



Meeting Minutes

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

Date and Time of Meeting:
March 4th, 2021
10:00am until adjournment

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Jeff Klein called the meeting to order at 10:33am

Subcommittee Members Present:

Jeff Klein
Mary Liveratti
Diane Ross
Barry Gold
Larry Weiss

Subcommittee Members Absent:

None

Staff:

Miles Terrasas, Executive Assistant, ADSD
Melanie Gross, Administrative Assistant III, ADSD
Jennifer Richards, Chief Elder and Disability Rights Attorney

Presenters:

None

2. 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. 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.)

- Jeff Klein opens public comment. Mr. Klein thanks Melanie for sending out the daily BDR updates to all member and are grateful for assistance.
- Mary Liveratti announces that Alzheimer's Advocacy Day is Tuesday March 9th, 2021 and are opening at 10:30am to around 12: 30pm. The agenda will be reviewing issues and working with the team who will be meeting directly with Legislators. Mary adds that tomorrow, March 5th there will be a meeting about 'know before you go' from 11:30am to 1:00pm for anyone who would like to attend and advocate. These events are virtual.

- Diane Ross notes that she has been Advocating in the Early Intervention arena. This group has been meeting with Legislators and these meetings have been going well – the Legislators have been open to what this group has to say and at each meeting and the virtual meetings have been great. The virtual platform is in some ways better than waiting in person outside of their doors. Mary Liveratti asks Diane on some clarification on how the meetings with Legislators were set up. Diane replies that the Early Intervention Program and more specifically the Community Providers have an alliance formed. Sometimes the alliance/ Mike Wilden have set it up and other times the Legislative Assistants have set up the Zoom meetings. Mary clarifies that she is asking because in a meeting the week prior to this she herself had to arrange the Zoom meeting with her Legislator which was odd. Did not anticipate that as a constituent she would have to set up the meeting. Barry Gold notes that he sees that each legislator handles arrangements for meetings differently.
- Jeff Klein states that he emailed all members what the House COVID-19 package looks like. He said we should all have an email outlining this information. He notes it has taken up by the Senate and has encouraged people in the Aging Network to support the House package including Senator Cortez-Masto and Senator Rosen. We will all have to wait and see how things go. He notes there is some heat on this pertaining to the expiration of benefits. Jeff reviews what he has heard about the status of this package within the Senate side of the COVID Bill before heading to the White House.
- Barry Gold mentions that there is a BDR that deals with way to achieve climate change. One of the things that is included in that is ‘electrification’. Electrification is about converting all natural gas to electricity. The end result of this switch would be an eventual ban on natural gas. Barry is not sure how quickly this it would take to get this implemented. This is a climate strategy to remove greenhouse gasses. This is controversial because AARP is getting involved in this regarding cost and affordability. It is much cheaper to heat one’s home with natural gas than electricity. There has been a coalition been formed around this issue. AARP is involved to make sure that the older adult community is represented. Forcing people to remove their natural gas water heater out of their home and replacing it with electric heating sources is not doable or affordable for many. Barry is not sure if this fits in a category that this group wants to look at. AARP is fuel neutral on the matter. Barry states that he wanted to mention this so we can watch it as it is an issue that is gaining steam. Marry adds that since it is public comment we cannot get into discussion about it but we can talk about it in the BDR discussion later in the agenda. Mary Liveratti notes that this may be a topic that this group wants to track.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 29, 2021 meeting

Barry Gold moves to accept minutes. Larry Weiss seconds. No oppositions. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Review and approval of the aging vernacular recommendation to the Commission on Aging ([Attachment A](#))

Jeff Klein notes that this issues has been noted on the last two meetings. Diane Ross was kind enough to volunteer to dig into this issues for the subcommittee. Forming an approach to bring a recommendation to the Commission on Aging from a Legislative perspective. To review future regulatory language and how we would like to address this issue as a subcommittee.

