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Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

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MICHAEL WILLDEN  
Director

CAROL SALA  
Administrator

**MINUTES**

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Aging  
(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 427A.034)

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2007  
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Place of Meeting: Division for Aging Services  
445 Apple Street, Suite 104  
Reno, NV 89502

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**  
**Carol Sala, Administrator, Nevada Division for Aging Services**

Ms. Sala called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Present: Andrea Anderson, Larry Curley, Carl Martinez, Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Bob Larkin, Pete Livermore, Marlene Rengert, Carol Sala, Philip Shapiro, Senator Valerie Weiner, Mike Willden.

Excused Members: Myla Florence, Dan Gustin, Lawrence Weekly.

Guests: Julie Cryderman, Cissy Garic, Lynn Hunsinger, Vicki Lebsack, Mary Liveratti, Dale Ann Luzzi, Londa Manteufel, Chase McMullen, Connie McMullen, Andrea Nichols, Anna Olsen-McCloud, Sally Ramm, Diana Rowe, Tammy Ritter, Robin Tejada, Marilyn Wills.

\*A quorum was present.

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## **II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings Held on June 12, 2007**

A motion was made by Larry Curley to approve the minutes of the meetings held on June 12, 2007. Marlene Rengert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **III. Welcoming Remarks**

### **Carol Sala, Administrator, Nevada Division for Aging Services**

Ms. Sala welcomed everyone and introduced new Commission Members Pete Livermore and Dr. Upinder Singh. Mr. Livermore is a Carson City Supervisor, a commissioner to the Carson Water Subconservancy District, member of the Western Nevada Development District, President of the Carson City Youth Sports Association, member of the Carson City Rotary Club, and he represents the Carson-Tahoe Hospital Board of Trustees. Dr. Singh is the Clinical Associate Professor for the University Of Nevada School Of Medicine in Las Vegas and currently is the Chief of Geriatrics for Sierra Health and Services. Before relocation to Las Vegas, Dr. Singh was the Clinical Director for the PACE program in Syracuse, New York. Dr. Singh is a Board Certified Physician in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics and Hospice and Palliative Care.

Ms. Sala and Mr. Willden presented plaques to recognize Chase McMullen and Connie McMullen for their development of the Community Home-Based Initiatives Program (CHIP) video for the 2007 legislative session.

## **IV. Administrator's Report**

### **Carol Sala, Administrator, Nevada Division for Aging Services**

#### *Staff Changes*

Ms. Sala reported that the Division continues to struggle to fill the social worker positions. Elder Protective Services (EPS) is fully staffed for the first time in years. The two part time positions that were in the Carson City office have been reverted back to one full time position and that position is filled. There is one full time social worker position open in Elko.

Mel Phillips, the Management Analyst 1 in Las Vegas is retiring. Mr. Phillips has been the unofficial grant writer for the Division and has creatively applied for numerous grants. He recently applied for six grants and the Division has received funding for three: \$300,000 for Alzheimer's through June 2008; a \$100,000 Legal Services Developer Grant, which will be used to create a legal services hotline; and a \$50,000 Information Services Grant that will help the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). The Division did not get the \$500,000 Nursing Home Diversion Grant. The Division continues to try for other grants including ones for CMS and IT. Mr. Phillips has also assisted with writing various other reports including the state plan.

### *State Plan Development Status*

The Division received a one year extension to the State Plan from the Administration on Aging (AoA). The Division's plan was for three years so the Division was able to ask for a one year extension. When the new program instructions came out from the AoA in March, they had significantly changed the way the plan had to be written, it would have been impossible for the Division to complete the plan on time which is why they asked for an extension. The biggest change was that AoA wanted states to have an Emergency Preparedness Plan in place before they approved their state plan. Cherrill Cristman is the lead on this project.

### *Nevada Administrative Codes (NACs) Update*

The March Commission on Aging (COA) meeting was used as the public input meeting for the Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC). The June COA meeting was used as the public hearing for the Nevada Administrative Codes. The changes were made and the Legislative Commission met and the Division's NACs have been approved and they are now official. The NACs are reviewed every two years and are typically updated every ten years.

