



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: Wednesday, March 16, 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
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Agenda

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair
Department of Psychology
University of Nevada, Reno

Members present: Dr. Jane Fisher and Dr. Peter Reed

Member present on the telephone: Gini Cunningham

Guests present: Susan Longchamp, Sally Ramm, and Mary Liveratti

Staff present: 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.)

Mary Liveratti, President, Nevada American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), provided comments.

Ms. Liveratti commented that Washoe County is going to do a needs-assessment on respite services, such as expanding adult day care and other services. She stated the project has been approved in the Washoe County Strategic Plan to begin in 2017. The potential for expanding services could be significant.

- III. **Welcoming Remarks**

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., presented an overview of the purpose and goals of the driving and dementia subcommittee.

Dr. Fisher stated that subcommittee has been examining issues related to public safety as they apply to driving. She explained that over the course of neurocognitive disorders, individuals eventually become challenged to the point where it may not be safe for them to drive. She related that the group is also looking at infrastructure within Nevada, in order to support individuals living with these disorders, to promote their independence for as long as possible.

Dr. Fisher described the data gathering process, including administering surveys across the state to various stakeholders. The group is also examining work being done in other states, and their policies and regulations. Empirical research on the evaluation of driving competence is also being reviewed

- IV. **Approval of Minutes from the February 1, 2016 Meeting (For Possible Action)**

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Peter Reed, Ph.D. moved to approve the minutes. Gini Cunningham seconded the motion.

- V. **Discussion on AARP Driving and Dementia Program**

Mary Liveratti
AARP Nevada State President

Ms. Liveratti commented that she is a volunteer for AARP.

Ms. Liveratti stated that AARP has a driver's safety program that people of any age can take. By state law, once the program is completed, a person is eligible for a discount on their insurance. Classes are taught by trained volunteers.

Ms. Liveratti highlighted some key benefits of the classes, particularly for older drivers. These include:

- Free materials available to everyone, regardless of whether they are AARP members or not.
- How to have family conversations with older drivers.
- Warning signs for older drivers.
- Worksheets for evaluating transportation needs and identifying possible options.
- Warning Signs for drivers with dementia.
- Family conversations about Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and driving.

Ms. Liveratti shared that, besides the resources mentioned, trained AARP instructors are available to make in-depth presentations on driving to any interested groups.

Dr. Fisher inquired whether AARP, with its national exposure, has any recommendations in terms driving evaluations, citing that the gold standard seems to be the driving simulator. Ms. Liveratti responded that there is a policy book that she can examine further to find the information. She explained that it would probably be best to look at function, rather than age, when making an assessment.

Discussion ensued regarding the processes of evaluation used by the DMV, which appear to be highly variable. Dr. Fisher remarked that California is the only state in the country that has a diagnosis-triggered process, but there has been an unintended consequence in people avoiding their physicians because they don't want the diagnosis, which may lead to them losing their driving privileges.

Responding to a query from Dr. Fisher regarding the infrastructure of alternative transportation throughout the state, Ms. Liveratti remarked that there appears to be a great need in that area.

Ms. Liveratti commented that there is a mobility center in Las Vegas where people are trained to use regular transit because paratransit is so limited and costly. Alternative means are being explored to increase the availability and scope of transportation for these individuals. She shared that the center also offers everyday life skills training to those who have unique challenges such as the blind and the disabled. Ms. Liveratti suggested that perhaps the center could be an appropriate venue for people living with dementia to come for driving assessments.

Sally Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney, Aging and Disability Services, noted that a driving simulator could be included in the mobility center as well.

In regards to transportation options, Ms. Ramm mentioned people's preference towards on-demand transportation, but often on-demand community

transportation is not available. However, she mentioned there was a program in Las Vegas that coordinated rides for seniors. Ms. Liveratti remarked that Helping Hands also have a similar program, but usually limited to certain areas and neighborhoods.

Some of the considerations that need to be examined for alternative transportation for seniors include:

1. Who is coordinating the services?
2. Who is doing the background checks of drivers?
3. Who is financing the rides?

Discussion ensued about possible alternative transportation options, including Uber or Lyft, or a service that could be tailored to the needs of seniors and is affordable. Dr. Fisher proposed that perhaps a driver could receive training on how to accommodate people with dementia. This topic is being considered within the larger context of a dementia-friendly community. Studies are being done in different states to develop alternative transportation options that could also be beneficial to Nevada.

