



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)

Date and Time of Meeting: June 18, 2014
1:30 p.m.

Carson City: Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Room 2134
Carson City, NV 89701

Las Vegas: Grant Sawyer Building
555 East Washington Avenue
Room 4412
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Winnemucca: Nevada System of Higher Education
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
1085 Fairgrounds Rd
Winnemucca, NV 89801

I. Call to Order/ Roll Call
Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

Members Present: Tina Gerber-Winn, Senator Joseph Hardy, Lee Ann Mandarino (Alternate for Dr. Charles Bernick), Gini Cunningham, Dr. Peter Reed, PhD., Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Albert Chavez

Members Absent: Wendy Simons, Assemblymen Joseph Hogan, Dr. Jane Fisher

Guests: Nicole Anderson (Alzheimer's Association), Susi Brumett, Zona Thompson, Denise Selleck (Nevada Osteopath Medical Association), Mercedes Maharis, Robert Maharis, Sam Lieberman, Katurah Hartley, Mary Liveratti (AARP), Jacob Harmon (Alzheimer's Association)

Staff: Dale Ann Luzzi, Jennifer Gaffney, Cheyenne Pasquale, Jeff Doucet

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.)

North- Tina Gerber-Winn encouraged the Task Force members to attend the first run of *Henri*, a brand-new performance about aging and Alzheimer's opening in Nevada in October 2014. Talkbacks will occur after each performance of *Henri* (October 16 - 26) and will be approximately 30 minutes long. The play gives a panel of selected members the opportunity to ask questions about care provision options. Panel members are being sought.

Ms. Gerber-Winn informed the committee that Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) has submitted a work program for a part-time contract staff position to provide clerical support to the Task Force. The funding for this position is available through the ADSD, and the position will begin in July 2014.

South- Mercedes Maharis, member of the public, would like awareness raised about polypharmacy and the drug interactions that occur when many different drugs are prescribed to the same person. She requested a source in Nevada for geriatric pharmacological assistance for these interactions, as they are frequent, and there are no current database interactions to provide information about potential interactions. Ms. Maharis believes this enables overmedication in the older population.

III. Welcoming Remarks

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

Senator Wiener thanked Dr. Peter Reed for chairing the last meeting. Senator Wiener said that the follow up on the recommendations in the state plan provide an exciting opportunity to expand knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and creates a greater resource for the State Plan on Alzheimer's disease.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from April 23, 2014 Meeting (For Possible Action)

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

Dr. Peter Reed made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2014, as written. Albert Chavez seconded the motion, which passed.

V. Review and Discussion of the State Plan Including Updates and Recommendations from Task Force Members Regarding Their Assigned Areas of the State Plan **(For Possible Action)**

Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

Senator Wiener reviewed how the recommendations were assigned to Task Force members. She stated that if some of them are in need of legislative activity, then the Task Force must prioritize the top five to introduce for legislation. Senator Wiener also encouraged Task Force members to seek alternative legislative sponsors for items, which are not those selected by the Task Force but members feel are of high importance.

Senator Hardy made a motion stating that the Task Force would not only be happy to accept any grants that come in, but also give the Chair the opportunity to express the wishes of the Task Force in accepting the grants as a funding source. Dr. Reed seconded the motion with the amendment of language to include writing letters of support to include grants. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation 1: Statewide Information and Referral System

Presented by Cheyenne Pasquale, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Project Manager

See Recommendation 1 attachment.

Ms. Pasquale stated that the goal of the ADRC is one-stop shop service access for consumers. The information on the site is updated on a quarterly bases and if, an organization fails to cooperate with the process, the ADRC will unpublish it from the site. This quality assurance measure ensures that only current, quality information is hosted on the website. Users who go to the website have the ability to search specific items or issues.

Dr. Hardy inquired if the education certificate modules carry any weight with providers. Ms. Pasquale said that the training modules are not of part of a certification program but rather the certificates reflect participation in the training. Grantees require staff to take these courses within a specific period. Senator Wiener questioned the advantage to having a “landing” site that is Alzheimer’s disease and dementia specifics. Ms. Pasquale responded that money would be needed in order to develop this.

