

Senior Services Strategic Plan **Accountability Committee Minutes**

Thursday, September 14, 2006
9:00 a.m.

AARP Nevada Office
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The meeting was called to order at 9:30

I. **Welcome and Introductions**
Connie McMullen, Chair

Committee Members present: Connie McMullen, Chairperson (Publisher, Senior Spectrum), David Bobzien (Commission on Aging), Barry Gold, Vice Chairperson (AARP), Jerry Johnson (Clark County Parks & Recreation, Senior Advocate), Wendy Knorr (Alzheimer's Association), Assemblywoman Kathy McClain (Nevada State Assembly), Charles Perry (Nevada Health Care Association), Sue Rhodes (Clark County), Liliam Shell (Nevada Health Centers).

Committee Members Absent: Janice McIntosh (Carson City Senior Center), Jackie Ridley (Senior Representative), Sherry Rupert (Nevada Indian Commission).

Staff Members Present: Linda Bowman (Division of Health Care Financing and Policy), Dale Ann Luzzi (Division for Aging Services), Mel Phillips (Division for Aging Services), Carol Sala (Division for Aging Services).

Guests Present: Duffy Gold (Helping Hands of Vegas Valley), Susan Joseph (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada), Leslee Hoffler (Division of Health Care Financing and Policy), Marilyn Wills (Division for Aging Services).

A quorum was declared.

*II. **Approval of the June 29, 2006 Minutes**

A motion was made by Jerry Johnson to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by David Bobzien. The motion passed.

III. **Workgroup Reports**

Barry Gold, Vice Chair

Health Care- Assemblywoman McClain

Assemblywoman McClain provided the committee with the work session document from the Nevadas Legislative Committee on Health Care (attachment A), which has been meeting for the last ten months. Pursuant to section 3(a) of NRS 218.2429, the committee is authorized to request ten bill drafts for consideration during the 2007 Legislative session. Assemblywoman McClain attended the August 10, 2006 meeting of this committee where they approved the first eleven (with the exception of number four) recommendations on the document. Items twelve through twenty-one were supported but no money was given to support the recommendation.

Assemblywoman McClain is proposing a standing legislative committee on seniors and veterans issues. The committee would become a collecting point for all bill draft requests (BDRs) that are related to seniors and veterans and they would have the authority to put in BDR's. The committee would meet year round and be made up of five senators and five members of the assembly.

Transportation – Connie McMullen

Connie introduced Duffy Gold (Helping Hands of Vegas Valley) and Susan Joseph (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada) who presented what Southern Nevada is doing to provide services for seniors. They are currently working on how Southern Nevada transportation issues can mesh in both mass and individual transportation. They are exploring ways they can reach out to the entire community and make transportation work. They are introducing a "secret rider" program. This program will use seniors to assess the quality of service that is being provided. Another program they are introducing is "senior ambassadors". This program encourages current senior bus riders to team up with non-senior bus riders. The ambassadors would help familiarize seniors familiarizing with the bus system. They also plan to look for corporate partners. Connie McMullen asked whether they had considered a park-n-ride service. Ms. Gold said it was in their plans but not in the near future. Jerry Johnson asked Ms. Duffy what TSA is doing regarding senior transportation issues. Ms. Duffy stated that TSA is looking at how they can create funding to help resolve some of the senior issues.

Out-of-State Placements – Wendy Knorr

Wendy reported that Judge Doherty has been instrumental in moving this issue forward. Currently there are several subcommittees. They are bringing back the company from Idaho to discuss the possibility of setting up

a behavioral health unit. Judge Doherty asked that each committee member bring with them the information that has already been gathered and start with that before any reports are started or commissioned. Wendy said this is a very diversified group of people and she is very hopeful the issue will be addressed.

After hearing all the workgroup reports, Barry Gold suggested that each workgroup select two to three issues that they want to advocacy for and help move forward during the next session.

IV. **Division for Aging Services Budget**

Carol Sala, Administrator

Carol Sala provided the committee with an overview of the State of Nevada's budgeting process. The Division budget was to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on August 15. There were questions of clarification between the Division and DHHS. Once all those changes were incorporated, the budget was delivered to the budget office on September 1. The formal budget presentation to the Budget Director Andrew Clinger, is scheduled for September 28. The formal presentation is a summary of what the Division is asking for in the budget. The budget is confidential until the Governor's State of the State address in 2007. Ms. Sala did share with the committee two things that are the division's top priorities in the budget: increased IT infrastructure and additional slots for the waivers. Barry Gold asked Carol what this committee could do to support the Divisions budget. Ms. Sala told the committee that a letter of support for the Divisions budget could be sent after the September 28th presentation.

