond Elder Protective Services (EPS), but they were unable to participate at this time. Ms. Longchamp will inquire whether they can participate in the future.
- Data from the surveys conducted at the town hall meetings are being analyzed in the Clinical Geropsychology Research lab in the Department of Psychology at UNR, and further updates will be provided as additional data become available.
- Additional surveys may be distributed at the Alzheimer's Association support group sessions, as well as the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.
- Further inquiries need to be made to the insurance industry for information.
- Additional information will be gathered from the law enforcement group, including how calls are handled by emergency services dispatchers.
- Elyse Monroy offered a connection to a staff in the Governor's Office who is a liaison with the DMV who can assist as needed.

Dr. Fisher commented that the subcommittee needs to set a goal to have the preliminary draft of the recommendations formulated by May 18, 2016 and then a revised draft submitted TFAD by June 1, 2016.

Dr. Fisher explained that there is more empirical research to review in order to properly determine the best recommendations, considering many consequences and implications associated with the concerns of driving and dementia. However, stakeholders appear to be extremely vested in the possible outcomes.

Gini Cunningham shared information on the ongoing work of Age-Friendly Communities in Winnemucca and Henderson. She will forward results of surveys conducted, which include statistics on infrastructure related to transportation and support services for those who can no longer drive.

Discussion ensued about ensuring that the work plans adhere to open meeting law guidelines.

Dr. Fisher remarked that there will likely be more than one recommendation created. Possible areas of focus will include:

1. The assessment process and frequency.
2. Support for families in managing the emotional and logistical challenges that emerge when addressing driving concerns.
3. Gaps in the transportation infrastructure.
4. Training of health care providers, law enforcement, and DMV staff on improving the safety of persons with dementia and their community.

Each proposed recommendation may have several areas of attention and may also include the methods/process to be implemented.

IX. Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**
Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

The following items may be included on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Update on providers from Dr. Reed.
- Information from the insurance industry regarding health issues and liability.
- Summary of all data collected.
- Update on input from law enforcement.
- Update on social services input.
- Age-Friendly community update.
- Work session on the draft recommendation.

X. Discuss and Approve Next Meeting Date **(For Possible Action)**
Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Next meeting will be scheduled on May 18, 2016 from 11:00-2:00 p.m.

The subcommittee aims to have the draft recommendations ready for distribution to TFAD group by May 25, 2016 for preview before the TFAD meeting.

- XI. **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.)

No public comment.

- XII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned 12:00 p.m.

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.