Recommendation 2: Nurse Practitioners

Presented by Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

See Recommendation 2 attachment

Senator Wiener said that this action is already moving forward, and that legislation regarding Recommendations 2 and 4 were passed in the 2013 Legislative Session.

No legislative action is necessary at this time.

Recommendation 3: Telehealth Funding Streams

No update is available at this time. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

Recommendation 4: Remove Age Barriers

Presented by Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair
See Recommendation 4 attachment.

This item was also addressed Legislation in the 2013 Legislative Session as mentioned by Senator Wiener in Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 5: Disseminating Information (Cultural Competence)

Presented by Cyndy Soto, University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Psychology
See Recommendation 5 attachment.

Ms. Soto said that the close knit family unit, which is not only inclusive of the family of origin, but also extends to aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and great-grandparents, is a key reason for low Hispanic participation in Alzheimer programs. These units are infinitely respectful of their members, and often work together to provide care for aging elders and disabled members.

Dr. Reed commented that he appreciates the positive language used in the Latino community around Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and disability, and encouraged the use of such language for individuals extend beyond minority outreach.

Ms. Soto was unsure if legislative measures were needed for this recommendation, but will get back to the Task Force with an answer.

Recommendation 6: Affordability of Services

No update is available at this time. This item is tabled until the next meeting.

Recommendation 7: Nevada Consortium

Presented by Lee Ann Mandarino
See Recommendation 7 attachment

Although Ms. Mandarino stated that no legislative action is necessary at this time, Senator Wiener explained that there is fiscal impact involved with state agency sponsorship, and legislative action is necessary for such. Senator Wiener also illuminated the similarities between this type of entity and the current Task Force on Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Chavez agreed that if a Consortium were to be developed, then it would need to be led by a neutral agency.

Senator Hardy recommended checking with the DHHS and Mental Health to see if they would be willing to sponsor this consortium under their umbrella, and agreed to reach out to the agency for confirmation. Senator Hardy will report back to the Task Force on this item at the next meeting.

Recommendation 8: Research Opportunities

Presented by Lee Ann Mandarino
See Recommendation 8 attachment.

Senator Wiener requested incremental information, i.e. creation of the aforementioned registry, and how each piece may break down fiscally. Senator Wiener said that perhaps the registry could tie in to Recommendation 1, and become a part of the future Alzheimer's subsite on the ADRC resource site. This could be done with little extra expense.

Senator Wiener requested an update on this item at the next meeting.

Recommendation 9: Long Term Care Funding Streams

The presenter is not available. Item will be tabled until next meeting.

Recommendation 10: Reduction of Out-Of-State Placement

This item has no designated presenter. Item will be tabled until next meeting.

Recommendations 11 and 14: Promoting Awareness and Education to Providers, and Hours of Training

Presented by Senator Joseph Hardy
See Recommendations 11 and 14 as well as 12 and 13, Executive Director of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, Doug Cooper's letter.

Denise Selleck, Executive Director for the Nevada Osteopathic Medical Association, gave an additional presentation.

Ms. Selleck was dismayed by the devastation caused by the disease of Alzheimer's, for patients as well as their families. Ms. Selleck said that her

Association provides Continuing Medical Education (CME) training hours in osteopathy, including Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Ms. Selleck described the challenges of making any particular CME a requirement, which consists of statutory changes, and therefore not flexible. Ms. Selleck instead suggested to the Task Force that the physicians be allowed to choose which subjects may be more beneficial to the patients in their chosen field. Ms. Selleck also commended the Alzheimer's Association for the resources available on their website, as she found them to be helpful to both doctors and patients.

Senator Hardy explained how it could be ineffective to mandate requirements via legislation, and reminded the Task Force of the point that Doug Cooper made in his letter regarding double credit for licensees that take CMEs in geriatrics or gerontology. Senator Hardy said this is a more productive way of attracting, rather than mandating licensees, to enroll in this type of CME.

