

Steve Sisolak  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

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## MEETING MINUTES

of the Nevada Commission on Aging

The Commission held a public meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 1:00PM at the following location: Virtual

### 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Jeffrey Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

#### Members Present:

Chair Jeffrey Duncan delegated by Dena Schmidt  
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas  
Chris Vito  
Wendy Simons  
Dena Schmidt arrived later in the meeting.

#### Members Absent:

Dorothy Edwards

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### 3. Approval of the May 17, 2022 and July 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Wendy Simons moved to approve the minutes. Chris Vito seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) updates related to:

#### A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid spending plan

Kirsten Coulombe, Social Services Chief with Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy discussed updates relating to home and community based services under the ARPA including the supplemental payments for home care workers that provide personal care services, supportive living arrangements and the 15% supplemental payment for providers such as home health care agencies, Medicaid providers for Personal Care Services (PCS), Adult Daycare, Adult Day Healthcare, and PCS in the rural with the rural rate differential. Ms. Coulombe also updated the group on the expansion of home delivered meals to clients on the Frail Elderly (FE) Waiver that went into effect July 2022, reporting of the Home Delivered Meals utilization of the FE Waiver clients at future Commission meetings, ARPA funds used for an assessment for individuals on the Physically Disabled (PD) Waiver that have environmental adaptations, Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vendor to evaluate the DHCFP methodology for rates, and lastly the spending plan including the study on the development of value based payment methodology for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and how to improve care for the aged, blind and disabled.

Commission members and Ms. Coulombe discussed the expiration of funding for the expansion of home delivered meals, the legislative approved slots for Waiver recipients, waitlist for home delivered meals along with intermediary services, and ARPA funds serving as an opportunity to pilot new programs and expand services which can help justify future budget initiatives to secure sustainable funding.

Mr. Gold discussed concerns relating to the pilot of home delivered meals and recipients not receiving meals after funding ends. The ADSD plans on collaborating with the DHCFP to work on a contingency plan.

### **B. Agency Budget**

Due to the quiet period of the Governor's budget process, this item could not be discussed.

## **5. Update on the COVID-19 Vaccination Response**

Katherine Strain provided updates relating to the [six week campaign](#) the Biden Administration announced urging Americans to get their updated vaccines and the campaign focused on reaching seniors and communities impacted most by COVID-19 by making the vaccination more convenient and increasing awareness through paid media with over 70,000 location offering the updated COVID-19 vaccine series. She also provided updates relating to the additional funding for community health centers and community based care organizations to increase the pace of vaccinations. She explained the COVID-19 dashboard available for vaccine coverage. A notice was sent out to all care facilities in the database sharing information regarding the availability of strike team program to show up at their location. The program has expanded from only COVID-19 to all vaccine access program. The Immunization Program receives regular updates from the pharmacy partners regarding who they have made contact with, who are requesting strike teams, and through local health authorities, what repeat facilities have them back to request additional vaccines or second vaccines or booster doses. Facilities can reach out with questions via email at [NVCare@health.nv.gov](mailto:NVCare@health.nv.gov).

Barry Gold provided public comment regarding his concerns with Nevada being last in up to date vaccination and the need to expand COVID booster shots and vaccinations to vulnerable adults in nursing homes.

The Commission members discussed their experiences with vaccination resistance and the need for continuous education, support, communication and validation of the significance of vaccinations.

## **6. Infection Control Requirements for Providers. Approve Possible Recommendations by the Commission Members.**

Jennifer Connolly, Health Program Specialist, with the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance provided updates relating to the CDC guidelines affecting healthcare facilities and the guidelines for following Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) directives. Ms. Connolly stated their Bureau handles all facility level types that are licensed by the state. Contact Jennifer Connolly by phone at 775-351-4269 and/or by email at [jconnolly@health.nv.gov](mailto:jconnolly@health.nv.gov).

## **7. Nevada HAND Presentation**

Robert Colbert and Waldon Swenson presented on [Nevada Hand Affordable Assisted Living](#). The Commission discussed logistics of operations and sustainability of funding. The Commission also discussed adding an agenda item at the next meeting to review and approve a letter of support from the Commission that supports the Nevada HAND Assisted Living communities.

## **8. COA Legislative & Policy Subcommittee. Discussion and Approval of Possible Recommendations**

Chuck Duarte, Chair, COA Legislative & Policy Subcommittee provided his [report](#) regarding the previous subcommittee meeting. Assemblywoman Claire Thomas expressed her support for the Bill Draft Request

(BDR) that would support the family members caring for a loved one with dementia. The Commission members discussed having a list of BDR's and/or legislation to support at the next Commission meeting.

**9. Administrator's Report – Discussion and approval of possible recommendations by commission members related to:**

- A. Reorganization – Office of Community Living**
- B. ADSD staff changes**
- C. American Rescue Plan Act Funding**
- D. Waiver Cost Comparison**

Mr. Duncan explained the restructuring of the Planning, Advocacy and Community Services Unit and the Community Based Care Unit and rebranding it to the Office of Community Living based off the functions of each unit. Staff changes were announced including Ellen Crecelius appointed as the new Deputy Administrator over administrative services and Marie Coe as the new State Long Term Care Ombudsman.

Cheyenne Pasquale provided an overview of 16 projects approved at the 2022 October Interim Finance Committee meeting and stated they are awaiting Notice of Awards from the Governor's Office.

Discussion ensued regarding family caregiver case management systems that provide case managers with updates on the status of the client, the Medicaid recipient of the case, and training and care needs.

Mr. Vito moved to recommend the ADSD looking at improved communication technology for the case manager, caregiver and the family. Ms. Simons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**10. PROGRAM UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**A. Adult Protective Services Update and Caseload Information**

Tammy Sever, Social Services Chief, Adult Protective Services, ADSD reported [data](#) for opened cases, the 67% staffing vacancy rate, the testing of the online reporting tool, and their involvement and support regarding the Adult Protection Orders and Elder Fatality Review Team legislation.

**B. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Caseload & Waitlist**

Crystal Wren, Social Services Chief, Community Based Care, ADSD reviewed caseload [data](#), waitlist numbers and explained the methodology of the data.

**C. Ombudsman Report**

Marie Coe, Manager, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, ADSD reported data for opened cases, staffing vacancy rate of 37%, complaints relating to residential facilities for groups, evictions, cost of providing care, and caregiver shortages which impacts some of the evictions to residents. She explained the presentations they presented to the Silver Haired Forum including the Personal Needs Allowance increase, Protection Orders, and their support for moving the legislation forward. Lastly, she noted facility closures in Las Vegas and Reno. The Commission members commended Ms. Coe for visiting facilities monthly versus quarterly.

**11. APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Vito moved to approve, the letter of support for the Nevada HAND, budget update if possible, and an update on BDR's. Ms. Simons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**12. NEXT TENTATIVE MEETING DATE – January 2023**

**13. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment.**

**14. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 4:11PM.**