Diane Ross reviews handout and overview of findings. What is the correct term to call someone who is older? Diane notes that studies out of the Frameworks Institute have found that people want to be called Older Adults. She notices that there lots of language used that reflects Older Adults. The need to change ‘Seniors’ to ‘Older Adults’. Diane notes that as we all speak to Legislator and Media that we all use the terminology and frame our worlds to ‘Older Adults’ moving forward. If we can embrace the wording we can help show that we are all in this together and will have more success in the transition of wording. Mary Liveratti asks if there is any information on using the word Elder, Elderly or Elder Issues? Diane replies that the terminology that encompasses everyone

is Older Adult. Diane wants to make sure that as we lobby and share our stories that we share the complete stories. The Frameworks Institute notes that often times we do not tell the whole story and it can project blame on oneself for aging a certain way. We want to make sure that we all give examples of successful older adults and help paint the picture of that all older adults are not decrepit, disabled, etc. Seeing older adults as hopeless and disabled is a thing of the past and using Older Adult helps erase that imagery.

Barry Gold strongly agrees. He states that some of the strategies to implement this may be difficult. Barry thinks that the general public is going to have a tough time understanding some of the points on the handout. He adds that our country is divided on so many issues and aging and ageism is very engrained. This topic is not included in many of the current discussions but it should be. For the advocates this has become very upsetting. Barry states that it is important for groups like this committee to always consider this. This is a long road to Americans all on the same page.

Diane Ross notes that the Frameworks Institutes has a series of Webinars available on how to change minds. Diane will send the link to Melanie Gross to be sent out to the committee members if they are interested. Marry Liveratti requests link. Jeff Klein narrows this ask for this committee. Jeff Klein asks the subcommittee if they would be interested in setting up a virtual class to offer this information to a variety of this groups audiences. This would take place after the current Legislative Session has ended. This way we can share this and show how as Legislation is written in the future that the writers and constituents can have a better understanding of this issues and the importance of using Older Adult. Mary Liveratti notes there is a bill moving through the current session that is updating inappropriate/ derogatory language to current language in the Nevada State Constitution. Diane Ross and Mary Liveratti add that hosting an educational event will be good for the Commission as well as groups they work with.

Jeff Klein suggest that we report this discussion up to the Commission on Aging and ask for it to be an agenda item on the next meeting. We can then present the idea of an educational event as well as recommendations on language. Larry notes that it would be an educational session on Ageism as a whole and not just language. If the Commission on Aging approves of this idea, this subcommittee can begin working on additional details for this event at the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting.

Barry Gold clarifies that the AJR 1 regarding the vernacular updates to the Nevada Constitution. Barry notes that the updated language is only talking about public institutions and changing the names of these institutions. Barry adds that the bill is only two paragraphs and is sponsored by Assemblywoman Titus. Mary Liveratti asks if Barry is referring to AJR 1 that speak on amending the Nevada constitution. Barry Gold confirms. Jeff Klein notes that this may be worthwhile to let her know that this subcommittee is interested in her bill and bring the issues of Ageism and vernacular to her attention.

Barry Gold makes a motion that Jeff Klein contacts Assemblywoman Titus to bring this to her attention and see what she thinks. Mary Liveratti seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Virtual Senior Lobby Day Discussion

Barry Gold updates the subcommittee on details of the Virtual Senior Lobby Day. Barry explains that he has been having discussions with Dena Schmidt and Miles Terrasas about planning this event. Barry notes that there has been a change in format and hosting this for only one day, an hour and a half over the lunch hour when most Legislators will be available. Decided on the dates March 30th or 31st so that it takes place before the first house passage. Barry has sent out emails to House majority and minority leaders and invited them to speak at the event. He polled the Legislators on which of the two days works best for both. Barry Gold reviews the agenda ideas and who he has reached out to speak on the issues at the Senior Day. Each speaker to only have a time slot of 10-15 minutes each at the event. Barry goes over who he thinks should speak on each issue and well as which Legislators he would like to attend and speak on – Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), Sick leave benefit and Order of protection issues. Barry Gold confirmed with Dena Schmidt that she will send out invitations to the Virtual Senior Day to her entire network. Barry confirms that the AARP Zoom meeting can hold up to 500 people. Barry discusses developing a flyer with Zoom link and registration link. Barry Gold shares screen and reviews the Virtual Senior Day Flyer with the subcommittee and goes over proposed modifications to draft flyer. Barry proposes that we create an agenda so other Legislators know when the important topics are being discussed. He notes that Floor Sessions are usually over by 12:30pm and this allows a time slot for attendance.

