



NEVADA LEGISLATURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] [439B.200](#))

SUMMARY MINUTES February 19, 2020

The fourth meeting of the Legislative Committee on Health Care for the 2019–2020 Interim was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 9 a.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3137, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

The agenda, minutes, meeting materials, and audio or video recording of the meeting are available on the Committee's [meeting page](#). The audio or video recording may also be found at <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>. Copies of the audio or video record can be obtained through the Publications Office of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (publications@lcb.state.nv.us or 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Chair
Senator Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy, M.D.
Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Assemblywoman Connie Munk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Senator Julia Ratti, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus, M.D.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Megan Comlossy, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division
Patrick B. Ashton, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division
Janet Coons, Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division
Crystal Rowe, Research Policy Assistant, Research Division
Risa B. Lang, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Eric W. Robbins, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Joe F. Steigmeyer, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.

AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS

Chair Cohen called the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Cohen called for public comment.

Fermin Leguen, M.D., Acting Chief Health Officer, Southern Nevada Health District, requested to revise a portion of his testimony from the minutes of the December 11, 2019, meeting, Agenda Item VII B. He submitted the following comments for the record:

During the December meeting of the Legislative Committee on Health Care, I misstated that there were five deaths due to the vaping outbreak. At the time, there were five reported cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) cases in Clark County. As of February 11, the Southern Nevada Health District is reporting six cases of EVALI in Clark County. No deaths have been reported.

Nancy Bowen, Executive Director, Nevada Primary Care Association, submitted written comments regarding community health centers and Medicaid benefits for the uninsured ([Agenda Item II A](#)). She stated health centers are unique in providing integrated care including primary dental and behavioral health care to underserved areas and populations. She expressed her appreciation for the Committee's focus on oral health and highlighted interactions among oral, physical, and behavioral health conditions.

Leann D. McAllister, M.B.A., Executive Director, Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, submitted written comments regarding her organization's opposition to the public charge proposal issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security ([Agenda Item II B](#)). She asserted that the public charge regulation increases the likelihood that lawfully present immigrants and their families will forgo health and nutrition benefits to avoid negatively impacting their immigration status.

Lynda Tache, Founder and past-Chief Executive Officer, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation, submitted written comments regarding the importance of early intervention and ongoing treatment for children with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities ([Agenda Item II C](#)). She noted that health insurance coverage of speech therapy services is critical and asked that the Committee consider the topic during a future meeting.

Adrienne Williams, CEO and Executive Director, Let's Talk! Therapy Center, shared information regarding the Center, which provides feeding and swallowing therapy and occupational, physical, and speech therapy. She noted the Center will also soon be providing applied behavior analysis and is easily accessible to clients in the Las Vegas area. Ms. Williams shared her concern that some Las Vegas insurance companies only allow one company in their network for speech therapy, accept a limited number of clients, are contractually restricted from having a waiting list, and discharge clients from services before their therapy is complete. Ms. Williams requested that the Committee consider including the issue of expanding insurance coverage for these therapeutic services on the agenda during a future meeting.

Lauri Benveniste, representing Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs (NNDHP), a nonprofit program of the Northern Nevada Dental Society that provides no- to low cost dental care to the underserved in northern Nevada, said the group is developing a pilot project to assist seniors to obtain dental care for no or low cost in partnership with the Carson City Senior Center. Ms. Benveniste shared that the program has provided dental care to children in the Carson City and Carson Valley areas since 1985.

Monica Vazquez, Dental Clinic Manager, NNDHP, testified that she coordinates the Healthy Smile Healthy Child program, which is a no- to low-cost service to children in northern Nevada. The program provides certain services at outreach events and preventive services to elementary through high school students. Ms. Vazquez explained that students who are identified with continuing care needs are paired with volunteer dental providers. The program covers hospital costs in the event students need extensive dental services. She noted 130 children were provided restorative and preventive dental care. Ms. Vazquez said NNDHP has obtained a Medicaid National Provider Identifier (NPI) number and is extending services to Medicaid and Nevada Checkup recipients.

