



Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition (NLRCC)

MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, July 17, 2023
10:00AM

Place of Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

1. **Roll Call, Opening Statement:**

- Members: Allie Blum, Cherrise Brown, Cory Lutz, Dr. Deborah Howell, Deidre Hillyard-Manley, Justin Hansen, Kathleen Doyle (phone), Rommel Timbal, Sharifa Wahab, Maria (Ria) Fraley
- Staff/ Guest: Cheryl Dinnell, Nikki Haag, Cheyenne Pasquale, Carole Hanley, Franco Riley, Barbara Westcott (phone), Jessica Adams, Vickey Gunderson

2. **Public Comment:**

- Cheryl Dinnell acknowledged Cherrise Brown and Allie Blum's birthdays.
- Dementia Friendly in Washoe county is starting activities up again. Contact Cheryl Dinnell for contact information cdinnell.contractor@adsd.nv.gov.

3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of NLRCC May 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes:

- Allie Blum motioned to approve the minutes.
- Rommel Timbal second the motion
- All approved.

4. **Presentation and Discussion:** Informal Respite Options at JustinHope:

- Tabled until September's meeting.

5. **Presentation and Discussion:** Home and Community Base Services (HCBS) Waivers Proposed Changes:

- Home and Community Base Services waivers are the bulk of the services that the Regional Centers funds.
- All services are given through community partners that are certified by the Regional Center Quality Assurance staff.
- The Intellectual Disability waiver (ID) applications are for five-year terms.
- The current waiver expires on September 20, 2023
- The current waiver has 11 services, with the Supported Living Services program and the Jobs and Day Training being the two main programs.
- Many services fall under the Supported Living Home program. Subject to CMS approval, changes were made thru this waiver on some specialized services like behavioral consultations and nutritional services.
- Behavioral consultations limit of \$5,200 a year limit has been lifted and would not have a cap going forward.
- Other limit lifts were on counseling services had a \$1,500 a year limit and nutritional counselling services had a \$1,300 a year limit. These would also be lifted.
- Non-Medical transportation funds that can be used for purchasing various forms of transportation had a \$100 a month limit and it was raised to \$150 a month.
- No significant changes were made to the Jobs and Day Training program for work, such as job coaching or attending a program to learn work skills. Could also include Day Programming to learn day-to-day life skills.
- Two new services are being added to the waiver services.
- Goods and services will be a new service that will help purchase things that are needed. As a broad new service, this will have a \$3,000 limit per year. This is subject to change if too much or too little. Could pay for memberships and fees, bedbug extermination, supplies, and home adaptation.
- Dental Services started in February 2023 that are currently funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Division of Health Care, Finance and Policy as a Nevada Medicaid Service, Appendix K. As Appendix K emergency funds goes away, with CMS approval, we would continue to have a \$2,500 per year limit.
- Under Appendix K we had virtual contact with clients. Keeping in-person home visits the main way of contact with resident but allowing to use virtual meetings for "as needed" basis is part of our CMS renewal for HCBS waiver.
- An exception was added on the application to allow legal guardians of adults (not minors) to continue to be paid for services. The services would have to be habilitative in nature, like residential support services, day habilitation, pre-vocational services.
- Things that it may cover are day to day activities of daily living or instrumental activities. Bathing, cooking, and laundry would fall under these activities.
- Things that would not be covered would be supervision, watching TV or sleeping.
- It would be limited to 175 hours a month = roughly 40 hours a week.

- The application has been submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medical (CMS) and the Division is waiting on a response to know if any of the requested changes will be approved.
- The Legal Guardian section was written as generally and simple as possible. Other waivers have allowed legal guardians to be paid but also require steps that would not be feasible for the HCBS ID Waiver.
- Starting July 1, 2023, provider agencies will receive a higher reimbursable rate so they can offer staff a higher rate of pay & benefits. Another rate increase happens in April 2024. We will report every 6 months to see if it makes a difference in staffing, waitlists, services, recruitment & retention.

6. **Presentation and Discussion:** Lifespan Respite Grants Update:

- In the final stages of hiring an ASD Caregiver Support Coordinator to help with these Lifespan Respite grants.
- Planning to maintain the Executive Director position as a 20 hour a week position.
- Work on the annual "Caregiving in Nevada" report will be starting soon. The report should be published by the end of September.
- Looking to hire a part-time Project Coordinator to help move forward on the Lifespan grants.
- AB100 Caregiving Assessment bill that was passed is being reviewed and discussions are underway on how to implement the pilot program.
- The initial pilot will be identifying some specific programs and services in continuing the internal dialogue to incorporate caregiving assessment across service programs.

7. **Presentation and Discussion:** Open Meeting Law Legislative Updates

- Tabled until September's meeting.

8. **Presentation and Discussion:** NLRCC Executive Director's Report

- Cherrise Brown is the new Nevada Care Connection/No Wrong Door representative on the board.
- Reappointments for Cory Lutz and Kathleen Doyle have been received.
- Contacts will be made for the other term appointments expiring in 2023.
- The Community for Respite meetings have not continued into 2023. The Board has not requested that the meetings continue. An email was sent to all the members listed with Community for Respite to ask them to join the NLRCC listserv as the other list will not be maintained.
- The Coalition has a Facebook page, a website (separate from ASD) at <http://nvcaregivingrelief.org>, and a YouTube channel. The YouTube channel has three videos in a series on the benefits of respite. The three videos include Connection, Support and Freedom and can be seen at [Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition - YouTube](#). This will complete the work Mindful Media was doing for the Coalition.
- Letters requested by the Coalition were sent out for the other Legislative bills that the Coalition was tracking. AB167 for a dementia care specialist program did not pass but others did. AB100 passed but did not get funded.

- Cheryl Dinnell will resign as the Executive Director (ED) of the NLRCC at the end of August. The position is a contract position, and a recruitment will be going out soon.
- The ED position will be responsible to build the social media platforms and work on legislative activities, among other duties.
- The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) has published a report on respite care. The Nevada-specific data from the report is in the meeting materials.
- The Nevada Frail Elderly (FE) and Physical Disability (PD) waivers will employ similar strategies as the ones highlighted in the NASHP report.
- The rates for services have been a big issue and an increase was approved by the legislature. These increases help providers but may hurt caregivers in respite voucher programs as voucher funds may not purchase as many respite hours as previously.

9. **Presentation and Discussion:** Member Spotlight:

- The Spotlight was on new member Cherrise Brown; the spotlight can be found with the meeting materials.

10. **For Possible Action:** Tentative Agenda Topics: Monday September 18, 2023, meeting:

- Nikki Haag - Open meeting law
- Maricela Gutierrez - Just in Hope presentation
- Healthcare Policy for the Frail Elderly (FE) & Physical Disability (PD) waivers
- Caregiver Support Coordinator introduction
- Role with Caregiver Coalition's Caregiver Recognition Event in November in two locations (South & North)
- NLRCC State Plan report updates

11. **Public Comment:**

- Cory Lutz announced that Helping Hands of Vegas Valley has respite annual vouchers available for Lincoln, Nye, Mineral, and Clark Counties.
- Riley Franco announce that AARP is now fully staffed with Jessica Padrone as the new Advocacy Director.

12. **Adjournment:**

- 11:26am

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. 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 www.notice.nv.gov.