



Welcome Back Mary Liveratti

Mike Willden, Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has appointed Mary Liveratti as Administrator of the Aging and



Disability Services Division (ADSD). In making the appointment, DHHS Director Mike Willden said, "Mary has been an unwavering advocate for senior and disability services. No one works harder at doing the right thing than Mary."

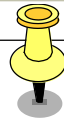
Mike Willden's statement is exemplified in Mary's career path. Many may not

know that Mary first came to Nevada as a VISTA volunteer at the Economic Opportunity Board's Senior Center in Las Vegas. She then worked with the Senior Nutrition Program/Meals on Wheels for Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, at that time called Catholic Welfare.

In 1980 and for the following 23 years, Mary dedicated herself to the Division for Aging Services (DAS). Initially, she was the Nutrition Program Representative in the Las Vegas Office. At that time, the Division had only 20 employees statewide – with only five staff and a contractor in the Las Vegas office. Subsequently, Mary became the Division's Coordinator of Senior Services, implemented the Community Home-Based Initiatives Program (CHIP), and moved to Carson City. Thereafter, Mary was appointed DAS's Deputy Administrator, then DAS Administrator, prior to her appointment in 2003 as Deputy Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

During her distinguished state service, Mary has been recognized as an advocate for senior and disability

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2012 Priority – Getting to Know You Better

By Cherrill Cristman, Chief, Resource Development Unit

Now that second-year Social Supportive Services grant applications have been reviewed and funded, Resource Development (RD) Unit staff is turning attention to a number of new initiatives for 2012 and forward.

A top priority of these new initiatives is taking time to know you and your communities better. RD managers and specialists will be convening quarterly, regional, face-to-face meetings with grantees and other community stakeholders. These meetings will enable ADSD staff to gain a first-hand understanding of gaps in senior services, potential resources and establish a forum for working through service challenges with grantees and their clients.

To begin this outreach, RD Unit staff convened regional focus groups with a selected representation of community leaders in May, and will soon be announcing regional, quarterly meetings, which will commence in September 2012.

Focus group participants discussed ADSD plans to help ensure the availability and accessibility of

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U.S. Administration for Community Living - HHS Secretary Sebelius



April 16, 2012

Dear Colleagues,

Today, I am very pleased to announce the creation of the Administration for Community Living within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This new Operating Division brings together the Administration on Aging, the Office on Disability, and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities into a single agency that supports cross-cutting initiatives and efforts focused on the unique needs of individual groups, such as children with developmental disabilities or seniors who need assistance to continue to live in their communities.

I am also pleased to announce that Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee will serve as the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living, while also retaining her duties as Assistant Secretary for Aging. Henry Claypool, the Director of our Office on Disability, will take on the role of Principal Deputy Administrator and continue to serve as my Senior Advisor on Disability Policy.

The Obama Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services have long been committed to promoting community living and finding new mechanisms to ensure that the resources people with disabilities and seniors need to live in the community are accessible. The establishment of the Administration for Community Living reinforces this commitment, bringing together key organizations and offices across the Department dedicated to improving the lives of those with functional needs into one coordinated, focused, and stronger entity.

The Administration for Community Living will seek to enhance and improve the broad range of support that individuals may need to live with respect and dignity as full members of their communities. This support extends well beyond health care and includes the availability of appropriate housing, education, meaningful relationships, and social participation.

Building on President Obama's Year of Community Living, the Administration for Community Living will pursue improved opportunities for older Americans and people with disabilities to enjoy the fullest inclusion in the life of our nation.

You can find more information on the Administration for Community Living at: <http://hhs.gov/acl>.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius



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issues by many entities, such as the Sanford Center on Aging, the Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center, the Human Services Network, and Commission on Autism. In addition, she has served on many Senior and Disability Boards/Commissions such as the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Governor's Partnership on 2-1-1, Commission on Aging, and the Board of Long Term Care Administrators.

Mary says in her "free" time (hard to know when that might be) she loves to garden, play the mandolin, sew and read. About her appointment as ASDS Administrator, Mary says, "I am thrilled to return to the programs and people I hold so dear. I look forward to this opportunity and appreciate the trust Mike has in me."

ASDS staff welcomes Mary. Her special transformative qualities of leadership and appreciation are already evident in a letter and poem she sent to ASDS staff on May 7th, during Employee Appreciation Week.