See attachment for items 11-14; Senator Hardy's collation of information which demonstrates how Alzheimer's disease affects not only the patients and families, but every member of the communities in which those affected reside, including, but not limited to, first responders and law enforcement officers.

These items would require legislative action to create language around cooperation and collaboration relating to those affected by the disease to enable information directly related to the patient's health to be more efficiently shared. Senator Hardy would also like the CME portion of his recommendations to be looked at legislatively.

Dr. Reed commented that we need to be developing Alzheimer's-capable communities, and that this is not just a medical condition, but an everyday life experience.

Recommendation 15: Expand Respite Services

No update is available at this time. Item is tabled until next meeting. Tina Gerber-Winn mentioned that at the last meeting, it was considered that Items 1, 4, and 15 could be looked at as a whole.

Recommendation 16: Volunteers

Presented by Gini Cummingham
See Recommendation 16 attachment.

Dr. Reed encouraged collaboration with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to assist in finding and maintaining volunteers for Alzheimer's support.

Recommendation 17: Mandatory Reviews

Presented by Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair
See Recommendation 17 attachment.

Legislative action would be required for this item.

Recommendation 18: Hospital Transitional Care Programs

Presented by Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair
See Recommendation 18 attachment.

Legislative action is necessary for this item. Senator Wiener will work with Sally Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney, to improve the language.

Recommendation 19: Employee Assistance Programs

Presented by Lee Ann Mandarino
See Recommendation 19 attachment.

There were no questions or comments on this item. No legislative action is required.

Recommendation 20: Awareness Campaigns

Presented by Lee Ann Mandarino
See Recommendation 20 attachment.

Legislative action on this item would be necessary for funding. The funding would encompass printing and distribution of awareness materials. Such funding and would be nominal.

Albert Chavez commented that this item would also tie into Recommendation 1 of this package. The design of a dedicated page for Alzheimer's disease would be a valuable resource, not only for caregivers, but also for community members. He said that funding for this could be tied into the marketing plan that is about to roll out via ADRC.

Legislation would be requested for in items 1, 8, 11-14, 17, 18 and 20. Senator Hardy said that all of the items that require legislation are laudable, and he would sponsor one or more bill draft request (BDR) to address recommendations 11-14.

Senator Hardy moved that the Task Force accept the recommendations 1, 8, 17, 18, and 20, including acceptance of the grants and requests for letters, as

addressed in items 17 and 18. These recommendations will be proposed to the Legislative Committee on Health Care.

Dr. Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**
Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

The following recommendations will be discussed at the next meeting:

- Recommendation 3 Telehealth Funding Streams
- Recommendation 6 Affordability of Services
- Recommendation 9 Long Term Care Funding Streams
- Recommendation 10 Reduction of Out of State Placement

Senator Wiener would also like to review the State Plan to determine if there are any areas that should be added, revised, or deleted.

VII. Discussion and Vote on Date for Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**
Senator Valerie Wiener (Ret.), Chair

TFAD decided on September 24, at 1:30 pm for the next meeting.

VIII. 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, Nevada AARP State President, commented on an item that continues to arise when her group is working with family caregivers. She encouraged increasing and improving communication between hospitals and caregivers. She said the caregiver's name should be in the record, and that the caregiver should be notified when the patient is discharged, either to home or another place. Ms. Liveratti would like to see hospitals provide more instruction and explanation of medical tasks that are needed to be done at home, as caregivers have reported to AARP that they don't feel confident in some of those tasks.

Jacob Harmon, Regional Director of Alzheimer's Association in Reno said that he believes this to be a productive meeting. He will submit a written comment during the break about the Alzheimer's Association's partnerships with Renown Medical Center and local law enforcement agencies. Mr. Harmon offered himself as a resource to the Task Force.

IX. Adjournment
Senator Wiener adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.