Ms. Liveratti observed that in rural communities, friends and neighbors appear to be the best resources for transportation, often with no formal programs in place. Churches and other fraternal organizations also lend valuable support.

Dr. Reed concluded that it is imperative to focus on transportation options if recommendations are to be made for people with driving impairments.

Responding on a query from Dr. Reed regarding AARP's position on assessment and testing, and policies on driving, Ms. Liveratti responded that she will review the policy book and provide the group with that information. Dr. Reed remarked that if there were AARP policy positions that align with possible recommendations for Nevada, AARP could be an advocate for these issues.

Ms. Liveratti suggested that Nevadans for the Common Good, an advocacy group, could be a good support to bring about changes. Ms. Ramm stated she will forward the contact information.

VI. Discussion on Statewide Survey of Health Care Providers
Peter Reed, Ph. D
Director
Sanford Center for Aging

Dr. Reed presented the draft of the survey for health care providers and solicited input for possible modifications. He stated that he has a contact with the Nevada State Medical Association who has agreed to distribute the survey to all their members electronically.

Discussion ensued whether to include other healthcare professionals, aside from physicians, and whether the survey should be directed only to those who work directly with people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Ms. Ramm shared a list of different types of doctors who can provide evaluations pertaining to driving that are accepted by the DMV, but cautioned that there are many opinions slanted towards safety without consideration to civil rights or personal rights. The group agreed that the focus should be to solicit input from those who work specifically with people with cognitive disorders.

Dr. Fisher recommended expanding the surveys to include not only physicians, but their staff including nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants who are often on the frontlines of addressing driving safety concerns..

To establish a realistic scope of study, Ms. Ramm suggested limiting the survey participants to three groups: physicians, nurse practitioners, and physicians' assistants (P.A.s).

The subcommittee reviewed the survey questions and made recommendations for language revisions.

Dr. Reed stated that he is planning to complete the modifications and send the revised survey out before April 1, 2016.

The preliminary sample of the provider survey is attached. (See Attachment A)

VII. Discussion on Extant Driver Evaluation Programs including Driver Orientation Screen for Cognitive Impairment (DOSCI)

Jane Fisher, Ph. D., Subcommittee Chair

Sally Ramm
Elder Rights Attorney
Aging and Disability Services Division

Dr. Fisher stated that representatives from the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) had provided information on a pilot program in Iowa involving a screening program by first responders. She presented an overview of this program, called the Driver Orientation Screen for Cognitive Impairment (DOSCI) program.

Susan Longchamp commented that she has a telephone call set up with Deborah Carney from the Iowa Department of Transportation on Friday, March 18, 2016 at which time further questions about the program may be answered.

Dr. Fisher, Ms. Ramm, and Dr. Reed posed questions, including:

- What is the process once someone has been screened for further evaluation?
- How is driving competence evaluated in Iowa?
- What statutory authority does Iowa have to enforce this program?
- How often is the process used?
- How many people have been involved?
- Is the pilot program still ongoing?

Gini Cunningham suggested that the Nevada DMV could potentially implement a similar pilot program in conjunction with UNR, as well as solicit the aid of a doctoral student who might be interested in researching the project.

Dr. Fisher stated that Ms. Longchamp's involvement with the Driving and Dementia study has allowed her to meet a criterion in her doctoral program called the comprehensive exam.

Dr. Fisher mentioned that another UNR clinical psychology doctoral student is collaborating with her in developing a toolkit on cultural tailoring for providers in the state of Nevada.

Dr. Reed proposed that, since the DMV is interested, the subcommittee could make a recommendation to launch a DOSCI pilot program in Nevada.

Ms. Ramm commented that Washoe County Sheriffs' Department and the Sheriff are interested in senior issues and may be willing to assist.

Ms. Longchamp shared that Iowa is also implementing a pilot Safe Driving Basics testing software program and she will request further information on that as well.

