

Laurie Olson

From: Bruce - Senior Advocates <brucea@nevadasenioradvocates.org>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2013 1:44 PM
To: Assemblywoman Dondero Loop; Maggie Carlton; Senator Jones; Senator Smith
Cc: AsmHHS@asm.state.nv.us; AsmWM@asm.state.nv.us; SenHHS@sen.state.nv.us; SenFIN@sen.state.nv.us; Sandra L. Borrelli; Janice Ayres; Ernie Maguire; Connie McMullen; Laurie Olson
Subject: GMAC Priorities

I have read the letter from the GMAC Committee to you concerning the Department of Health and Human Services proposed priorities for the Fund for Healthy Nevada. According to the letter, the Committee relied upon the results of the various surveys that were conducted amongst providers, and customers. It was nice to see this kind of effort and approach, which to my knowledge, is a first. That however is no reason to blindly follow the results of the survey.

For instance this process was also followed by Commission on Aging (CoA) and the Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (CSPD). Both the CoA and CSPD placed a higher priority on transportation. Your survey and subsequent recommendation, placed the priority on Information and Referral.

For the past four years I have been looking at the various information and referral services the Department of Health and Human Services either funds or operates. All of these have issues, which results in limited use of the system. While there are many issues why this is so, in my opinion by continuing to place a priority on funding these duplicative systems will only continue to expend scarce resources ineffectively.

Having said that, I understand that the Department is undertaking a study of these systems that hopefully will include an evaluation of them as well as recommend changes so they become more effective. It occurs to me that placing a priority on funding systems that your Department recognizes has issues is not the wisest course of action. Further, the reason for the emphasis upon information and referral that appeared in your survey may very well be the result of the customers frustration with the ineffectiveness of them.

In my view, as well as many others including CoA and CSPD transportation is a service that is essential to support virtually all the other services that are recommended, as well as many others. This is particularly true in the rural and suburban areas of the State. It also is measurable, has a clear mission, and has been underfunded for the over 50 years I have been involved with government. Also, in a time of financial difficulties, it is my position that services that provide a direct benefit to customers is a higher priority than items such as information and referral that at least to this point in time, seem to have benefited mostly the providers not the customers.

I am looking forward to discussing this issue with you and your Committee as the approval process moves forward.

Thank you for your time.

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