Vivian Leal, a multiple sclerosis (MS) patient, speaking on behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as a volunteer advocate, expressed support for resisting efforts to limit Medicaid funding. She said individuals with MS and other chronic illnesses continue to require assistance regardless of the availability of funding.

Mia Lowery, Nevada resident, submitted written testimony that outlined cases in American history when individuals were denied medical autonomy and subjected to medical procedures against their will ([Agenda Item II D](#)). She stressed the importance of allowing parents to independently decide whether their children should be vaccinated.

Diane Bishop implored the Committee to act to protect citizens from untested biologics and set an example to other states that are succumbing to pressure to increase vaccination mandates. She asserted vaccines have not been adequately tested for many years. Ms. Bishop stated laws are necessary to make transparent the uses of human fetuses and the manufacturing of vaccines, and she stressed the need to seriously consider the scientifically demonstrated adverse effects of vaccines.

Brittney Sheehan, Nevada resident, discussed her disappointment with the Legislative committee process including: (1) the lack of response to an email addressing her concerns; and (2) the inability to engage in a conversation with Committee members during the brief public comment portion of the meetings.

Leann Erickson, Nevada resident, said she is the mother of a 20-month old daughter. She and her husband have determined it is in their daughter's best interest that she not be vaccinated. Ms. Erickson shared her frustration that pediatricians will not provide wellness checks for her daughter and said she will seek care for her daughter in her home state of New Jersey. Ms. Erickson said vaccine injury is not rare but is rarely reported. She shared her experience following a flu vaccine, which she said caused chronic fatigue and tremors in her hand for more than a year. She urged the Committee to consider the serious costs of mandated vaccinations.

Jessica Alvino, Nevada resident, mother and sister of two brothers who suffered health consequences from mandated vaccinations, opined that Nevada laws must hold vaccine manufacturers liable for injuries their products cause and provide for citizens' abilities to

make informed decisions. She expressed her hope that legislators will be available to discuss concerns of parents who are looking for safe healthy options for their children.

Amanda Cassell, Nevada resident, submitted written remarks that addressed the discriminatory treatment she and her family have experienced as a result of their decision not to vaccinate their children for religious and safety reasons ([Agenda Item II E](#)). She urged legislators to expand vaccination exemptions to include personal belief exemptions or remove all mandates as is proposed in South Dakota.

An unidentified member of the public discussed a recent visit to a physician's office when his young son was denied care because his parents have chosen not to have him vaccinated. He asserted this is the forefront of "medical Jim Crowe" laws, which segregate people because of choices they make based on their beliefs. He said he has spoken with doctors who regret not having discretion in treating unvaccinated children, but explain they have a medical license to protect and must be certain they are following state laws. He insisted that parents who decline to subject their children to mandated vaccinations are not guilty of neglect or abuse, and he encouraged the advocacy of medical freedom.

Jessica Washington, mother of a 14-year old boy with autism, said she and her son have few provider options. She advocated support for facilities that provide a variety of services and care opportunities for children with autism.

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 15, 2020

MOTION: Senator Hardy moved to approve minutes of the January 15, 2020, meeting. The motion was seconded by Assemblywoman Munk and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM IV—CONSIDERATION OF REGULATIONS PROPOSED OR ADOPTED BY CERTAIN LICENSING BOARDS PURSUANT TO [NRS 439B.225](#)

A. *LCB FILE R105-19 OF THE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY* ([Agenda Item IV A](#))

B. *LCB FILE R115-19 OF THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS* ([Agenda Item IV B](#))

Eric Robbins, previously identified, stated representatives from each of the boards are present to answer any questions.

Loretta L. Ponton, Executive Director, Board of Occupational Therapy, responded to Chair Cohen's inquiries regarding R105-19 related to biennial license renewal cycles and continuing education unit requirements. She explained that the two-year cycle allows flexibility for licensees and has not presented challenges since the adoption of the regulation in 2018.

Chair Cohen asked about the rationale for changes to Section 7 of R115-19, which adjusts payments to psychological assistants and/or interns from a fixed wage on a periodic basis to a stipend in equal amounts on a fixed schedule.

In response, Whitney E. Koch Owens, Psy.D., Henderson, Secretary/Treasurer, Board of Psychological Examiners, shared that the change is meant to provide fair and equitable

compensation to psychological assistants and interns and to underscore sponsors' obligation to support their supervision and training.

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATION OF METHODS TO PROMOTE HEALTH EQUITY IN NEVADA

Paul Devereux, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), provided an overview of links between social determinants of health (SDOH) and health equity in Nevada ([Agenda Item V A](#)). He explained that social determinants are root causes and are the conditions into which people are born. He said the most effective strategy is to look “upstream” or to take action on SDOH before populations become sick and/or before individuals develop risk profiles. Dr. Devereux stated that public health solutions have focused on mechanisms, outcomes, and consequences of social conditions rather than working to mitigate those factors in the social structure.

Dr. Devereux's presentation focused on the following:

- Focusing on root causes versus consequences of adverse health conditions;
- Various levels of intervention from structural changes to support for groups and individuals;
- Changing perspectives of individual responsibility for health; and
- Causes of health disparities and inequities.

Dr. Devereux noted there are social causes of health challenges and social factors determining the distribution of these causes between more and less advantaged groups. He offered strategies for taking action to address SDOH including: (1) understanding that social determinants are modifiable through many processes; (2) empowering communities to become active protagonists in shaping their own health; and (3) considering health when developing all public policies.

Gerold Dermid, M.B.A., Director, Nevada Public Health Training Center, School of Community Health Sciences, UNR, shared a presentation that addressed the concept of health in all policies (HiAP). He outlined an approach to addressing the SDOH and ways they intersect with HiAP including: (1) key elements for responding to health issues in all sectors; (2) support of health equity through collaboration between public health entities and nontraditional stakeholders who have influence over SDOH; (3) reasons for developing a HiAP strategy; (4) Nevada's pilot project to incorporate HiAP methodology in policy and programming; and (5) best practices and HiAP policies in other states ([Agenda Item V B](#)).

Vice Chair Ratti and Mr. Dermid discussed how the proposed pilot project is funded, community efforts to incorporate HiAP planning in new projects, and alignment with key local governments' health agencies. Mr. Dermid stated the pilot project is funded by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and focuses on collaboration with local, county, and state government. Mr. Dermid agreed with Vice Chair Ratti's preference that county health agencies participate in initial pilot projects, which would be critical for long-term success.

Additional discussion among Chair Cohen, Mr. Dermid, and Dr. Devereux focused on:

- Access to healthy food and the effectiveness of community/school gardens;
- Ineffective strategies identified though preliminary needs assessments;
- Challenges encountered by California and Maryland in implementing HiAP; and
- The importance of shared visions.

Concluding, Mr. Dermid stressed the importance of collaborative efforts that are structured to include all interested parties.

AGENDA ITEM VI—OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF ORAL HEALTH IN NEVADA—SUCSESSES, CHALLENGES, AND POLICY OPTIONS

Antonina Capurro, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., State Dental Health Officer, Oral Health Program, DPBH, DHHS, shared a presentation that addressed the state of oral health in Nevada ([Agenda Item VI](#)). Dr. Capurro focused on the following:

- Overview of Nevada oral health programs, mission, and strategies;
- Correlations between oral health and overall health;
- Nevada Medicaid benefits and spending levels;
- Increasing access to dental services and oral health education for children, pregnant women, and other adults;
- Oral health program successes;
- Oral health provider capacity, provider shortage areas, and unique provider types; and
- Supporting Nevada’s oral health program infrastructure.

Dr. Capurro outlined the following policy proposals:

- Mandating health assessments for students before entering school to include medical and dental components; and
- Expanding Medicaid dental benefits for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Senator Hardy and Dr. Capurro discussed dental services provided by Medicaid, including the fact that such services are now provided by LIBERTY Dental Plan, the state’s only dental managed care organization.

Cody L. Phinney, M.P.H., Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), DHHS, offered to provide the Committee data relating to Medicaid dental services and quality.

Chair Cohen and Dr. Capurro discussed: (1) educating children about the importance of early dental hygiene; and (2) benefits of engaging a dedicated dental health administrator.

Responding to Vice Chair Ratti's questions about adult dental coverage in Nevada, Dr. Capurro highlighted the information on page 10 of the presentation ([Agenda Item VI](#)) and explained that adult dental coverage under Nevada Medicaid includes emergency services, extractions, and removable prosthetics that meet certain criteria.

Responding to Vice Chair Ratti's request, Ms. Phinney offered to research and provide eligibility details relating to NEON (New Employees of Nevada) participants who are also Medicaid recipients.

AGENDA ITEM VII—PRESENTATION OF TWO COMMUNITY-BASED ORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS—ADOPT A VET DENTAL PROGRAM AND FUTURE SMILES

Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD), submitted an overview of the program ([Agenda Item VII A-1](#)) and a video presentation ([Agenda Item VII A-2](#)). She highlighted the mission of AAVD, which is to provide pro bono dental care to low-income veterans.

Ms. Haigh discussed: (1) programs administered by AAVD; (2) case management and referral processes; and (3) lack of federal funding. Ms. Haigh highlighted the program's successes, its partnership with Truckee Meadows Community College, plans for similar collaboration with the College of Southern Nevada, and plans to submit requests to the governor's office for continued state funding.

Ms. Haigh submitted the following documents:

- Fact sheet outlining AAVD statistics and progress since the program's inception in 2010 ([Agenda Item VII A-3](#));
- Flyer listing participating providers ([Agenda Item VII A-4](#)); and
- NNVD 2019 newsletter ([Agenda Item VII A-5](#)).

Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles, provided written remarks relating to the Future Smiles organization that focused on the following: (1) dental care for children; (2) health outcomes; (3) funding sources; and (4) proposed changes in Medicaid funding that will limit dental health services for Nevadans ([Agenda Item VII B-1](#)).

Ms. Chandler proposed requiring all health insurers to cover a school health program that provides school-based health services to children. She noted the advantages of such a program include timely preventive care, fewer days out of school, and convenience for parents. Additionally, Ms. Chandler advocated for Medicaid coverage for dental preventive care for all children in Nevada.

Discussion ensued on the following topics:

- Advantages of Future Smiles' partnership with Nevada Health Centers;
- Lack of dental health resources in hospital emergency rooms;
- Future Smiles' successful relationship with LIBERTY Dental, Medicaid's dental managed care organization (MCO);

- Health Care Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures; and
- Preventive dental procedures including school sealant programs and fluoride varnish.

Ms. Chandler submitted the following additional information for the Committee's review:

- Terri Chandler, Curriculum Vitae ([Agenda Item VII B-2](#));
- Future Smiles Program Overview ([Agenda Item VII B-3](#));
- Future Smiles end of year summary 2018–2019 ([Agenda Item VII B-4](#));
- Vegas Golden Knights Team Smile data sheet ([Agenda Item VII B-5](#));
- Link to fluoride products data sheet ([Agenda Item VII B-6](#));
- Article outlining Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services funding guidance ([Agenda Item VII B-7](#));
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding fact sheet ([Agenda Item VII B-8](#));
- CDC Division of Oral Health fact sheet ([Agenda Item VII B-9](#)); and
- Link to article concerning children's oral health and academic performance ([Agenda Item VII B-10](#)).

Assemblywoman Titus questioned whether children who are enrolled in Medicaid are eligible for dental care coverage.

Ms. Chandler affirmed that these children have dental benefits, but she noted many children in Nevada are not enrolled in Medicaid or are uninsured.

