



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



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## Meeting Minutes

Name of Organization: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)

Date and Time of Meeting: Wednesday March 10, 2021 | 10:00 am

Place of Meeting: Join Zoom Meeting:

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Pursuant to Governor Steve Sisolak's Emergency Directive 006, there will be no physical location for this meeting.

The meeting was viewed via ZOOM.

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

### 1. Roll Call & Opening Statement:

Members Present: Peter Reed, PhD, Chair, Chuck Duarte, Cyndy Gustafson (a), Susan Hirsch (a), Dr. Jennifer Carson, Gini Cunningham, Jeff Duncan (a), Wendy Knorr

Absent: Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen, Connie Johnson, Dr. Marwan Sabbagh, Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Tina Dortch

Staff/Guest: Rique Robb, Jessica Adams, Jamie Ahumada, Autumn Blattman, Dawn Lyons, Carole Hanley, Cindy Roth, Brett Salmon

### 2. Public Comment:

- The Alzheimer's Association has released the 2021 Facts and Figures document. Please refer to the fact sheet for the following information: You can access it at: <http://www.alz.org/media/documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures>
  - Breakdown per population nationwide.
  - Big changes in Caregiving across the nation.
  - National comparisons of the cost of care.
  - Nevada ranks third for increase in cases by 2025, with Arizona and Vermont holding one and two.
  - Increase of deaths during the pandemic may be associated with living in long-term care communities.

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- o Nevada is showing a decline in caregivers.
- o 80% of caregivers have a chronic health condition.

### **3. Approval of Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting:** (For Possible Action)

Cyndy Gustafson motioned to approve the minutes, Susan Hirsch second the motion, no revisions were noted, all approved

### **4. Budget Presentation by Aging and Disability Service Division (ADSD):**

Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services & Jessica Adams, Deputy Administrator: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Aging and Disability Services

- Most of the ADSD budget is focused on case load growth.
- Services are either direct services, or case managing services, all programs have a quality assurance program in place.
- CARE dollars allowed the Long-Term Care Ombudsmen program to deploy tablets to facilities and set up visitation station.
- UNR and ADSD collaborated to launch the Statewide project Nevada COVID-19 Aging Network-Rapid Response (Nevada CAN), to ensure all vulnerable Nevadans have access to medical, social, and daily essential items while staying at home. The program has been such a success that it is in the process of becoming permanent program.
- A request to increase the Administrative Budget to help support the other areas as they have continued to grow.
- A slight increase has been requested for - Family Preservation Program (FPP), they provide financial assistance to families that have severe or profound developmental disabilities to help keep people in their home.
- Additional funding has been requested for the Rural Regional Centers (RRC) and Desert Regional Centers (DRC) to assist with the continued increasing caseloads.
- Sierra Regional Centers (SRC) had slowed but an increase in request has been noticed as restrictions open.
- Developmental Services caseload summary request for 19.5 staff members most to go to DRC.
- Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) – 1 new position has been requested.
- Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP)- 4 new positions have been requested.
- Personal Assistance Services (PAS) is an in-home service has been impacted by COVID as things open it is likely that a waitlist will need to be implemented.
- Homemaker Services stayed flatlined during COVID, but an increase in services requested are expected as things open again.
- Community Service Options Program for the Elderly (COPE)–Has remained steady during COVID.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman has a large drop in services because of Covid but cases are increasing as restrictions are lifted.

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- Adult Protective services (APS), caseload decreased some during Covid, caseloads are expected to increase. APS opened 7,421 in 2020 averaging 618 cases a month. As of January 2021, 3,984 have been opened in Nevada Fiscal year.
- Projections for staff changes are as follows:
  - APS to increase staff by 9,
  - CBC reduction by 2,
  - LTCOB reduction by 6,
  - these are just projections and are subject to change until the budget has been finalized.
- Desert Regional Center (DRC) intermediate care facility is licensed to accommodate 45 individuals, but due to staffing issues they have been averaging 39 individuals.
- ADSD is requesting that The Office of Consumer Health be moved over to ADSD from the Department of Health and Humans Services Director's office (DHHS).
- Transfers of the Office of Consumer Health Assistance, Nevada 2-1-1, and the Patient Protection Commission to ADSD will help streamline access to appropriate levels, help with collaborations among various units, coordinate resources and outreach efforts. The names and duties of all will remain the same no changes are going to be made.
- Deferring any equipment replacement for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, Holding 93 frozen jobs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, these positions are currently vacant or frozen, with no eliminations being made. Proposal for a rate reduction for NEIS from \$565 per child to \$500 over the Biennium. This is an administrative cost rate over and above what they get for services. DRC has a Fiscal Intermediate program reduction proposal from \$450 to \$300 for 1 year.
- Proposal for an Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes pilot program of 6 homes for people having difficulty that would be at a higher rate of pay to help train and staff the homes.
- The Bill Draft Request (BDR) that ADSD has submitted is to clean up language and remove the lengthy eligibility requirements for the Senior/Disability RX. Move the program out of Statue and add them to NAC so that they can creates eligibility with other NRS 427A programs and aligns to changes in the Federal prescription drug program.