### *Clark County Elder Protective Services (EPS) Program*

Clark County's EPS program will transfer to the Division as of June 30, 2009, which will be at the end of the 2009 Legislative Session. The Division has started the process to prepare for the transition. They have set up an internal transition committee and have already identified who they will need as an external transition committee. Ms. Sala has been in contact with Nancy McClain who is the director of Clark County Social Services. The DAS senior staff has been brainstorming creative ways to get funding to hire a consultant to help bring the Division's program and Clark County's programs together. The consultant will also evaluate how Clark County does business and what staffing needs will be. Currently the Division for Aging Services provides Elder Protective Services on the Medicaid eligible population. Clark County Social Services investigates all non-Medicaid reports of Elder Protective Services in Clark County and the surrounding counties. DAS current EPS unit in Las Vegas is small because the Medicaid population is smaller than the other population. DAS has three EPS workers. This will be a tremendous undertaking and the Division is doing all it can to make it a smooth transition and the Director's Office is very involved in the discussions. Dr. Singh asked why Clark County is pulling their EPS program. Mr. Willden stated it was for economic reasons and it seems to go in cycles. Mr. Willden stated his concerns are with the way the statutes are currently written, where any program can be dropped at any time, there is nothing written in the statutes that tells these agencies they have to give a certain amount of notice before discontinuing their services. When a county or other entity decides they no longer want to provide the services that they have provided historically, whether it is for EPS, Children's Services or Law Enforcement, the state must pick up and provide that service to the population and these are expensive

services to provide. Mr. Willden thinks this will be an issue to deal with in is the 2009 Legislative Session. Ms. Sala and the DAS staff are trying to anticipate all needs and are working on having Memorandums of Understanding in place so continuity of services will be in place. Dr. Singh expressed his concerns that the entire EPS systems needs an overhaul and that it seems like it has just been piecemealed together in the past. Many people agreed however certain pieces need to be defined such as the law enforcements role within EPS. Law enforcement has no idea how to handle such calls nor do they have the resources to do so. These are things that are being looked into and addressed by Ms. Sala. She will continue to keep the Commission informed.

### *Strategic Plan Accountability Committee Activities*

The Senior Services Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC) will meet on October 19, 2007. Sally Ramm wrote an overview on the “Summary of Legislation of Interest to Nevada’s Elders” in a report that was passed out. Ms. Ramm highlighted some bills that were part of the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session including both those that had passed and those that didn’t pass. Mr. Martinez wanted to create a subcommittee to discuss bills that were not passed. Whether or not to form a subcommittee will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting since this was not listed as an action item.

## **V. Inform Committee on Independent Living Grants and Title III Funding Decisions**

### **Marilyn Wills, Deputy Administrator, Division for Aging Services**

This is the second year of a two year funding cycle, so the grants were non-competitive. The handouts showed the program name, type of service provided and the award amount funded were passed out. AoA provides entitlement money to the Division for the Title III-B, III-C, III-D and III-E programs, which are the basic federal grants. Title III-B grants are competitive and include supportive services for seniors which cover programs such as transportation, senior companion, adult day care, caregiver support program, telephone reassurance, information and advocacy, dental, and homemaker. The Division received more requests for Title III-B Social Service Grants than ever before. There were approximately 11 million dollars worth of requests and only three million dollars available. No new programs were funded and the existing grantees had a 7.5% decrease in their grant amounts. The Title III-C Nutrition Grants include the C1 congregate meals and the C2 home delivered meals. There was \$3,594,997 available for funding the Title III-C this year, funding is awarded according to the history of what each grantee serves. There was a small decrease in congregate meals and an increase in home delivered. Ms. Wills believes the decrease of congregate meals is a result of the baby boomers not wanting to visit the senior centers and that the senior centers will have to be restructured to attract the baby boomers as they age. This issue will be addressed at the Senior Services Director’s Conference that is being held October 3 – 5, 2007 in Las Vegas.

The Independent Living Grant covers supportive services for seniors. These grants are similar to the Title III-B but the funding comes from a different source. As with the Title III-B grants, this was a non-competitive year because they are second year funding. Requests for these grants were approximately nine million. These grantees had a decline of 3% in their funding with the exception of transportation and Clark County EPS. The Division thought the Alzheimer's Demonstration Grant would be going away this year, it was due to end in 2007. However, they did open it up again as a competitive grant and the Division was granted funding for one more year, this grant is being used for respite and caregiver support services for Alzheimer's patients. Title III-D is related to health programs, they provide medication management and podiatry. Title III-E is the caregiver grant which is supportive services to keep those who are giving care to others healthy. The Nevada Care Connection was the first one-stop approach to getting people services. Since then Nevada 2-1-1 has received funding and the Division has also received funds from the feds for the Aging and Disability Resource Center. All three of these are working together to be a one-stop source for seniors and their caregivers to get the information and services they need.