*V. **Discussion on possible BDR's for 2007 Legislative Session**

Barry Gold made a motion that the committee draft a letter in support of the DAS budget and emphasize the need for IT infrastructure and increased waiver slots. Charles Perry seconded the motion and it passed.

Sally Ramm is the legislative liaison for the Division. She will attend weekly meetings at DHHS once session starts. Sally compiled a list of BDR's that might impact seniors and Carol reviewed the list for the committee. Until the actual BDR comes out it is hard to tell what the actual intent of the bill draft is. Carol will have Sally attend the December SPAC meeting to update the committee on the BDR's. Assemblywoman McClain also went over a list of BDR's that she is watching and the ones she has submitted. Once there is more information about the BDR's, the committee will decide which ones to support.

VI. **Discuss Deficit Reduction Act** - Carol Sala, Administrator

Carol will be participating in a conference call set up by the Administration on Aging (AoA) and other state directors on September 21. Some opportunities that Carol heard from listening in on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) call were that it will offer a variety of opportunities for financing home and community based services under state plans. Some of the changes to the Medicaid system that can be enacted this year and next are that state can issues in with out going through the waiver process. States can also self direct personal care. States will also be able to apply for competitive grants up to 1.75 billion over a 5 years period to implement "Money follows the person", re-balancing demonstration and long term care partnership program. Carol will know more after she participants into the September 21 conference call.

VII. **Senior Solutions Forum /State Wide Survey Presentation**
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain/Pam Gallion

Assemblywoman McClain provided the committee with an overview of work done by the "Inter-Agency Senior Issues Task Force". The task force was created in June of 2005. From the initial meetings came two recommendations: commission a statewide demographic survey and create work groups to research gaps and needs to enhance or improve services to seniors. The statewide survey, which was conducted by Cannon Survey Center at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was completed in June of 2006. The survey consisted of eighty questions that would help provide insights to the economic, health, and social and ??? of the citizens in Nevada aged 50 and older. The draft report can be viewed at http://surveys.unlv.edu/current_projects.

Each of the work groups met several times through the spring of 2006. From the work groups ten recommendations were developed and the "Senior Solutions Summit" evolved. The summit was held on June 14 in Las Vegas. The statewide summit was attended by 140 community leaders and policymakers – legislators, local elected officials, agency heads, and non-profit directors. The top recommendations were presented and the attendees were broken out into ten work groups. They were asked to develop strategies to facilitate the recommendations. The most important thing that came out of the summit was getting the "buy-in" and commitment to pursue the recommendations from attendees. (Attachment B)

VII. Discussion of Other Committee Meetings Attended by SPAC Members

Barry Gold undated the committee on the progress of Tax and Spending Control (TASC) which due to an error in the wording of the proposed ballot question, the question was taken off the Nevada ballot. Barry stressed that this has not gone away, but it's been tabled until after the elections.

IX. Announcements/Upcoming events

Jerry Johnson announced the following upcoming Senior Fest events: September 21 in Searchlight and October 12 in Mesquite.

Barry Gold has tickets to the upcoming gubernatorial debate in Las Vegas on October 9th.

Barry also announced that AARP has nonpartisan voting materials if anyone is interested in handing those out.

X. Public Comment *(Action may not be taken on matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)*

Carol Sala announced that DAS is having a public workshop at the Commission on Aging (COA) meeting on September 21, for Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 427A. Carol said most of the changes were to "clean up" the language. She also announced that the process has begun to write the next state plan which is due September 30, 2007. The Division will be holding public forums and workshops to gather the information that will be included in the plan. Carol and part of her senior staff will be participating in two rural tours to meet with seniors and gather information for the plan.

***XI. Schedule Next Meeting and Set Agenda Connie McMullen, Chair**

The next meeting is scheduled for December in the north. The committee will be polled as to the best day for the majority of members.

***XII. Adjournment Connie McMullen, Chair**

Connie McMullen adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.