In part, Mary's letter said: *Each of you is important to the success of our agency. I am very proud of the work that ASDS does, and I look forward to working with you. . . I will close with one of my favorite poems, because I believe all of you are making a difference in the lives of the people we serve.*

SUCCESS

To laugh often and much,
to win the respect of intelligent people
and affection of children; to earn the
appreciation of honest critics and
endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty, to find the best
in others; to leave the world a bit
better, whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch or redeemed
social condition; to know even
one life has breathed easier because
you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson





Fiscal Update - Desk Audits and Monthly Meal Reports

By Vern Dixon, Auditor III



Desk Audits

ADSD Auditors will be exploring the idea of conducting more desk audits beginning July 2012. Should the audit method prove to be sufficient, it will be fully-implemented by July 2013. For the testing period, only low-risk programs will receive a desk audit. All other programs will continue to have an on-site visit.

Monthly Meal Count Reports

Monthly meal counts are to be sent to Lisa Williams at lawilliams@adsd.nv.gov.

The report template and due date are available at www.nvaging.net/grants/reporting.htm.

All questions regarding the Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP) should be directed to Kristi Martin at kmartin@adsd.nv.gov or your assigned ADSD Resource Development Specialist.



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certain vital services statewide, through various strategies to be designed in collaboration with grantees and other community members.

RD staff appreciates the opportunity of meeting with communities, mingling with grantees and those receiving services, and learning about area concerns and priorities. Each community has unique needs, and the best way for the Aging and Disability Services Division to strategize the availability of services is to plan them with service providers, advocates, clients and other community members.



COA Requests Increased Funding for Independent Living Grants

The Commission on Aging (COA) has adopted its Senate Bill (SB) 421 Subcommittee's Final Report, recommending that Department of Health and Human Services Director Michael Willden support increased funding for the Division's Independent Living Grants (ILG). The COA SB 421 report will be forwarded to Director Willden by June 30th, as a partial basis for recommendations he will make to Governor Sandoval regarding apportionment of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada.

The opportunity to increase the Division's share of the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) for senior supportive services resulted from the 2011 Nevada Legislature's passage of SB 421. Heretofore and per statute, FHN received half of the Master Tobacco Settlement funds, and the Division received 30 percent of the FHN for ILG.

SB 421 has increased the FHN portion from half to 60 percent and removed the FHN apportionment percentages. Additionally, Director Willden is to consider priority recommendations of the COA, the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Grants Management Advisory Committee.

The COA's 17-page SB 421 report, with an additional seven appendices describing research components and documented data, sets forth three major findings to support increased funding for ILG:

1. ILG funds enable seniors to live in their homes, where they most want to be, instead of being placed in institutions. This saves the State of Nevada at least \$12 million a year in Medicaid costs.
2. The need for ILG services is growing exponentially, as evidenced by significant waitlists for critical services. This is due to an increase in population, especially those age 75 and older, while the current funding sources for in-home services is flat, if not diminishing.
3. The nation and Nevada are in the midst of rebalancing the traditional funding system bias from institutional care to home and community-based care, which has proven more cost effective when such care is feasible and desired by the care recipient. To be successful, this transition will require additional funding for supportive home and community-based services.

In addition to the research activities that support increased funding for Independent Living Grants, Subcommittee members reviewed the Senior and Disability Rx program, another ADSD program funded by the Fund for a Healthy Nevada. Appendix VI of the Subcommittee's report details the option to expand the ADSD Senior Rx and Disability Rx program to include dental benefits for seniors. The Subcommittee's report concludes by stating that dental problems create many health problems from malnutrition to chronic heart disease, which cause much suffering and Medicaid expense for health and long-term care services. Expanding the Senior Rx and Disability Rx programs to use some of its funds to also provide dental services will not create any difference in the number of people served by the prescription services, and would be the best use of the available funds.

The report, presented to the COA on June 7th, is the result of the tireless and dedicated work of COA and SB 421 subcommittee members: Edrie LaVoie, Chair, Director of Lyon County Human Services; Connie McMullen, COA Strategic Plan Subcommittee Chair; Maria Dent, AARP Director of Community Outreach; and Bonnie Webber, Washoe County Commissioner.

"This group has accomplished so much in a short period of time," says Sally Ramm, ADSD's Elder Rights Attorney, who provided input to the group. "Every one of the members was focused and productive, which shows in the final report."



Elder Abuse Awareness

Elder abuse is an under-recognized problem with devastating and even life-threatening consequences. Many organizations work tirelessly to help prevent elder abuse, and you, too, can help in the fight. Throughout the year, there are many holidays and observances that allow us the opportunity to honor older individuals and raise awareness of elder abuse. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, observed annually, was on June 15th this year.