**VI. Discussion on Legislative Interim Study on Senior and Veteran Issues  
Committee Member Appointments**

**Carol Sala, Administrator, Nevada Division for Aging Services**

Assemblywoman Kathy McClain is the chair of the Interim Study of Seniors and Veterans Committee. Other members include: Senator Warren B. Hardy, Senator Joe Heck, Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Assemblyman Joseph H. Hogan and Assemblyman James Settelmeyer. The committee is allowed five all day meetings. The topics Assemblywoman McClain would like to include are Elder Abuse, Independent Living including services, CHIP, COPE, nutrition, wellness and health, financial security and resources, workforce issues, healthcare and transportation. The meetings will most likely take place in December, February, March, May and June. Ms. McClain hopes this interim study will become a standing committee so the other committees, commissions and agencies such as the COA will have a place to go and be heard and have that information get to the Legislature. Ms. Sala gave out the website address for the committee so members can stay current on the committees activities. The website is: <http://leg.state.nv.us/74th/Interim/Studies/SeniorCitizens/>.

**VII. Discussion of and Possible Action on Whether to Organize a Conference  
on Aging Sponsored by the Commission on Aging**

**Carol Sala, Administrator, Nevada Division for Aging Services**

There has been some discussion in recent months within the Commission on Aging as to whether they should sponsor another Governor's Conference on Aging. Ms. Sala presented some background on the last Conference on Aging the Division sponsored. The last conference was held in 2000 in conjunction with Catholic

Charities. The cost at that time was estimated to be about \$79,000 however much of the cost was absorbed by sponsorships, selling tables, booths and conference revenues. The Commission was seeking October 2008 as a possible date. Discussion followed seeking interest in the Commission on Aging to organize and sponsor a conference, what type of conference it would be, whether or not political parties would be invited to attend and who the target audience would be? Most commissioners agreed it should be held for seniors and their caregivers to attend. There would be forums with breakout sessions and different workshops for the seniors to attend covering such topics as financial abuse, elder abuse, and wellness. Most agreed the best venue for this conference would be a casino. A casino had several advantages to it such as very low cost, good parking and transportation being available for seniors to and from the site. The idea of holding the conference at the University of Las Vegas was raised; however it would be difficult because school would be in session in October. Dr. Singh said the Commission needs to get the big bang for the buck and would like to see thousands, not hundreds attend. Larry Curley stressed that the Commission would need to have someone, perhaps from outside the Commission who could handle the marketing to promote this conference to get the level of attendance desired. The Commission will also need to address whether or not they want to keep it as sponsored by the Governor. Ms. Sala stated that she would notify the governor's office if the Commission wanted to move forward on the conference and let them decide how involved they would like to be. Mr. Curley made a motion that the Commission on Aging explores sponsoring the 2008 Nevada Conference on Aging. It was seconded by Carl Martinez. The motion passed. Phil Shapiro, Mr. Curley, and Marlene Rengert offered to be on the committee.

**\*VIII. Discussion on Setting Asset Limits for Community Options Program for the Elderly (COPE)**

**Tammy Ritter, Unit Manager, Division for Aging Services**

Ms. Sala gave a brief overview of the Community Options Program for the Elderly (COPE) for the new commissioners. COPE is the state funded home-based program that mirrors the CHIP program and the Medicaid waiver. This program targets people with a little higher income or asset limit than required under Medicaid. Under Medicaid you can have only \$2,000 in assets. The COPE program used to have an asset limit of \$7,000. The way it is written, the Commission on Aging sets the assets limits for this program. Sometime in the 1990's the asset limit was removed from the COPE program. During the Public Hearing for the Amendment of Regulation 427A the Commission decided they wanted to discuss putting the asset limit back into the regulations but needed more information. Tammy Ritter, Chief of the CHIP unit for the division, provided the Commission with a handout outlining current COPE recipients' liquid assets. Ms. Ritter used data from August 2007 since asset information was not previously collected. The liquid assets included clients' savings and checking accounts, stocks and Certificates of Deposit. The State General Fund funds COPE, and the Division is limited by budget to about 130 clients a month. The average time on the wait list is seven months. It was suggested that

the recipients currently on the program be grandfathered in so that no current clients will be removed from services. Mr. Curley made a motion to have DAS staff research and prepare several asset limit options to bring back to the Commission on Aging to make a decision. Mr. Livermore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**IX. Update on Emergency Planning**

**Marilyn Wills, Deputy Administrator, Division for Aging Services**

This is the document that the Division must complete to include in with the state plan. An emergency plan was developed and put into place in 1994; it has not been significantly changed since then. Ms. Wills and Cherrill Cristman are currently updating and expanding this plan to meet current needs. They are working with the department and the Statewide Evacuation Planning Task Force to address the special population. There are two major parts of the plan, first is the agency's plan for continuity, operations and recovery. The Division needs a procedure in place for contacting seniors who would need help in the event of an emergency situation and also a list of volunteers. Efforts need to be coordinated with local, federal and state agencies and emergency response teams. The second component was never addressed in the earlier plan; it makes sure that DAS grantees are working with seniors to prepare them in the event of an emergency. The Division would like to see senior centers trained so they can host trainings for seniors to let them know what they should have on hand, such as food, water and medicine for emergencies. Integrate all local emergency planning groups; they are all still fairly unconnected.

