



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)
Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023
10:00AM
Place of Meeting: Virtual: Zoom

NOTE: 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.

1. Roll Call, Opening Statement:
 - Members & Alternates: Gini Cunningham, Chuck Duarte, Phillip Kalsman, Niki Rubarth, Dr. Peter Reed, Cheyenne Pasquale, Dr. Jennifer Carson, Susan Hirsch
 - Staff & Guest: Nikki Haag, Carole Hanley, Marie Coe, Brett Salmon, Vira T. UNR Student
2. Public Comment:
 - No public comment made.
3. Approval of TFAD's January 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes: (For Possible Action)
 - Dr. Jennifer Carson motion to approve the minutes.
 - Susan Hirsch second the motion
 - One spelling correction noted.
 - All approved
4. Presentation on Choice in Care and Care Settings:
Marie Coe, State Long Term Ombudsman
 - Ombudsman act as advocates for residents of nursing homes, residential facilities for groups and assisted living facilities.
 - Locked settings can be found mostly in the larger assisted living facilities, nursing homes and group homes.
 - Skilled nursing facilities regulations are much different than the ones for assisted living.
 - The Ombudsman advocate for any age and when the resident requests it.

- The Revised Statutes and the Nevada Administrative Codes are followed.
- Inappropriate admissions to locked memory care units have seen an increase.
- Limited memory care settings in the rural areas.
- Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 449.2754 is where the application for an Alzheimer's endorsement can be located.
- Residential facilities that provide care to residents with Alzheimer's or dementia must obtain an endorsement.
- When a resident's mental conditions change it needs to be documented in the resident's file.
- Endorsements may be revoked or suspended based upon grounds set forth in NAC [449.191](#) or [449.1915](#)
- Facilities often face staffing issues.
- Memory care facilities have a regulatory requirement to have a resident-to-staff ratio of 6 to 1.
- Residents have a choice regarding where they want to live and should have the least restrictive options provided to them.
- A physician's assessment must be completed. It is best practice to have a physician that the resident has seen for years to help determine the resident's cognitive status.
- Someone with proper authority must admit a resident into a locked setting, which only includes the person to be living in the locked setting or their legal guardian. Neither Powers of Attorney, facility administrators nor healthcare providers can legally confine a person behind locked doors without the person's consent.
- A valid reason and documentation should be in all files requiring the most restrictive locked settings.
- Advocacy is needed at the State and Federal level to help raise awareness of the law, change regulations (if needed) and gather relevant data.

5. Legislative Priorities Updates Concerning Alzheimer's and other Dementias:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 208 creates a new Medicaid waiver program that would pay family care partners.
 - Six states have adopted this program called Structured Family Caregiving. Care partners would need to be employed by an agency or intermediary service that could provide training and pay the care partner's daily stipend. The bill would require the Department to do an ongoing assessment of family care and make sure that the care recipients need are being assessed and met. The first hearing was held on Monday March 13, 2023.
- The Lifespan Respite Care Coalition is supporting AB100 that creates a program of family caregiver assessments by the state Department of Health and Human Services to make sure caregivers are getting the proper training.
- Bill Draft Request (BDR) 298 establishes a statewide program of memory assessment clinics called Nevada Memory Network.

- This bill would provide funding to the Nevada's public medical schools (UNR/UNLV) to support them in partnering with the Cleveland Clinic and the Renown Neurology Institute to develop the Network. It will include funding for Care Navigators to provide ongoing support. Request for \$684,000.
- BDR 300 protects vulnerable adults against abuse under Chapter 33 of the NRS. And allows Adult Protective Services (APS) workers to apply for access warrants in cases of suspected neglect.
- BDR 301 Provides eviction protections for residents in residential and group facilities. Will allow residents time to find other housing arrangements.
- BDR 302 Amends Chapter 159 of the NRS. This will provide additional protections for protected individuals.
- Senate Bill (SB) 45- Increase to the Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for persons who are in nursing facilities to align more with the PNA of those in facilities of groups. The PNA has not been increased since 1991. The requested increase is for \$137 a month.
- AB 119 establishes an elder abuse fatality review committee.
- SB 61 provides protections for those with joint tenancy on accounts. This will help avoid financial exploitation.
- AB 167 would help establish dementia care specialists that could help people living with dementia and their families navigate needed community-based support services.

6. Presentation, Discussion and Approval of the Executive Order 2023-03: (For Possible Action)

- TFAD has been exempted from providing a report to the Governor's office regarding regulations to eliminate/revise under this order.
- Members can participate in the public workshops that the State agencies will be holding. Public notices will be posted on [Home - Nevada Public Notices Website - NV.gov](#). Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) notices can be found [Meeting Notices \(nv.gov\)](#).
- ADSD workshop will be held on 3/29/2023 via TEAMS. This is step one to gather information.
- A second meeting will be held to get public feedback on proposed recommendations before the report is sent to the Governor's Office.
- It was proposed that TFAD draft a letter to send to HCQC to have Chapter 449.2754 of the NAC revised to remove the Alzheimer's endorsement but strengthening the training portion of the NAC to include all relevant care settings (i.e., adult day).
 - Chuck Duarte motioned to have the Chair draft a letter and have the Chair submit.
 - Dr. Jennifer Carson seconded the motion.
 - All approved
- All members were encouraged to review the NACs and participate in the various relevant agencies' processes.

8. Tentative Agenda Topics for May 2, 2023, meeting:

- Invite HCQC to update TFAD on 449.2754
- Chair/Vice-Chair Election
- 'Capacity' as it relates to TFAD (Susan Hirsch & Dr. Dylan Wint)
- Legislative Update

9. Public Comment:

- Alzheimer's Association rescheduled the and Advocacy Day at the Legislature to March 24th in room 3100 in the Nevada Legislature from 8:30-3:30. Please register for updated information.
- Chuck Duarte announced his retirement from the Alzheimer's Association effective April 28, 2023.

10. Adjournment: 12:13pm

Accommodation Requests and Meeting Materials:

Note:

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 adsd.nv.gov. and [Nevada Public Notices website](http://www.nv.gov) at <https://notice.nv.gov/> . Supporting public material provided to Commission members for this meeting may be requested from Carole Hanley, Task Force Administrative Support, ADSD at clhanley@adsd.nv.gov and is/will be available at the meeting locations and [ADSD website](http://adsd.nv.gov) at <https://adsd.nv.gov/Boards/TaskForceAlz/2022/Home>.