The National Center on Elder Abuse has compiled the following list of ideas of how you, your family, and friends can join us in drawing attention to the problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Some ideas, such as visiting an older neighbor or relative, are simple yet meaningful at any time of year. Other suggestions, such as volunteering, require a little more commitment and planning. But whether the effort is great or small, once a year or throughout, all of the activities empower you to make long-lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable elders.

Reaching Out:

- Make it a priority to visit an older friend or relative who lives in a nursing home.
- Commit to visiting an older friend, family member, or neighbor who lives alone, or invite them to a family activity, such as a Little League Game.
- Ask an older acquaintance to share their talents by teaching you or your children a new skill, such as knitting, or how to bake a favorite recipe.
- Volunteer at a local chapter of Meals on Wheels.
- Become a Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Ombudsmen act as advocates for those living in nursing homes and assisted living communities to assist in resolving complaints and issues. For more information about the program contact Sharnina Starling-Buford at (702) 486-3574 or sdstarling@adsd.nv.gov.

Suggestions for Older Individuals to Reduce the Risk of Elder Abuse:

- Maintain a normal schedule for doctor and dentist visits.
- Investigate financial and legal planning strategies, including advanced health directives, and develop and follow through with a plan that meets your needs.
- Investigate daily money management programs for assistance in budgeting, banking and bill-paying.
- Talk about your needs with a trusted friend, neighbor, or loved one, and ask for help. The key to maintaining overall independence is identifying areas where you can use assistance, and asking trustworthy sources for help in these areas. The State of Nevada, Aging and Disability Services Division can provide assistance in identifying resources available and suitable for your needs. To find resources in your area call (702) 486-3545 in Southern Nevada and (775) 688-2964 in Northern Nevada.

To report suspected elder abuse, neglect, isolation, or exploitation contact the State of Nevada, Aging and Disability Services Division at the numbers listed below:

- Las Vegas/Clark County (702) 486-6930
- Statewide/All other areas (888) 729-0571

If an older person is in immediate danger the local police, sheriff's office, or emergency medical service should be contacted.

Together, we have the power to prevent elder abuse.



Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program



Aging and Disability Services is excited to announce our new Volunteer Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. The program is designed to assist our existing Long-Term Care Ombudsmen by enlisting volunteers to serve as advocates for long-term care residents age 60 and older. Our Mission is to develop, coordinate, and deliver a comprehensive support service system of essential services, which will allow Nevada's elders and those with disabilities to lead independent, meaningful, and dignified lives.

Volunteers empower residents, promote the resident's bill of rights, and help to resolve complaints. Volunteers receive classroom and field training along with continuing support to assist residents and their families with concerns and with navigating the long-term care system.

**You Can Make A Difference!
Volunteer Today!**

Aging and Disability Services Division is looking for volunteers who are 21 years of age or older, with a sincere interest in promoting the well-being and protecting the rights of seniors. Volunteers should be caring and empathetic with exceptional listening skills. Volunteers should be capable of being objective and impartial with the ability to assess situations, define problems, collect data, and draw valid conclusions. Our program has a time commitment of four (4) hours per week for a one (1) year term.

For more information:

Northern Nevada - **Heather Korbolic**, (775) 688-2964 ext. 260, hkkorbolic@adsd.nv.gov

Southern Nevada - **Sue Levinsky**, (702) 486-3544, sclevinsky@adsd.nv.gov

State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division





Southern Nevada:

Nevada Senior Services was featured on KSNV-TV, Channel 3 News' "Wake Up with the Wagners" for its partnership with StoryCorps Legacy. [Click here to view the segment.](#)

Regional News

StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind. Millions of people listen to weekly broadcasts at www.storycorps.org and on NPR's Morning Edition. Nevada Senior Services is one of six partners throughout the United States to share in the StoryCorps Legacy initiative. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to share, and with participant permission, is preserved in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. Participants spend nothing but time for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share their life with loved ones and sustain their story with the generations to come. StoryCorps has heard many participants say they strengthened their human connections and felt their lives were validated as a result of their interview experience.

The City of Henderson and Nevada H.A.N.D. recently



Northern Nevada:

ADSD currently funds two kinds of Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) services. One of these is a computer-assisted reassurance program that contacts clients through their personal telephone, on a set schedule, to ensure their safety and to remind them to complete certain tasks, take medication, prepare for

appointments, or meet other needs. No special equipment is required in the client's home or on his/her person.

House Calls, Ltd., of Fernley, Nevada, began

opened the Pacific Pines IV Senior Apartments and Downtown Senior Center. Amenities and services include a fitness room, wellness area, and nutrition program. Click on the photo for link to full story.



