



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
NEVADA VISION STAKEHOLDER GROUP
(Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 37, File No. 102, *Statutes of Nevada 2009*)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The second meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group was held on January 29, 2010, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/75th2009/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Robert E. Lang, Ph.D., Brookings Mountain West and Department of Sociology,
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Chair
Peter C. Bernhard, Cleveland Clinic Nevada
Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
Rene Cantu, Jr., Ph.D., Latin Chamber of Commerce Foundation
Alan Feldman, MGM Mirage, Inc.
Dan Goulet, United Way of Southern Nevada
Marsha Irvin, Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy
Janelle Kraft Pearce, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Retired
Boyd Martin, Boyd Martin Construction and Associated General Contractors,
Las Vegas Chapter
Thomas A. Perrigo, AICP, City of Las Vegas
Devin Reiss, Nevada Association of Realtors
Terry J. Reynolds, The Reynolds Company
Susan Rhodes, LASW, National Association of Social Workers, Nevada Chapter
Brian Rippet, Nevada State Education Association
Keith Smith, Boyd Gaming Corporation
Donald D. Snyder, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS (Continued):

Denise Tanata Ashby, Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy,
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Cedric D. Williams, North Las Vegas Fire Department
Sylvia Young, FACHE, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center

GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Douglas D. Dirks, Employers Holdings, Inc.
John Packham, Ph.D., University of Nevada School of Medicine
Robert Lee Potter, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees
Katy Simon, Washoe County Manager

GROUP MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph E. Dini, Jr., Nevada Assembly Speaker Emeritus
Paul Dugan, Washoe County School District, Retired
Jacob L. Snow, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada

LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Steven Horsford
Senator Randolph Townsend

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Donald O. Williams, Director, Research Division
David Ziegler, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Roxanne Duer, Chief Principal Research Secretary, Research Division
C. J. Smith, Secretary, Research Division

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS

- Robert E. Lang, Chair, brought the meeting to order and outlined the activities for the meeting. He commented on formation of the Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group (NVSG) and the process by which the NVSG will make its recommendations. The Chair said additional resources from Moody's Analytics, Inc., will be present at NVSG's next meeting, including a facilitator to guide the Group's discussions. He also noted that Mark Muro, Fellow and Policy Director, Metropolitan Policy Program, from The Brookings Institution, will attend the next meeting to present the *Mountain Megas: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper* report as it applies to Las Vegas.
- Chair Lang said the most efficient way to discuss the quality-of-life issues delegated to the NVSG is to work in groups, by topic area. He proposed a mix of backgrounds of individuals for each working group, acknowledging each member's experience and seeking diversity of opinion. Continuing, Chair Lang stated that each working group will report to the NVSG as a whole with each member having the opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations before adoption by the NVSG. He further stated a document will be compiled for presentation to the Interim Finance Committee by July 1, 2010, for consideration by the legislators during the 2011 Session.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF QUALITY-OF-LIFE INDICATORS AND STATE RANKINGS

- Michael Helmar, Consultant, Moody's Analytics, Inc., provided the Group with a handout titled "Educational attainment, by race/ethnicity" ([Exhibit B](#)) to replace a similar page in the Addenda: Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, Quality-of-Life Indicators, Groups 1 and 2 ([Exhibit C](#)). He also submitted a page titled "Household Internet Usage, by Type of Internet Connection and State" ([Exhibit D](#)) for inclusion in the Addenda.

Responding to a request from the Group for information comparing Nevada to other states and metropolitan areas, Mr. Helmar provided data from Florida, Hawaii, and Utah. He stated that Nevada's minority population share is about average and has increased due to growth in the Asian and black communities ([Exhibit E-1](#), [Exhibit E-2](#), and [Exhibit E-3](#)).

- Chair Lang questioned whether the white population includes Hispanics and non-Hispanics.
- Mr. Helmar replied yes, but noted data on the Hispanic population can be cited two ways: Hispanic, and Hispanic not-white, population. He noted there are black

Hispanics who would be included in the white population if not declaring their ethnicity as black Hispanic.

- Chair Lang noted that 85 percent of Hispanics identify as white.
- Mr. Helmar pointed out Nevada's Hispanic population is about one-quarter of its population; other U.S. states count approximately one-sixth of their population as Hispanic.

Mr. Helmar cited income and poverty rates by ethnicity. He noted that the median household income varies by ethnicity with blacks and Hispanics on the low end, and Asians and whites more toward mid-level incomes due to high-end jobs and better education.