VIII. Discussion on Age-Friendly Communities

Gini Cunningham
Volunteer and Alzheimer's Advocate

Ms. Cunningham gave an overview of the assessments that have been done in Winnemucca to improve the age-friendliness of the community. Some of the areas highlighted include:

Outdoor spaces and buildings

- Improving access to buildings and restrooms.
- Improving parking at the Convention Center.
- Expanding access to recreation and exercise at the Boys and Girls Club.

Transportation

- Handicap parking space enlarged to accommodate the senior bus for easier access to downtown businesses.
- Concierge service on the senior bus on Tuesdays to assist those who cannot get out of their homes and to the curb to access the senior bus, as well as carrying bags, etc. into their house on the return home.
- High school volunteers, 18 year-old youths, who need community service hours are being recruited to get involved.
- Valet parking at the Senior Center for inclement weather.

Housing

- Addition to Larios Arms that provides 60 units and other new sliding scale rental apartments according to income not savings
- New 11-bed memory care unit at the hospital

Social Participation

- New addition to the Senior Center including expansion of the meal area where approximately 125 meals are served Monday-Friday, plus at least that many meals are served to those homebound.

Employment

- Volunteerism will be promoted

Communication

- Improvements in communication like internet service outside of the city are being considered.
- Local newspaper and radio station are good at reporting local events and sending out community service messages.
- *Community Living* magazine provided for free quarterly, featuring stories for locals and visitors.

Community support and health services

- Established continuity of care between hospital and medical facilities with follow-up visit.
- EMS is open to ideas and suggestions for extending community services (i.e. in-home flu shots).
- Hospital has partnered with the miner's medical facility to share the use of mammography equipment.
- Recruitment of medical personnel through medical residency programs.
- Music and Memory program fully implemented at Harmony Manor.

- The Corner Café at the hospital provides excellent and nutritional meals.

Ms. Cunningham's full report of the baseline assessment for Age-Friendly Winnemucca is attached. (See Attachment B)

Discussion ensued about establishing successful guidelines for community building, using the methods that have been implemented in Winnemucca. Ms. Cunningham pointed out that these initiatives resulted from the initial meeting at the Driving and Dementia Town Hall in Winnemucca. The subcommittee concurred that bringing stakeholders together to discuss issues of concern proved very worthwhile.

- IX. Updates on Town Hall Meetings
Susan Longchamp, M. A.
Nevada Caregiver Support Center

Ms. Longchamp stated that the Driving and Dementia Town Hall Meeting in Carson City will be held on Friday, April 22, 2016 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Location to be determined.

Discussion ensued about possible panelists who can be invited to participate. Dr. Fisher commented that Craig Lowe from the Carson City Sheriffs' Department has agreed to participate, pending approval from the Sheriff. Ms. Longchamp said a physician has also been invited. Dr. Reed and Dr. Fisher are both planning to attend. Ms. Liveratti suggested inviting Mayor Bob Crowell, Carson City, and Elyse Monroy, Health and Human Services Policy Analyst, Office of the Governor. Dr. Fisher will reach out to Dolores Ward, a gerontologist, who is interested in participating with TFAD. A representative of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) should be included as well.

In terms of southern Nevada, Ms. Longchamp explained that she has connected with LeeAnn Mandarino from the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and Albert Chavez from the Alzheimer's Association to distribute surveys through clinic events and the association's events in the south.

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

Possible agenda items include:

1. Discussion of revised surveys for law enforcement.
2. Report on surveys to providers.

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

1. April 25, 2016—Analysis of all the data and preliminary discussion of recommendations.
2. May 18, 2016—Working session for draft recommendation.

XII. **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.

XIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 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.

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Supporting materials for this meeting are available at 3416 Goni Road, D-132, Carson City, NV 89706 or by contacting Sunadda Woodbury at 775-687-2495 or by e-mail at swoodbury@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. State Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson Street, Suite 3138, Carson City, NV 89701
6. Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 4401, Las Vegas, NV 89119
7. Department of Health and Human Services, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706
8. Carson City Senior Center, 911 Beverly Drive, Carson City, NV 89706
9. Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 East 9th Street, Reno, NV 89512
10. Las Vegas Senior Center, 451 East Bonanza Road, Las Vegas NV 89101
11. Sanford Center for Aging, Center for Molecular Medicine (CMM) Room 155, 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, NV 89557

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