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Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION
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Dena
Schmidt,
Administrator

Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD)

MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:00 am

Location of Meeting: [Zoom.US](https://zoom.us)

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call:**

- **Members:** Cindy Swanson, Ilia Sandez, Renee Portnell, Lori Lutu
- **Guests and Staff:** Jone't Young, Laura F., Autumn Blattman, Carole Hanley, Esther Y., Samantha D'Ambrosio-Garcia
- **Captioner:** Becky

2. **Public Comment:**

- Public comment was invited with a three minute time limit per individual. Individuals wishing to provide public comment were instructed to state their name for the record and, if desired, submit written comments to the secretary.
- Public comment was open via phone or the Zoom raise-hand feature.
- No public comment was provided at this time.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of Minutes of the July 29, 2024, meeting.

- Motion made by Ilia Sandez to approve the minutes from the July 29, 2024 meeting.
- Renee Portnell seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously with no objections.

4. **For Information and Discussion:**

- Carole Hanley provided an overview of the process to access and use the LISTSERV located on the Council Commission's page of the ADSD website. The process includes subscribing, updating contact information, and unsubscribing. The LISTSERV allows users to receive updates via email.

- Carole Hanley explained that the application for subscribing to the LISTSERV can be accessed by navigating to the right-hand column of the ADSD website where it says "Become a Board Member." A link to the LISTSERV is available, and users must fill out the application form to subscribe.
- Cindy Swanson raised a concern about the accessibility of these directions for blind users. Carole Hanley responded that they try their best to ensure all information is accessible. However, they acknowledged that they can only control certain aspects and encouraged anyone experiencing accessibility issues to report them.

5. **For Presentation and Discussion: Overview of the Community Advocate roles (Adults Rights Specialists) - Office for Consumer Health Assistance (OCHA)**

- Jone't Young provided an overview of the mission and responsibilities of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance (OCHA), focusing on community advocacy for older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- OCHA provides guidance, advocacy, and resource navigation to support well-being and independence within the community. They help connect consumers to available programs and services, attend outreach events, and provide emergent financial support to eligible individuals.
- Assist with insurance appeals, billing issues, workers' compensation, and health plan protections.
- Offer support with pre-service and post-service denials, as well as negotiations for discounts and payment plans.
- Provide education about workers' compensation processes and health insurance rights and responsibilities.
- Focus on older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide advocacy, guidance, and referrals for services such as housing, transportation, food assistance, and more.
- Offer emergent financial assistance to eligible consumers and support with utility shutoff notices, late rent, and food insecurity.
- Ensure all referrals to services are attempted before OCHA steps in as a last resort.
- Consumers must be over 60 years old, not residing in long-term care facilities or hospitals, and must have sustainable income.
- OCHA provides emergency financial assistance for needs such as utility bills, rent, and food, but only as a last resort.
- Referrals are accepted through intake units, which can be reached by phone or email. Intake staff then contacts the consumer within three business days to begin the process.
- OCHA opened 1,005 cases and generated approximately \$893,000 in savings for Nevada consumers.

6. **Next Meeting Dates and Agenda Items:**

- May 08, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- August 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- November 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.
- Carole Hanley confirmed that if members have agenda items for future meetings, they can email them to her, Wendy, or any other appropriate person.

- Cindy Swanson asked about the status of the Commission and inquired whether Samantha could provide an explanation regarding rumors of the Commission merging with another entity. Cindy was concerned that discussing this could potentially violate open meetings laws.
- Carole Hanley advised that since the issue wasn't listed on the agenda, the matter could be addressed in the public comment section, and Samantha could briefly respond there. The full discussion on SB78 would be included in the next meeting.
- Carole Hanley reiterated the public comment guidelines, where individuals should dial in to provide comments and keep them limited to three minutes.
- Public comment period was opened, and Samantha was expected to address Cindy's question about the status of the Commission during this time.

7. **Public Comment:**

- Samantha reassured that CSPD membership is actively being worked on, with two pending applications waiting for approval from the Director's office.
- Efforts are underway to recruit and retain members through ADSD's social media and other resources.
- Regarding SB78, Samantha confirmed that it is still in its early stages, described as a "skeleton bill," and an amendment has been submitted to address concerns.
- The bill's full implementation, if it proceeds, would likely take over a year.
- Despite uncertainties, Samantha emphasized the continued importance of CSPD's work and encouraged members to remain focused on their mission while waiting for concrete updates on the legislation.
- Cindy mentioned that her term as chair was agreed to be for six months, which would conclude mid-year. She encouraged other members to seriously consider taking over the chairmanship.

8. **Adjournment:**

- Renee Portnell motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ilia Sandez.
- The motion was approved unanimously with no objections.
- Meeting Adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Offices at 1550 East College Parkway, Carson City, NV. 89706. 7150 Pollock Drive, Las Vegas, NV. 89119, and 10375 Professional Circle, Reno, NV. 89521. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at www.adsd.nv.gov and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>