**X. Update from the Subcommittee for Surveying Tribal Entities Regarding Applying for Title III Grant Funds**

**Marilyn Wills, Deputy Administrator, Division for Aging Services**

Marilyn Wills presented the update on the subcommittee's progress, they have had three meetings. The subcommittee developed a short survey regarding tribal interest in applying for DAS grants. The survey was sent out to all 26 tribes in the state of Nevada. The subcommittee has already received four responses; Ms. Wills felt the responses could be attributed to the cover letter from Mr. Curley. The subcommittee will compile the results and give a report at its next meeting.

Subcommittee members expressed concern that the planning for a Governor's Summit on Aging might not emphasize Tribal issues to the extent the subcommittee believes is necessary. It was therefore the recommendation of the group that the subcommittee ask that its members be "an integral part of the planning group" for the larger conference, to assure Tribal issues are addressed.

A motion was made and passed at the subcommittee meeting to recommend to the COA that the Commission hold a meeting on a rural Indian Reservation and seek funding for same. The subcommittee would like the Commission to consider holding the meeting at either the Ft. McDermott Reservation on the NV-Oregon border (73 miles north of Winnemucca) or the Yomba Tribal Reservation site (SE of Austin).

However costs to either of those sites would be high. Ms. Wills indicated that discussions with Ms. Sala suggested a more likely COA meeting site might be Fallon. Mr. Curley said Fallon would not be effectively representative of the conditions he'd like COA members to experience.

Ms. Wills explained that Mr. Curley had requested that cultural competency training occur for Division staff and also at the October Senior Directors Conference. For the latter, training will be provided by UNLV, with Native American Tom Dressler providing the tribal component. She added that in previous years the Senior Directors conference has been attended by no more than 80 persons. This year the attendance is more than 140 due to outreach to directors of all senior programs rather than only including the senior center directors.

**XI. Update on Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant**  
**Tina Gerber-Winn, Deputy Administrator, Division for Aging Services**

The Administration on Aging and Centers for Medicare Medicaid Services have partnered up to provide grants for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. Robert Desruisseaux is the project director; he has gathered resources to train the sites on the Welfare process of eligibility, Division for Aging Services programs, disability services, and more. There are currently three sites in operation: Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently, Washoe County Senior Center, and Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living. They will also partner with and train the Ron Wood Family Resource Center in Carson City so they can promote assistance to people and programs and give access to publicly funded programs and advocacy. The services they provide will be deeper than INR. The desired goal through these sites is to get people planning for their own self directed long term care and home care. The Division has developed the IT structure using Synergy software which is also used for all their grantees. The DAS has also developed electronic application forms. The DAS is trying to work with Welfare to create better access to electronic forms so information can be directly transferred into the NOMAD system. The goals for next year besides sustainability, is to help people facilitate Medicaid eligibility. The DAS would like to add helping people long term plan. Ms. Sala asked if there was any interest in a demonstration at the next meeting. Some commissioners expressed an interest to view the internet site therefore the demonstration will be added to agenda items for the next meeting.

**XII. Consider Topics or Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Subcommittee to Look at Legislation for Next Session, action item
- Demonstration of the ADRC Website
- Continue Discussion of the Conference on Aging, action item
- Tribal Subcommittee Regarding Costs to go to Various Sites, action item
- Set Asset Limits for COPE
- Start to Formalize the Police's Association with Aging Services
- Third Year Funding for Senior Survey, action item

- Senior Driving Privileges/Licenses, who is responsible for form

### **XIII. Schedule Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Las Vegas on the UNLV campus on December 12, 2007 with lunch provided by them. The meeting is scheduled from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm.

### **XIV. 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.)**

The Senior RX and the Disability RX will be offering dental and vision services in January of next year.

Ms. Rengert mentioned the efforts of the AARP's Divided We Fail movement which encourages Americans to support candidates who will give action, answers and accountability on health and lifetime financial security. Ms. Rengert urged everyone to sign an AARP pledge card if they hadn't already.

### **XV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.