We welcome Sharon Overy as the new Director at the Searchlight Senior Center located at 575 South Highway 95.

Elko:

BrightPath Adult Enrichment Center, which provides adult day care services in Elko for seniors and adults with disabilities, held its annual Sitting Pretty "Chair"-ity Auction fundraiser at the Elko Western Folk Life Center on May 19, 2012. Local artists donated hand-painted, decorated chairs or other art creations to be auctioned at the event. All proceeds were donated to support the BrightPath Adult Enrichment Center. Attendees enjoyed an array of decadent desserts, homemade candies and live entertainment. Admission is free. The Center raises several thousand dollars annually sponsoring the event.

providing this service in 1996. Proving to be a successful program, it was fully-replicated in Elko at House Calls of Northeastern Nevada, and partially-replicated in Las Vegas at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. The service model also has received national attention.

Here is how the PERS service of House Calls, Ltd. works for seniors age 60 and over in Nevada:

A senior can sign up for this service at no charge. Many are referred by social workers or other service providers. An unlimited number of customized

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Taxi Assistance Program - Clark County



The Taxi Assistance Program (TAP), administered by ADSD and formerly called the Senior Ride Program, provides booklets of discounted taxi fare coupons to Nevada residents, age 60 and over, and persons of any age who are living with a permanent disability, for use in Clark County. The booklets are purchased by clients for \$10 and contain \$20 in taxi fare coupons that are used to offset the cost of taxicab rides. Currently, each registered client is allowed to purchase up to three (3) booklets per month, which is \$60 worth of taxi fare, at a cost of \$30 to the client.

The program typically sells more than 3,000 booklets and serves an average of 1,100 consumers per month. However, statistical data does no justice to the work of the TAP staff. They give personal attention and assistance to each client by providing information and resources, on not only transportation, but a variety of services to meet their needs.

In the next couple of months, TAP will join other ADSD programs in the use of the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS). The integration of TAP client data into SAMS will enable ADSD staff to determine if an individual is currently registered for TAP.

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messages can be received daily, based on the person's needs. The scripts can be changed over time, as necessary, and can be recorded in any language. Currently the languages used are English, Spanish, Paiute, Washoe, and Shoshone. In addition, the messages can be recorded by the person's relatives or friends, to add a very personal touch. Many of the clients enjoy hearing the voices of their grandchildren!

The telephone welfare check and reminder messages are sent around the clock, according to the client's service plan. Staff of House Calls, Ltd. also record and listen to the voices of the clients when they answer the phone calls. They are able to detect changes in the clients' voices, which helps in determining distress or emergencies. Follow-up occurs immediately to determine the action needed to assist the client.

Some clients have been using the service for years. Overwhelmingly, those using the service rave about how much they like hearing a friendly voice each day and how much it helps them to be reminded of important information. They appreciate knowing that help will be on the way when needed, and that the House Calls staff truly care about their particular situations. Even when some clients have moved to other parts of Nevada, they have been able to continue using the service. All it takes is an active telephone line!

For more information about this type of personal emergency response system, contact the following agencies:

House Calls, Ltd. (775) 575-2727

House Calls of Northeastern Nevada (775) 752-2733

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (702) 382-0721





You Can Make a Difference

MEDICARE FRAUD PREVENTION

- HOW TO RECOGNIZE IT
- HOW TO REPORT IT

Are you an excellent communicator with a professional manner?
Are you comfortable speaking in front of groups?

If so, Senior Medicare Patrol needs you!



Nevada SMP is seeking volunteers to give presentations on how to Detect and Report Healthcare Fraud and Abuse.

Volunteering as a presenter offers flexibility, training in Medicare basics and senior scams, and the opportunity make a difference by empowering the seniors in your community!

Please call us at **888-838-7305** • www.smpresource.org

The Nevada SMP program is funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging and administered by the State of Nevada, Aging and Disability Services Division.

Useful Web Sites:

State of Nevada - Aging and Disability Services Division	http://aging.state.nv.us
U.S. Administration on Aging	http://www.aoa.gov
Find and Apply for Federal Government Grants	http://www.grants.gov
Rural Assistance Center	http://www.raconline.org
Nevada Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)	http://www.nevadaadrc.com
Nevada Controller's Office, Vendor Services	http://controller.nv.gov
National Council on Aging (NCOA)	http://www.ncoa.org
NCOA Crossroads - Peer Support and Information	http://www.ncoacrossroads.org



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