Jeff Klein asks if the polling feature is available through Zoom. Barry replies that he is not sure but the AARP State President is a techy guy and Barry will ask him to be available. Jeff Klein then states that the poll feature is great for the Legislators to see. Mary Liveratti is willing to assist with the chat feature for the virtual Senior Day. Barry Gold asks the members to send the invitations to all personal contacts. Also, he asks each member to email contact information for groups with specific contacts listed and make sure the invitation list is widespread. Melanie Gross will send the list out all members and each will need to reply. Jeff Klein adds that it is okay to have multiple people sending this information out to the same contact. Jeff Klein commits to sending this out to his Engaging with Aging list as well as Senior Services.

Barry Gold also notes that we will need a one page informational pager on all three issues: HCBS, Sick leave benefit and Order of protection issues. In addition, each issue will need a small paragraph to be used in a one page handout for quick reference 'at a glance' for the Legislators and all who join in on Senior Issues Day. Legislators want something short and sweet. Barry states that if we need it, that the Commission on Aging could add advocacy language. Jeff Klein adds that in the last legislative session that Homa Woodrum had put together a handout for older adult issues in Nevada. This handout could be used as a reference for the new information. Diane Ross, Jeff Klein, and Mary Liveratti agreed to search for this and email it out to the group. Barry Gold adds that this is a great point and reviews the layout of this packet as: Cover page, Agenda, Handout with summaries of each three issues and an additional in-depth one page on each three Legislative topics. Barry's final suggestion is being careful on the title and make sure it says Senior Issues Day. Larry Weiss asks if it should be called Older Adult Issues Day? Barry Gold suggests that it is kept the same for this year and moving

forward can reevaluate. Diane Ross adds that this change does need to start somewhere. Barry Gold asks that if any members have suggestions on polling please send them individualized to Barry Gold AARP. Barry Gold asks for a volunteer to help put together on the packet of information. Mary Liveratti offers to help put the packet together and will find the Senior Issues Packet version used in 2019 to use as an example.

Barry Gold motions that we all accept the changes in format plus suggested dates and times as discussed, the decisions on who is sending out invitations, the finalized three topics, development of one page informational document on each of the three issues with ADSD and Barry Gold, the completed packet with assist from Mary Liveratti, ADSD and Jeff Klein. Mary Liveratti seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Further discussion on an agenda and a Legislator invite list is tabled until we have a set day and time.

6. 2021 Legislative Session Report on Senior Issues

Mary Liveratti explains that she is working off of the Aging and Disability BDR-Bill list that Melanie Gross has been sending out as it is updated on a daily basis. Mary reviewed all bills on this list and came up of a list of relevant bills and reviews them one by one with the Subcommittee. These are being shared with the group to decide on if the Subcommittee would like to continue to track them only, support them and track them or disregard. Barry Gold mentions that we should ask the Commission on Aging for the permission to allow the Legislative Subcommittee to choose which of these bills to engage in. Jeff Klein agrees. Mary Liveratti brings up that we need to be clear on what the subcommittee would like to track, support, and not track. She adds that anytime if we change our minds we can always ask Aging and Disability Services for an update as they are already tracking all of these bills. Mary Liveratti and Melanie Gross to work on a spreadsheet that outline the stance of the Subcommittee on the discussed legislation. Jeff Klein is interested to see if SB19 effects the cost for background check and states his clear opposition and sensitivity to increasing rates.

Committee decided upon the below Legislation:

Support: AB35, AB76, AB142, AB190, AB216, SB5

Track: AB121, AB174, AB178, AB180, AB181, AJR1, SB19, SB40, SB56, SB70

Not Track: AB172, AB177, SB90, SB93, SB105, SB123

Request more Information: AB141, SB93, SB70

Mary Liveratti will put this list together. Jeff Klein thinks that this list should be provided to the Commission on Aging to show what the Legislative Subcommittee is up to. Mary Liveratti is going to share this list with the Subcommittee Members for review and send single email back. Melanie Gross and Mary Liveratti to create spreadsheet to send up to the Commission on Aging. The bills this Subcommittee have chosen to support will need to be shared with the COA and receive their approval.

