



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



Minutes

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD)

Date and Time of Meeting: November 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.

This meeting is open to the public and will be held at the following location:
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Aging and Disability Services Division
3416 Goni Road Suite D-132, Carson City, NV 89706

And via videoconference at:

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Meeting Materials Available: [Home \(nv.gov\)](#)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- Members: Stacy Alaribe, Pam Berek, Charlene Frost, Dian Thorkildson, Trina Bourke (for Mechelle Merrill)
- Guests: Cindi Swanson, Adrienne Navarro, Angelina Tuenge, Carlos Ramirez Gomez, Cheryl Dinnell, Cheyenne Pasquale, Dawn Lyons, Ilia Sandez, Jodi Tyson, Lauren Crutcher, Lisa Bonie, Lisa Segler, Pam Phillips, Sheena Skelton, Steven Cohen, Jack Mayes, John Rosenlund, Lance Ledet, Tina Dortch, Dora Martinez, Sandra Cosgrove
- Cart: Becky Aucker
- Staff: Lorraine Belt-Dolan, Wendy Thornley

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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board, but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

- None

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2021 **(For Possible Action)**

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- Char made the motion to approve, Pam Berek seconded, motion passed with Diane

Thorkildson abstaining as she was absent from the meeting.

4. Nominations and Election of Chair **(For Possible Action)**

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- Char made the nomination for Dian Thorkildson to remain chair, Pam Berek seconded, and the vote passed Dian Thorkildson will remain chair for another year.

5. Update and Discussion Regarding ADSD Olmstead Plan and Survey

Nikki Haag, Public Information Officer, ADSD

Cheyenne Pasquale, Chief I, Planning, ADSD

- Cheyenne Pasquale covered this on Nikki's behalf, we are making efforts to develop a new Olmstead plan as a result there will be a survey sent out to all board and commission members in December.
- The survey will be used along with older data we have to set the direction for the Olmstead planning process.
- Our mission is to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can achieve optimal quality of life in the community of their choice and ADSD will be responsible for promoting its implementation.
- Development of the plan will most likely take 6 to 12 months.
- One of the survey questions asks about interest in participating in the committee that will be formed.

6. Presentation, Discussion and Make Possible Recommendations Regarding Three Square's strategic initiative related to serving people with disabilities who are also affected by food insecurity. **(For Possible Action)**

Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives

Lisa Segler, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Sheena Skelton, Registered Dietician

- The team from Three Square was there to do a small focus group as this commission are experts in services for those with disabilities and their families.
- Many families with disabilities are not suited to the traditional model of a food bank and they are looking at ways to better serve those families.
- People who are food insecure are never just food insecure and it's important to get them registered for other wraparound services.
- 35.2 million people in the U.S. including 10 million children, struggle with food insecurity.
- For most the average is seven months of food insecurity but for others with low wages, high cost of housing and chronic health conditions that food insecurity can be consistent.
- According to a national survey a person with a disability is twice as likely to be considered food insecure and four times as likely to experience hunger.
- Three Squares is the food bank in Southern NV and the counterpart in Northern NV is Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The two work very closely together and share best practices and areas of innovation.
- One story was relayed of a client who while food is brought to him, he is not capable of cooking or making the food or making good food choices for himself.
- A more tailored meals approach may need to be taken, there is a program which is the Medicaid physical disability waiver program that uses Medicaid funding to send prepared meals to people's homes. There may be gaps in who is qualified and where the actual need is.
- There is awareness but not talk about families having to turn down better paying job opportunities due to needing more flexibility to care for a child with special health needs and that can lead to food insecurity and holes in the safety net of services.