## **5. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)/Nevada Care Connections Update/Presentation on Statewide Information and Referral System:**

Jamie Ahumada, Social Service Program Specialist, Aging and Disability Service Division

- Nevada Care Connection is a one stop shop providing - Information, Resource and Service Navigator, Case Management.
- Navigators help with application assistance Pre-determination of eligibility, caregiver support/respite care services, advocacy, connecting individuals to services and resources they need, information and referrals.
- Case Managers are new as of July of 2020, they help provide a warm hand-off for those with memory loss that hinder their ability to maintain long term care, priority is given to individuals in rural/frontier Nevada, those who live

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alone, and those who had difficulty maintaining services within the past 6 months. Case Managers provide Person Center care.

- Still establishing the baseline process of the Case management program.
- Gathering information on what services the Navigators are able to provide and what services are still needed. Working on the full person-centered foundations.
- Quality Assurance helps identify how the program & services can deliver services better.
- The reporting of information and how it is being collected into the database allows a clear view of what is being done and how long it is taking to perform the services.
- Assessment of needs form has been updated.
- The implementation of Nevada CAN, assist seniors that are homebound or in isolation. Working with the Sanford Center to identify Tele-health needs, the NEST Collaborative provided social Support and the Food and Medication Action Team, information, and referrals for those who needed medication.
- Aging Network came together with its partners and found the strengths to help identify how to support residents needs in crises situation.
- Referral system helps agencies to work together and provide residents more effectively.
- Nevada Care Connection website is now up and running. Please visit this easy to navigate website at: [www.nevadacareconnection.org](http://www.nevadacareconnection.org)
- 70 to 80 referrals are now be submitted monthly compared to the 2 or 3 prior to the updated referral system.
- A 6-month data collected showed 2,131 consumers had some type of cognitive issues.

## **6. Five Minute Break**

Peter Reed, PhD, Chair

## **7. Update/Presentation on Nevada Geriatrics Tele-health Collaborative**

Peter Reed, PhD, Chair, Director, Sanford Center for Aging

- Nevada CAN Rapid Response was launched Statewide effort on April 1, 2020, it is an ADSD program. Dena Schmitt, Director, Co-Directors are Dr. Jennifer Carson (Social Support Action Team), Jeff Klein (Food and Medication Action Team) & Dr Peter Reed (Tele Health Action Team). This program was created to make sure that the home bound elders that were quarantining at home were still able to get resources such as medical, social, and daily essentials that they needed.
- The Social Support team created the Nevada Ensures Support Together (NEST)- They have provided several thousand hours of both one on one and peer support virtually.
- The Food and Medication action team has delivered over 300,000 home delivered meals.
- Newley rebranded Nevada Geriatrics Tele Health Collaborative (previously Tele-health Action Team) – Meets every other week with agencies that

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provide any kind of Tele-health and share how agencies can cross reference and support each other's efforts.

- The core service available is a comprehensive geriatrics assessment. Sanford Center for Aging covers elders in the North and Nevada Senior Services cover seniors in the South. The comprehensive assessment includes:
  - Medical Review,
  - Psychosocial Review,
  - Cognitive Review,
  - Medication Review,
  - This information helps in creating a care plan and determines what other resources each individual needs.
- Patients are referred (as needed) to:
  - Chronic Care Management
  - Tele-Dementia Care
  - Social Work Counseling
  - Tele-Psychiatry
  - Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy
  - Primary Care Provider
- Since its launch on April 1, 2020, over 14,144 Tele-health services have been administered by partners in the Collaborative.
- A continued effort is being made to provide Geriatrics Tele-health in Nevada.
- "Reverse Tele-medicine" is being offered at the Sandford Center giving the patient the opportunity to go into the office and use the equipment while the providers remain remote.
- ADSD still has emergency COVID funding for the 60+ demographic.

**8. Review, Discuss and Approve tentative agenda for May 12, 2021 meeting (For Possible Action)**

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- Cultural Competency or Caregiving Support presentation
- Update on ADSD Budget/Economic Reform & Medicaid relevant budget items
- Jennifer Carson to present on NEST

**9. Public Comment:** No Public comment made

**10. Adjournment:** 12:10pm

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Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Carole Hanley in writing at 3320 W. Sahara Ave, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, email [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov) or call at (702) 468-9765 as soon as possible.

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Notice of this meeting was posted in the following N/A. Notice of this meeting was faxed, e-mailed, or hand delivered for posting to the following Carson City and Las Vegas, Nevada, locations N/A Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at [adsd.nv.gov](http://adsd.nv.gov). and Nevada Public Notices website at [www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov). Supporting public material provided to Task Force members for this meeting may be requested from Carole Hanley, Task Force Secretary, ADSD at (702) 486-9765 and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at [adsd.nv.gov](http://adsd.nv.gov).

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