Continuing, Mr. Helmar discussed Nevada's leisure, hospitality, and construction industries, which drive the State's economy. He noted that Nevada is dependent on these industries, which are cyclical. Other tourism-dependent states such as Florida and Hawaii do not have the same exposure or volatility as Nevada.

Mr. Helmar described metropolitan areas in comparison to Las Vegas and Reno. He noted certain similarities of those cities to Atlantic City, Honolulu, Myrtle Beach, and Orlando, including comparisons in construction, education, employment, and health care. He said that Hawaii is somewhat low in economic diversity but has a high military population, which helps deflect the downward numbers in its tourism industry.

- Donald D. Snyder, member, commented that, in his opinion, Nevada does not want to be a better Atlantic City and suggested a shift in focus as to what the State should strive to be.
- Chair Lang said Orlando is on the same scale as Las Vegas, owing to its conventions, and is tourism oriented. While the two regions are similarly sized, the Chair said Orlando is Las Vegas for children. He noted that Orlando has a high-speed rail that facilitates its economic diversity.
- Chair Lang noted that during the economic boom, the graphics suggest that gaming lost ground in terms of its share of employment when comparing 1998 to 2008. He said that 1998 to 2008 was a good growth period for Las Vegas, and the city was still diversifying.
- Mr. Helmar stated that not all tourism areas have the same swings in their economy as Nevada. He said that in terms of employment volatility, some cities such as Atlantic City and Honolulu have less volatility due to the structure of their economy. Mr. Helmar mentioned the national average for high-tech employment is 4.5 percent. He noted that Nevada has a low proportion of high-tech employment, which makes it difficult to draw in new economic industries.

Continuing his presentation, Mr. Helmar addressed education and described the competition with other countries in a global economy, specifically in mathematics and science. He confirmed that Nevada is below the average set by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and that the United States does not perform well when compared to other countries.

Mr. Helmar said that many Nevada children are not prepared when starting kindergarten. Once Nevada students reach 18 years of age, most do not pursue higher education or do not continue their education through bachelor's and graduate programs. He also noted that Nevada does not have a high private school population. He said that in some places, private schools are considered as providing better educational opportunities. Mr. Helmar elaborated on Nevada's immigrant education levels as also being lower in high school and bachelor degrees than the United States average. He said that Nevada's Asian immigrants have a high level of education while the State's Hispanics are on the lower end.

- Alan Feldman, member, questioned whether fewer highly educated, foreign immigrants are coming into the State. He sought information on who Nevada is attracting regarding education levels, language, and ethnicity.
- Mr. Helmar responded that people are moving to Nevada from other countries, but he explained he would need to explore the census data. He said there is data from the United States Census Bureau on immigration by state, but does not know whether the information is collected by language.
- Mr. Snyder said that the bulk of Nevada's population has been built by people moving from California and other states. He acknowledged some residents have moved to Nevada from foreign countries, and further questioned the educational profile of people who are migrating to the State as opposed to those persons who are born in Nevada.
- Chair Lang inquired whether educational data is available on a domestic migrant moving to Nevada, and whether that person is more likely or less likely than a native born individual to have a high school diploma or a bachelor's degree.
- Dr. Rene Cantu, Jr., member, asked with regard to that data, if the Group could have that information before Nevada was impacted by the economic recession, the nature of in-migrating persons, and whether there is a difference now that the State is in the aftermath of a recession.
- Mr. Helmar commented on the language spoken at home and the educational attainment levels. He said that Asians and Indo-Europeans perform among the best, with English and Spanish speakers tending to have lower educational attainment.

Response to Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group (NVSG) Comments on Indicators Presented at the Meeting of January 8, 2010, Including Economic Diversification, Job Creation, Education, Health and Human Services, and Demographic Indicators

- Mr. Helmar drew attention to Nevada's health care issues by first describing indicators that address the State's obesity rate, which increased between 1998 and 2008. He said average Nevadans should be healthier than persons in other states, but that is not what their findings concluded. He said that the health of most Nevadans is poor ([Exhibit E-1](#), [Exhibit E-2](#), and [Exhibit E-3](#)).
- Chair Lang inquired whether the definition of obesity was redefined between 1998 and 2008.
- Mr. Helmar responded that the definition is the same: obesity is a body mass index exceeding 30 percent. He said that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Health and Human Services, publishes a health status indicator which describes a variety of health measures. In comparing Nevada's health issues between 1998 and 2008 with surrounding states, Mr. Helmar said that Nevada was average. By 2008, however, he said that Nevada's health status had deteriorated relative to most other states, with the exception of California. He stated Nevada's overall health rating is poor due to:
 1. A lack of exercise;
 2. One-third of the State's population smokes; and
 3. High alcohol consumption.

Mr. Helmar emphasized that health care for women is an important issue nationally and regionally. He said that in 1998, the proportion of women in Nevada over 40 who had mammograms was on the low side but declined even further in the ten-year period from 1998 to 2008. Mr. Helmar stated that in other states during that same decade, health care for women had increased, with the exception of Alaska, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., where women received less preventive care.

- Mr. Snyder questioned the drinking statistic because of Nevada's tourism industry. He said that the State welcomes a large number of tourists who might consume more alcohol when visiting Nevada than if they were in their home state. Mr. Snyder said that the alcohol statistic encompasses the total alcohol consumed in the State divided by the resident population and asked how the measure is calculated.
- Mr. Helmar remarked that the information is based on a survey and reflects the percentage of Nevada's adult males who consume two drinks per day and adult women who consume one drink per day.

- Dr. John Packham, alternate member, addressed the mammography indicator. He said the national guidelines are changing and that change will drive what is reimbursed and what is not reimbursed. Dr. Packham said the new guidelines may affect the rate more than other factors that might increase or decrease utilization of that type of preventive service.
- Chair Lang invited the Group's reactions and their questions to the information provided by the consultant. The Chair reinforced the challenges that face Nevada and the emerging themes: (1) economic diversity; (2) what are metrics that matter; (3) are these the right indicators to achieve progress; and (4) what other indicators can the NVSG introduce that will benefit Nevada.

The Chair said that the public needs to understand the goals of where the State is going and that a quick metric might be the vacancy rates of the top five Nevada hotels which would indicate revenue.

- Brian Rippet, member, commented on the volume of education data and pointed out that while the dropout rate can be manipulated and changed, the average freshman graduation rate for Nevada is 55.8 percent, almost 20 percent lower than the national graduation rate of 73.2 percent.
- Mr. Helmar said that the number is not reflective of educational attainment and noted the numbers do not include those students who receive a General Education Diploma.
- Keith Smith, member, noted the large amount of data provided to the members and wondered about getting mired in the details as opposed to focusing on the task at hand. He stated that the NVSG was directed to develop 5-, 10-, and 20-year strategic plans and noted that while statistics are interesting, Nevada encountered remarkable growth in the last 10 or 20 years which he submits skews the data. Further, Mr. Smith said that the State has been through a tremendous recession during the last two years and that NVSG's mission is to start talking about the future and not necessarily focus on statistics of the past.
- Mr. Smith said that diversification of Nevada's economy is one of the keys and added that quality-of-life indicators are obvious to those present. The NVSG is comprised of knowledgeable members and, in his view, Nevada's goals are fairly easy to understand without a lot of statistics. Mr. Smith said the Group understands that Nevada's economy is heavily centered on tourism and the gaming industry and the State needs to diversify.
- Sylvia Young, member, said the Group needs dialogue regarding what Nevada needs in order to diversify, what industries are needed in the State, and the implications for training programs offered through the State's colleges and universities.

- Mr. Snyder identified the structure of the economy as a fundamental principle, recognizing tourism is vital as the State moves forward. He said one of Nevada's advantages is that the State has an infrastructure in place which supports tourism. Mr. Snyder requested the NVSG consider a long-term, broad-based economy for the State, to hold the volatility experienced in recent years to a minimum.
- Thomas A. Perrigo, member, stated that while diversifying the State's economy is important, the Group's focus needs to be on economic development as described by Mr. Snyder.
- Mr. Snyder said that the quality-of-life indicators are the result of an economic structure which serves the State. He said the type of economy Nevada needs cannot be built if a stable economy is not in place, including attracting businesses to the State due to Nevada's desirability.
- Chair Lang commented that economic development can be discussed in conjunction with quality-of-life issues because, in his view, both subjects are manifestly connected.

Possible Additional Indicators, Including Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, Public Safety, Transit, and Transportation Indicators

- Susan Rhodes, member, expressed her opinion on the quality-of-life indicators. She said two of the most important factors that contribute to a Nevadan's quality of life are energy and water. Ms. Rhodes said these relevant topics must be considered during the Group's discussions.
- Chair Lang commented that sustainability is of the highest importance. The Chair stressed that Nevada needs an environmental metric.
- Mr. Helmar said Nevada is an arid State, and while Nevada embraces its tourists, the State has the highest daily water use in the country ([Exhibit F-1](#), [Exhibit F-2](#), and [Exhibit F-3](#)).
- Chair Lang said that other states and regions are not reporting their water use. The Chair indicated he is writing a book and although it looks as if Nevada has a high per-capita consumption of water, the State also has a high gross domestic product output per unit of water.

Priority Indicators for Further Consideration by the NVSG

- Ms. Simon said Nevadans should be healthy, educated, safe, prosperous, and connected, whether at work or in school.
- Mr. Feldman commented on a spreadsheet submitted by NVSG member Robert Lee Potter regarding education indicators for the 50 states ([Exhibit G](#)).

- Douglas D. Dirks, member, remarked that the NVSG needs to begin with a vision statement and asked how a strategic plan can be developed if the ultimate outcome is in question.
- Devin Reiss, alternate member, concurred with other members' comments and added that when a person chooses where to live, many factors are considered, including transportation, air quality, and affordability.
- Chair Lang commented that the NVSG will move forward toward a vision and vote on concurrence with the structure.
- Peter C. Bernhard, member, stated his beliefs on what the members were tasked with when appointed to the NVSG. Mr. Bernhard said that the Group's collective wisdom should provide a broader perspective to the State's elected officials on the future of Nevada in 2030, 2020, and 2015, including what role, if any, the government should have.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PROCESS AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADVANCE NEVADA'S QUALITY OF LIFE

- Chair Lang called attention to how the NVSG will organize itself efficiently. He noted his participation in other venues, specifically Kansas City, which decided to pursue biotechnology. The Chair noted that contributors to the Kansas studies included such nonbiotech companies as H&R Block. When he questioned why H&R Block would care about the study, the company responded that the business is community minded even though the studies do not directly reflect on their tax business.

Meeting Space and Facilities

- During the meeting Chair Lang stated his preference for better seating arrangements, or perhaps a different room for the Group's meetings that would be more conducive for face-to-face discussions and conversations among the members. He further requested a vote by the members on meeting space and whether the NVSG should meet in groups which will be open to the public. There was no disagreement by the Group to those suggestions.
- David Ziegler, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, outlined the implications of the NVSG meeting in small groups regarding agendas, minutes, and open meeting law requirements. He offered the members possible solutions and stated he will verify the options and report to the NVSG before its next meeting.

Facilitation of Quality-of-Life Discussions

- Terry J. Reynolds, member, said that because of the Group's diversity, the NVSG need not break into too many groups. He addressed the importance of using larger groups that allow everyone to be involved.
- Dr. Cantu concurred that after meeting in smaller groups, the NVSG should return as a whole for further discussions.
- Mr. Feldman said many members of the NVSG have been through planning exercises and affirmed the need for a vision statement. He restated a few key areas previously discussed and agreed that at the next meeting, the Group should begin the meeting as a whole, proceed to break into smaller groups, and reconvene to share the findings.
- Chair Lang asked whether three groups would be fair and workable, given the size of the Group and the task at hand.
- Doug Busselman, member, responded that three groups are workable and asked about the number of facilitators needed.
- Chair Lang advocated a roving facilitator who might suggest to a group that what is being discussed at the moment sounds nonproductive. The facilitator would pose an alternative, then move on to the next group.
- Mr. Smith said that the NVSG should not be limited to three groups before the members consider the topics, including the quality-of-life indicators, to determine the right combination for forming groups.
- Chair Lang suggested at each meeting the Group concentrate on three topics during that particular session, with the next meeting addressing three additional topics.
- Ms. Simon voiced her concerns on the NVSG breaking into topical groups. She suggested that three different groups might produce qualities of a vision that would be important to everyone. Ms. Simon stressed her preference not to break into topical groups as yet because of the need to discuss the overall vision for the State.

Role of Subject-Matter Experts

- Chair Lang offered an approach for the next meeting. First, he suggested Mark Muro with The Brookings Institution present a report on the future of Nevada as Brookings perceives the State's potential. Second, he proposed the Chair invite the Group, as a whole, to discuss the vision or mission statement. Once the mission is established, the NVSG members will move into smaller groups. The Chair concluded by stating that the primary business at the next meeting will be to work on the larger vision.

- Mr. Bernhard recommended the NVSG first review the economy, which includes diversity, job creation, trade, and business issues; secondly, evaluate family issues, for example, education, child welfare, health care, and housing; and thirdly, examine crime and public safety, transportation, energy, and water. Mr. Bernhard said those subjects will provide the Group with a framework to formulate a vision statement to explore each area.
- Marsha Irvin, member, asked what will the industry look like in 20 years, and what processes do companies utilize when determining the advantages of moving to a different city or to Las Vegas?

Potential Presentations on Related Strategic Planning Efforts in Nevada and Other States

- Mr. Busselman discussed who the NVSG is planning for. He said that he works with many residents who live in rural Nevada. Mr. Busselman asked whether the Group will be assessing matters on a statewide perspective or at the local, community level.
- Chair Lang replied that at all times the NVSG should be cognizant that the Group is discussing the State.
- Dr. Cantu said the statistics presented to the Group do not incorporate 20 percent of the population of minorities, including one-quarter of the populace who are Hispanic. He said there are disparities in educational attainment and economic measures, and encouraged the NVSG to remain aware of the needs of all citizens of Nevada.
- Mr. Smith asked whether a draft vision statement could be sent to the members for their reactions before the Group's next meeting.
- Chair Lang said that one person could be tasked with a project and that person would return to the Group as a whole and report on his findings.
- Mr. Snyder asked whether one member could reach out to other NVSG members for their input, which would then be compiled into a draft statement.
- Mr. Ziegler said he was not providing a legal opinion and that if an individual member of the NVSG were given an assignment and that person reached out to other members and to the public, worked informally and reported back, that process would work in this situation.
- Mr. Busselman addressed the possibility of using the Internet to discuss and exchange the Group's ideas.
- Chair Lang asked whether there might be a website where everyone has access and can contribute ideas.

- Mr. Ziegler responded that is a possibility and he will report back to the Group.
- Ms. Rhodes said she is on another committee that has similar meetings, including a telephone number tied to the Internet, in which anyone can call during the meeting and participate.
- Chair Lang requested a member volunteer to draft a vision statement that would be studied and discussed at the February 11, 2010, meeting. He said that the Group will break into groups and indicated that experts will be invited if credible information can be contributed which focuses on categories previously discussed.
- Mr. Potter encouraged each NVSG member to develop his or her own vision statement. Mr. Potter suggested that instead of breaking into groups, the NVSG meet as a whole with subject matter experts and prioritize, agendize, and discuss each topic set forth in S.C.R. 37.
- Mr. Feldman suggested that the NVSG discuss a topic, break into small groups, and all members converse on the same topic. In his view, a greater level of productivity and exchange will occur within each smaller group, with later discussion by the NVSG as a whole.
- Chair Lang said his preference would be for each small group to focus on the same topic, then come together and report back on the different points of view that emerged.
- Ms. Kraft Pearce asked whether the Group wants to have subject matter experts give the members a brief overview for each category before breaking into small groups. She understands the impossibility of listening to all the professionals but would like to hear what the experts envision for Nevada during the next 5-, 10-, and 20-years.
- Chair Lang said that the Group could have short, ten-minute reviews for context, but not go into great depth.

REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

- Mr. Bernhard said there are six substantive meetings before the final NVSG meeting. Mr. Bernhard stated that the Group's agenda structure is defined, which gives the members time to prepare for each subject area according to the schedule ([Exhibit H](#)).
- Chair Lang clarified that the agenda structure was created, in part, to get a sense of how many meetings would be required; however, the NVSG should be free to change the structure if it so chooses.

Chair Lang said that if the first expert to address the NVSG is Mr. Muro of The Brookings Institution, his focus will be on the economy and economic diversification.

He asked whether topics could be rearranged if there is an opportunity to bring in, for example, Robert Grow, Founding Chair Emeritus of Envision Utah.

- Mr. Bernhard moved that the Chair be authorized to modify the schedule in accordance with the Chair's perceptions, together with the consultant, as to the most efficient way to present expert material to the NVSG. He further requested the Group be advised well in advance of the next meeting on the topics and the presenters.

Mr. Bernhard reiterated his motion for the Chair to modify the NVSG schedule and to identify expert presenters at subsequent meetings as soon as available. Mr. Potter seconded the motion, which passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Geoffrey Lawrence, Fiscal Policy Analyst, Nevada Policy Research Institute (NPRI), expressed his concerns that the NVSG may be targeting quality-of-life metrics through a costly expansion of government and not by individuals acting on their own accord. He suggested this approach would ignore choices made daily by Nevada citizens contributing to their own quality of life. He said the NVSG and Moody's Analytics, Inc., have been instructed to review proposals for broad-based taxes. Mr. Lawrence urged that instead of increasing the overall tax burden, the NVSG consider innovative ideas that would improve the quality of public services, such as competitive and performance contracting, education reform, restructuring of regulated industries, and performance auditing ([Exhibit I](#)).
- Jan Gilbert, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, thanked the Group for broadcasting the meeting on the Internet. She acknowledged the importance of looking at outside, strategic planning, but stated her opinion that many strategic plans have been completed within Nevada. Lastly, she suggested the Group use Nevada's in-state experts.
- Patrick R. Gibbons, Education Policy Analyst, NPRI, expressed his thoughts on Phoenix, Arizona, and said it is not a good example for the State of Nevada because its residents are in the same dilemma as Nevada. Although Phoenix has a more diverse economy, he said Phoenix miscalculated its resources by centering its development on tourism and conventions. He stated that the city invested in a baseball park, football and hockey stadiums, and a light rail system, all of which are losing money.

Mr. Gibbons turned his attention to his written remarks on education and his belief that spending more money on education will not buy greater student achievement. He pointed out the United States rankings for K through 8 and high school spending. He elaborated on the gap between whites and minorities, teacher training and certification, Nevada's graduation rate, and the voucher program. Concluding, he suggested Nevada does not need a collective vision but a personal vision for each individual to pursue his own happiness ([Exhibit J](#)).

- Edward Ayres, an eight-year resident of Nevada, offered his comments as a small business owner. He voiced concern that government employees, business people, and educators are planning his family's quality of life. Mr. Ayres asked the NVSG to be careful when planning, not to hinder small businesses, and to let him make his life's decisions to reap the rewards or to pay the consequences.
- Mr. Potter called attention to an education matter which was discussed during the first meeting of the NVSG where Utah was mentioned as being at the bottom of the 50 states in having the lowest amount of per-student funding. Mr. Potter said Utah's elementary and high school students purchase their own books and pay their own fees. He said the funding statistic is skewed because it does not compare apples to apples ([Exhibit G](#)).
- Ms. Irvin requested a copy of the written testimony given during the public comment portion of today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Group, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. Smith
Research Secretary

David Ziegler
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Robert E. Lang, Ph.D., Chair

Date: April 21, 2010

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by David Ziegler, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division , Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is a document titled “Educational attainment, by race/ethnicity,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc., dated January 29, 2010.

[Exhibit C](#) is a document titled “Household Internet Usage, by Type of Internet Connection and State: 2007,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc., dated January 29, 2010.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document dated January 2010, titled “Addenda: Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group Quality-of-Life Indicators Groups 1 and 2,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit E-1](#) is discussion notes dated January 2010, titled “State of Nevada, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group Quality-of-Life Indicators, Group 1 Discussion Notes,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit E-2](#) is a document dated January 2010, titled “Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, Digging Deeper, Quality-of-Life Indicators, Group 1,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit E-3](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation dated January 8, 2010, titled “Quality of Life Indicators, Group 1,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit F-1](#) is discussion notes dated January 2010, titled “State of Nevada, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, Quality-of-Life Indicators, Group 2 Discussion Notes,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit F-2](#) is a document dated January 2010, titled “State of Nevada, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, Quality-of-Life Indicators, Group 2,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit F-3](#) is Microsoft PowerPoint presentation dated January 8, 2010, titled “Quality of Life Indicators, Group 2,” provided by Michael Helmar, Director, Moody’s Analytics, Inc.

[Exhibit G](#) is a memorandum dated January 28, 2010, to the Chairman, Members, and Alternates, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, from Dave Ziegler, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB, with a two-page spreadsheet from Quality Counts 2010, submitted by Robert Lee Potter.

[Exhibit H](#) is a memorandum dated January 6, 2010, to the Chairman, Members, and Alternates, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group, from Dave Ziegler, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB, provided by Mr. Ziegler, titled Meeting Dates and Future Agendas.

[Exhibit I](#) is the written testimony of Geoffrey Lawrence, Fiscal Policy Analyst, NPRI.

[Exhibit J](#) is the written testimony of Patrick R. Gibbons, Education Policy Analyst, NPRI.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6825.