



Meeting Minutes

Nevada Commission on Aging
Policy Subcommittee
(Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427A.034)

Date and Time of Meeting:
February 24, 2020
1:00pm until adjournment

1. Roll Call and Verification of Posting

Dena Schmidt called the meeting to order at 1:06pm.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Connie McMullen
Chuck Duarte
Mary Liveratti
Donna Clontz

Absent:

Barry Gold

Staff:

Dena Schmidt, ADSD Administrator
Shannon Sprout, ADSD Health Program Manager
Jennifer Richards, Elder Rights Chief
Miles Terrasas, ADSD Executive Assistant
Kirsten Coulombe, DHCFP Social Services Chief
Evette Cullen, DWSS Social Services Program Specialist
Sherri Rasmussen, DWSS Social Services Program Specialist
Adrienne Navarro, ADSD Social Services Chief

Dena provided an overview of the Policy Subcommittee.

2. Public Comment – None.

(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. Comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.)

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee (**For Possible Action**)

Dena listed the nominations for the subcommittee.

Donna Clontz
Chuck Duarte
Mary Liveratti
Barry Gold

Mary Liveratti nominated Chuck Duarte for Chair.

Chuck Duarte accepted the nomination. Mary motioned to nominate Chuck Duarte as Chair. The motion was seconded by Connie and passed unanimously.

Mr. Duarte asked for a nomination for Vice-Chair; Mary Liveratti nominated Connie McMullen.

Mary motioned to nominate Connie McMullen as Vice-Chair, Donna Clontz seconded, and passed unanimously.

4. Presentation of the Following Medicaid Policies and Options within Each Policy. Discuss and approve recommendations to the COA for possible action to support policy changes. (**For Possible Action**)

Sheri Rasmussen, DWSS Social Services Program Specialist III
Presentation on Spousal Impoverishment Provision for Married Applicants and Recipients of Home and Community-Based Services

- Spousal Income Limits
- Personal Needs Allowance
- Spousal Resources

Ms. Rasmussen provided a handout with spousal impoverishment background information about how Medicaid has protections for spouses of applicants/recipients to ensure prevention of impoverishment. Mary Liveratti stated part of its federally mandated and asked if the state has any flexibility with the Medicaid policies.

Ms. Rasmussen answered they have flexibility with certain policies; resources being one and with the state plan amended, allows the at home spouse maximum resource allowance. Mary asked if that included their home. Sherri stated their home is not a countable resource. Sherri continued, the effective date was in September of 2019 and ensured anything from September for institutional was assigned the maximum.

Mr. Duarte asked about the assignment of income to the community spouse. They discussed community spouse countable resource and the priority to change the personal needs allowance. Ms. Schmidt asked what other states personal needs allowance is. Ms. Rasmussen did not have the answer but will follow up. Discussion ensued among the subcommittee about the minimum and maximum allowance.

Dena, Chuck and Sherri discussed the following:

- Medicaid's budget initiative regarding minimum and maximum. Budget initiative sent to Medicaid with the resource. Medicaid has not addressed the question; Sherri must give Medicaid the information to evaluate the Division Welfare and Supportive Services financial impact.
- The income limit increases potential eligibility for nursing home care, potential impact on county match program and county payments. Medicaid evaluation is better to be done sooner than later.
- Resource Limit
- Court order so just a shift to no court order in the cost with no fiscal impact. Bypass legal evaluation at DAG and expedite for recipient.

5. Discussion of Outreach to Seniors for SNAP Enrollment. Discuss and Approve Recommendations to the COA of Policy Changes Needed to Increase Outreach Efforts. (For Possible Action)

Evette Cullen, DWSS Social Services Program Specialist III – Community Partner Liaison

Evette Cullen introduced herself and gave an overview of outreach services including two outreach programs. The first is traditional SNAP outreach which includes forty sites that are geared toward assisting seniors applying for benefits. She mentioned the interview demonstration project which allows flexibility with the interview process with limited interaction and is currently awaiting waiver approval from FNS. Ms. Liveratti mentioned the Commission on Aging can send a letter of support if needed. The second is targeted outreach partnerships, including thirty-six Welfare and Supportive Services Eligibility workers who are vetted to be community minded equipped with laptops, printers, and other essential items to process cases. There are more than 130 physical sites including hospitals, jails, prisons, and more community partners.

Ms. Cullen asked for suggestions for targeted outreach, specifically for the senior population. Ms. Schmidt suggested low income senior housing sites. Ms. Clontz suggested senior recreation programs at both large and small centers. Shannon Sprout stated from a program perspective they can look at language in the subawards. Ms. McMullen asked if there's outreach at the food trucks. Ms. Cullen responded due to program funding she is balancing her outreach sites.

Mr. Duarte asked about the benefit amount being eligible for the Double Bucks program. Ms. Cullen will follow up. Discussion followed of the snap benefit amount and administrative changes to SNAP and if Department of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) has done an evaluation on the proposed changes. Ms. Rasmussen responded there should be no impact.

6. Approve Policy Discussion Items for Next Meeting (For Possible Action)

Senator Chris Brooks reminded the Subcommittee that bill drafts are available for needed changes.

Policy discussion items for next meeting as follows:

- Update on the implementation of the Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)
- Overview of respite services including respite services, dementia services, gap in services and state comparison.
- AB122 Update: Require the Department of Health and Human Services to seek a feasibility study on a single license for Adult Day Care, respite services, and assisted living facilities in rural Nevada.
- Comprehensive Presentation on Homemaker Services.
- Update on Dual-eligible Special Needs Plans (D-SNP)
- MCO RFP option to eliminate the carve out for long term Nursing Facility placements.
- Food Rescue Bill – What the food rescue options are specific to seniors. Getting food programs into low income housing and senior facilities.
- CPT Code 99483 Cognitive Assessment – Discuss Medicaid coverage for the for the comprehensive evaluations.

7. Next Meeting Date – May 18th, 2020

8. Public Comment – No public comment.

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9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned.