



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM
(Nevada Revised Statutes 427A.320 through 427A.400)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The third meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum (NSHLF) for the 2009-2010 interim period was held on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 10 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 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, and to Room 25, Griswold Hall, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Elko, 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-video record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Lucy Peres, President
Evelyn A. Cannestra, M.S.W.
Richard C. Doyle
Verlia Davis Hoggard
Mary D. Roberts
Rick A. Stanfill
Ronald E. Stoller
Harriet Trudell

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

None

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT IN ELKO:

Ray B. Jones

FORUM MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alice Adams
Clo Banks
Joann M. Bongiorno
Reba June Burton
Ruth H. Hart
Jane Maxfield
Herbert E. Randall, Ed.D.
Margaret Spooner

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Mary Shope, Coordinator, NSHLF, Administrative Division, Las Vegas Office

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Lucy Peres, Forum President, called the meeting to order. Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

President Peres welcomed guests and members of the public.

President Peres, with the Forum's permission, modified the agenda order to accommodate the guests' schedule.

PRESENTATION ON THE 26TH SPECIAL SESSION (2010) OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Senator Bob Coffin ([Exhibit B](#)) reviewed actions of the 26th Special Session. He recognized the Forum members and stressed that their participation would be important in the upcoming regular session. Senator Coffin reiterated the difficulties of providing essential and independent living services to residents while maintaining a balanced State budget. He stated the Legislature had to address an \$81 million dollar fiscal shortfall. He said the Special Session lasted 6 days and every day was long and pressured. During this period he pledged no further reductions to schools and social services. Senator Coffin emphasized programs like these were worthwhile and worth paying for. With no efforts addressed to mitigate the budget cuts, he voted against them. Senator Coffin detailed Nevada's existing tax system along with potential revenue sources.

PRESENTATION ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE LICENSING OF LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATORS

Wenette (Wendy) Simons, Assisted Living Consultant ([Exhibit C](#)), explained the importance of quality long term care and provided an overview of the survey process, including the grading report system ([Exhibit D](#)). She reported facility administrators strive for quality while some facilities have deficiencies. She shared case specific surveys with deficiencies and their corrective action plans. She stated administrators have responded positively to educational opportunities.

Ms. Simons identified current issues in long term care as: 1) the report card grading system, 2) the challenge between compliance and financial burdens for administrators, 3) administrative licensing and regulations, and 4) communication of regulation revisions to interested parties, including the increased costs of surveys. ([Exhibit E](#))

OPENING REMARKS (Continued)

President Peres continued her opening remarks by welcoming the newest member of the Forum, Reba June Burton, representing Washoe County Senatorial District No. 2.

Due to bad weather conditions, Ms. Shope stated Ms. Burton, along with the other Northern members were excused from this meeting. Mary Shope reviewed Ms. Burton's background for the members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2009, MEETING

- President Peres presented the minutes of the October 27, 2009, meeting.

The NSHLF **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

VERLIA DAVIS HOGGARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2009, MEETING. RICHARD C. DOYLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 30, 2010

- At the request of President Peres, Ms. Shope, Coordinator, provided an overview of the "Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum Summary of Receipts and Expenditures of Sources/Uses of Funds and Encumbrances, for the monthly periods from 10/21/2009 through 02/28/2010." ([Exhibit F](#)) The Forum's current account balance reflects the remaining fiscal year appropriation at approximately \$3,800.

The NSHLF **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

VERLIA DAVIS HOGGARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORTS AS SUBMITTED. RICHARD C. DOYLE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

STATUS REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SILVER HAIRED CONGRESS (NSHC) AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATORS (NCSHL)

- President Peres shared the details of the recent annual meeting of NSHC in Washington, D.C. President Peres summarized the top five (5) resolutions which included support for Silver Alert, passage of the Elder Justice Act, national background check for health care givers, increase funding for the Older Americans Act, and mandatory geriatric education. ([Exhibit G](#))

Ms. Verlia Davis Hoggard recognized Mary D. Roberts, Editor-in-Chief for her dedication to NCSHL.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF SILVER ALERT NOTIFICATION OF MISSING SENIORS

- President Peres stated the proposed missing senior legislation continues to be a priority. She indicated the Forum would work on the language for a bill draft at upcoming meetings. She provided the summary of opinions during the 75th (2009) Session of the Nevada Legislature for AB 4. ([Exhibit H](#)) Also, she informed the Forum that Mississippi recently passed Silver Alert legislation.

STATUS REPORT ON REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FORUM

- Ms. Shope stated that the Legislative Commission, at its January 28, 2010, meeting, approved the appointment and reappointments to the NSHLF, and recognized the Forum members for their dedication and service.

Mary Shope reported Mimi Rodden, Clark County Senatorial District No. 12, resigned because she moved outside her senatorial district.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS, MEETINGS DATES, AND EXPENDITURES

- President Peres opened the discussion future agenda items, meetings dates, and expenditures.

After reviewing the calendar and consulting with President Peres, Ms. Shope will notify the Forum members and public of the next meeting.

- Ms. Shope shared additional information as listed below:

Letter received from Robin Roherer, private citizen, Hawaii, alleging elder abuse and fraud originating from her mother's long term care facility. ([Exhibit I](#))

Letter received from Bea Parkin, private citizen, Las Vegas, recognizing Joann M. Bongiorno's outstanding dedication and service for helping seniors. ([Exhibit J](#))

State of Nevada, Attorney General Office's media release for the Fight Fraud Conference. Ms. Shope outlined highlights of the conference which are available upon request. ([Exhibit K](#))

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office media release announcing a grant of \$11.8 million from the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. ([Exhibit L](#))

Nevada Office of Energy media release concerning an Energy Star appliance rebate program. ([Exhibit M](#))

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gary Brodt, private citizen, Las Vegas, raised concerns relating to the quality of long term health care and suggested enforcement of the regulations to improve care. He suggested random surveys and the need for more inspectors. He asked for the Forum's continued support.
- Sylvia Healy, private citizen, Las Vegas, and member of Citizens for Patient Dignity, supported the Forum's continued efforts to improve the health care system. She suggested nursing homes be held accountable with appropriate fines and penalties, even prosecution for abuse. She encouraged everyone become involved in the upcoming election and support Legislators who emphasize senior issues.
- Lou Toomin, private citizen, Las Vegas, shared his prior legislative observations. Mr. Toomin advocates for annual legislative sessions in order to manage the budget.
- John Healy, private citizen, Las Vegas, and member of Citizens for Patient Dignity, shared concerns about abuse in nursing homes. He recommended stricter inspection of health care facilities, including appropriate fines. In addition, Mr. Healy requested autopsies for any death occurring at a health care facility.
- Grace Virgi, private citizen, Las Vegas, and member of Citizens for Patient Dignity, indicated group homes are problematic because they are owned by financial investors. She said investors encourage financial rewards over appropriate care and safe living conditions.
- Rita R. Kindley, private citizen, Las Vegas, and member of Citizens for Patient Dignity, shared concerns centering on patient rights, adequate nursing care, and retaliatory practices by the nursing staff. She requested the Forum's assistance to protect the most vulnerable seniors. She encouraged enforcement of the existing statutes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shope, Coordinator
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

APPROVED BY:

Lucy Peres, President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

Date: _____

Harriet Trudell, Secretary
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by “Third Revised Meeting Notice and Agenda” for March 30, 2010, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator, Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum, Administrative Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Legislative Biography – 2009 Session for Senator Bob Coffin from the *Nevada Legislative Manual, 75th Session*, pages 14 and 15, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit C](#) is the curriculum vitae for Wenette (Wendy) Simons, Consultant.

[Exhibit D](#) are the documents titled “Assisted Living Guidelines”, “Report Card Update”, “The Grading System Has Arrived”, provided by Wendy Simons, Consultant.

[Exhibit E](#) is the written testimony dated March 30, 2010, provided by Wendy Simons, Consultant.

[Exhibit F](#) are the documents titled “NSHLF Summary of Receipts and Expenditures or Sources/Uses of Funds and Encumbrances for the monthly periods from 11/30/2009 through 02/28/2010”, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit G](#) is the document titled “National Silver Haired Congress, NSHC Top Five Resolutions – 2010”, provided by Lucy Peres, Silver Senator, National Silver Haired Congress.

[Exhibit H](#) is the document titled “75th (2009) Session of the Nevada Legislature, Reports/View Comments”, provided by Lucy Peres, President.

[Exhibit I](#) is the written testimony titled “Deceptive Trade Practices – Easy Targets and Report Cards, provided by Robin Rohrer, (submitted by Mary Shope, Coordinator, as requested).

[Exhibit J](#) is the letter dated February 27, 2010, entitled “A Little Angel on earth”, by Bea Parkin (submitted by Mary Shope, Coordinator).

[Exhibit K](#) is the media release from the Office of the Attorney General titled “Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto Holds Conference on Senior Protection”, dated December 4, 2009, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit L](#) is the media release from the Director’s Office, Department of Health and Human Services titled “Energy Assistance Program Receives 2010 Grant Funding”, dated December 7, 2009, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

[Exhibit M](#) is the media release from the Nevada State Office of Energy titled “Buy an Energy Star Appliance and Get Money Back Starting April 17!”, dated March 2, 2010, provided by Mary Shope, Coordinator.

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: 775/684-6827.