- There is a need for help with transportation issues that lead to food insecurity.
- One member brought up that the food they see kids receiving through say the school is mostly processed food. The reasoning behind that is many are considered homeless, and they want to provide food that can be easily eaten in the car or desert without a kitchen to prepare it.
- A food bank is a nonprofit organization that distributes food to those in need who have difficulty purchasing enough to avoid hunger.
- The food banks in NV are hubs who work with 180 agencies in the South and 150 agencies in the North to get the food to the people in need.
- You can use the website to find the list of all the emergency food distribution sites, by zip code or through a map because the closest food site might be in a different zip code. They list the dates and times of those distributions and a telephone number to call if you have questions. There is also a call center, and that number is listed, and they can help find the closest food distribution center.
- At the call center they can also provide SNAP application assistance.
- There is also a home delivered grocery program for those over 60 years old called Golden groceries program they can help seniors apply for.
- Another obstacle to getting to the food pantry is the lack of Saturday or evening hours.
- It was suggested that the food bank look at partnering with The Collaboration Center that is pulling together a lot of disability providers in one location.
- Pam Berek has a questionnaire on a website bridgelinkNV.org where a question about food assistance could be added and the people could be directed to the food bank. This questionnaire right now only applies to Northern NV.
- A question was brought up about partnering with RTC and they are running a micro transit program that could open things up for people who qualify on a broader basis than the traditional paratransit. During the pandemic the RTC used paratransit busses and employees to help deliver home delivered meals to seniors.
- SNAP benefits can go a long way towards helping people with food insecurity and reoccurring medical expenses could be waived as income.
- Some of the barriers to SNAP are that it could count as income for other programs and difficulty filling out the application and the time it takes at the office for appointments.
- Many SNAP interviews can now be done over the phone and the food bank can do the application and interview for a disabled person.

7. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding the Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation 700-Hour Program and How CSPD Can Support and Promote the Program. **(For Possible Action)**

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- In the August meeting it was discussed about the commission helping within their individual capacities with social media and getting awareness around the program.
- In 2021, there have been a total of 31 hires, and 15 of those have been released and 7 that have completed their 700 hours and are finishing probation to become permanent employees.
- Half the people were let go before their 700 hours and that makes the program seem unsuccessful it would be interesting to know what strategy Voc Rehab is using to improve outcomes.
- What kinds of disabilities are successful in hiring and what causes them to be let go?
- In Trina's experience the clients most successful where usually ones that had more physical limitation, the ones with developmental disabilities seemed to prefer part time employment which is not offered often by the state.
- As to releases it could be a variety of things such as not a good fit, or health issues.
- A request was made to have more information surrounding those questions for next meeting.

8. Discussion and Make Recommendations Regarding Pending and Possible New Applicants to Fill Current Commission Vacancies **(For Possible Action)**.

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- We had 3 perspective members to introduce and vote on.
- Pam Phillips is from Northern NV and has identical twins both with disabilities. She believes that Mental illness as a disability is not addressed enough when getting services, many times they are denied because Mental illness is not recognized as a disability in Northern Nevada.
- Ilia Sandez is from Southern NV and has a mental disability as well as friends and family members who are disabled.
- Cindy Swanson is from Southern NV; she is blind and has a son with downs syndrome. She wants to help by being a part of this.
- Pam Berek made a motion to endorse Pam Phillips, Ilia Sandez, and Cindy Swanson for positions on the CSPD. Char seconded and the motion carried.

9. Discussion and Make Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at the Next Meeting **(For Possible Action)**

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- Make Olmstead update a standing agenda item
- Voc rehab 700 hours
- Invite the division of welfare to come talk about ways to expedite eligibility processes for people with disabilities
- Statewide programs that have dissolved and where the funding has gone, looking at the new service providers.
- Presentation by Nevada Center for excellence in disabilities about funding and services
- Erik Jimenez on Able accounts and tots grant program
- RTC on transportation
- Understand Olmstead better by understanding the independent living model/vs the medical model

10. Confirm Date for Future Meeting

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

- The next meeting date is scheduled for February 10, 2022, at 9:00 am.

11. Public Comment (May Include General Announcements by Commissioners) (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. Public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson. Members of the public may comment on matters not appearing on this agenda or may offer comment on specific agenda items. Comments may be discussed by the Board, but no action may be taken. The matter may be placed on a future agenda for action)

- Cindy would like to see legislative action that would require somebody be trained in public benefits to teach parents about it, so they make the right decision along with their children.
- Dora would like to see on a future agenda someone from SLS to talk about accessible voting for people with disabilities and the new electronic absentee system for elections.
- The tots grant program went live this week but has already closed the application process due to the number of applications already received.

12. Adjournment at 10:57 am

Diane Thorkildson, Chair

NOTE: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/ or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based upon viewpoint.

Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the Commission administrative support with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

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