7. Review of 2019 and 2021 Legislative Session

Barry Gold reviews that the Subcommittee already decided that we would like to support AB35 and do not need to review it again.

Barry believes that the Commission on Aging is already going to approve BDR2 because it is part of the Commission on Aging. BDR2 is from Assemblywoman Spiegel and provides for the establishment of a retirement savings program for private sector employees. Barry no longer would like to speak about BDR2 with the subcommittee.

Barry Gold addresses BDR31 (now SB200) by Senator Harris. This BDR speaks on retirement security. Mr. Gold elaborates that this will allow people to save for retirement through their employer. Barry notes that he is not sure that this is the jurisdiction of the Commission on Aging to support. BDR31 helps ensure that retirees have means instead of needs. Barry asks that BDR31 be tracked moving forward.

Barry Gold makes a motion that BDR 31 be included in list of Legislation that the Legislative Subcommittee is tracking. Mary Liveratti and Larry Weiss second by nodding in agreeance. Jeff Klein again notes that all members consent resulting in unanimous consent of the subcommittee to track BDR31. The motion passes unanimously.

8. Elders Count Update

Jeff Klein begins this agenda item complimenting Larry Wiess on his presentation at Engaging with Aging. All resources shared at the Engaging with Aging event can be found on the website and are available for all moving forward – including the Elders Report video.

Larry Weiss notes that Aging and Disability specifically Dena Schmidt have agreed to do the Elders Count every two years. Larry notes that this report in printed form has been shared with all of the Legislators. Larry would like to see this report also start to be shared with County Commissioners and City Council staff. Having more printed copies available will help with distribution. Elders count is not done in all states but Kids count is completed in all. Jeff Klein adds that in the long term there is an argument to be made that this is encouraged federally to be completed by all states – possibly through the Older Americans Act appropriation. Larry notes that this information is really appreciated by Legislators and useful to take back to their own boards and commissions to be able to push various types of programs. Jeff Klein would like to speak with ASA about getting a copy of Elders Count and Public Policy that effects our Older Adults American population.

Barry Gold asks if we think there is a possibility to return to the White House Conference on Aging? Jeff Klein adds that he thinks that would all depend on who the Secretary for Aging is. Mary Liveratti added that in the 90s there were mini White House Conferences on Aging regionally and focusing on specific issues. Mary adds that having some topic specific regional discussions would be nice. Jeff Klein added that similar events were done on the disability side for a while. Mary Liveratti noted that a lot of good things came out of these early Conferences and important policy was created. Barry Gold adds that it is possible to host events virtually these days.

9. Review, discuss, and approve tentative agenda for the next meeting.

- Follow up on Older Adult Vernacular from Diane Ross

- Feedback/ Update on Virtual Senior Lobby Day post-event from Barry Gold
- Legislative Tracking update from Mary Liveratti

10. Next Meeting Date

April 2021 date. Jeff Klein would like the next meeting to be past the Virtual Senior Day and have a better idea on some Legislation. Jeff Klein and Barry Gold suggest we look for a date after the First House Passage on April 21st, 2021. This allows this Subcommittee to share bills with COA that we feel should be supported and COA can send a letter to Legislators.

All decided for Melanie Gross to send out a date and time poll for end of April.

11. **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. 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.)

- Barry Gold notes that AB76 is supported by AARP as they say that the Veterans Day Care is able to be fully self-funded by grants and will not need state funds. He states that is a great idea and this will eliminate wait lists.
- Jeff Klein speaks on a movie that won some Golden Globe attention called I Care A Lot. Jeff adds that it is on Netflix and should all watch it. This movie is about Guardianship and Long Term Care. Barry Gold notes that Legislation passed in Nevada has eliminated this issue in our state and there are only two unlicensed private paid guardians in Nevada when there used to be over 200.

12. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 12:42pm. Larry Weiss moves to adjourn. Mary Liveratti seconds. The motion passed unanimously.