Responding to Assemblywoman Titus's inquiry regarding parental consent requirements when children are treated through a school-based health program, Ms. Chandler noted parents provide written consent for triage, assessment, and prevention efforts; but when comprehensive dental restorative treatment is needed, parents must be in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM VIII—OVERVIEW OF DENTAL PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY TWO FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS—COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIANCE AND NEVADA HEALTH CENTERS

Lisa M. Collier, D.D.S., Chief Dental Officer, Community Health Alliance (CHA), shared an overview of CHA dental services and focused on: (1) available facilities both brick and mortar and mobile; (2) clinical staffing and qualifications; (3) hygiene, screening, and nutritional counseling services provided to children; (4) community programs including care for homeless individuals; (5) number of patients served; (6) emergency services; and (7) roadblocks to providing dental care ([Agenda Item VIII A](#)).

Dr. Collier discussed strategies for improving dental care for Nevadans including: (1) providing comprehensive dental care to adults, including preventive and restorative care; (2) finding innovative ways to increase the number of Medicaid providers; (3) reaching out to the public and communities to promote the importance of oral health;

and (4) offsetting costs of adult dental benefits with diversion programs and improved overall health care opportunities.

Tyree G. Davis, D.D.S., Chief Dental Officer, Nevada Health Centers, submitted a presentation regarding services provided by Nevada Health Centers (NVHC) ([Agenda Item VIII B](#)). Dr. Davis explained NVHC is a nonprofit federally qualified health center and the largest provider of primary care services to insured, underinsured, and uninsured patients in Nevada. He stated NVHC provides care to all individuals in need of care, regardless of their economic, insurance, or legal status.

Dr. Davis addressed NVHC's dental health services including:

- Fixed dental sites in Las Vegas and Elko;
- Mobile dental services—Ronald McDonald Care Mobile;
- Preventive and restorative dental services provided;
- Dental service data—patient visits, patient ages, and payers; and
- Dental sealant program and outcomes.

Dr. Davis outlined NVHC's future plans to expand dental services including purchasing a second mobile dental van, recruiting dental providers to rural areas, and increasing the number of dental care sites and services.

Dr. Davis affirmed that Medicaid does not fund comprehensive examinations and noted the examinations are essential to the care of NVHC patients.

Vice Chair Ratti requested an analysis of the requirements for expanding Medicaid coverage for dental care, particularly comprehensive dental examinations, be submitted during a future meeting of the LCHC.

AGENDA ITEM IX—PERSPECTIVE ON THE STATE OF ORAL HEALTH FROM THE NEVADA DENTAL ASSOCIATION AND THE NEVADA DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

Robert H. Talley, D.D.S., C.A.E., Executive Director, Nevada Dental Association (NDA), shared a presentation highlighting the following topics: (1) NDA organizational structure; (2) state level advocacy to preserve the integrity of the dental profession, strengthen the doctor/patient relationship, and promote access to oral health care; and (3) challenges members face ([Agenda Item IX A](#)).

Dr. Talley discussed provisions of [Senate Bill 366](#) (2019), which established the profession of dental therapy. He stressed the importance that regulations developed by the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada follow the intent of the legislation. Dr. Talley stated provisions in SB 366 restrict dental therapy practices to geographic areas of critical need with the goal of providing improved access to dental care for specific populations.

Dr. Talley outlined policy recommendations including the following: (1) partnering with legislators to develop a bill draft request to fund two dental units at Nye County Hospital; and (2) discussing measures to alleviate dental students' education debt.

Responding to a question from Chair Cohen, Dr. Talley estimated average student loan debt following dental school is \$300,000 to \$400,000.

Dr. Talley noted that older dentists are delaying retirement and newly graduated dentists, burdened with excessive debt, are accepting positions with corporate entities rather than taking on the burden of opening private practices.

Sara Mercier, R.D.H., B.S.D.H., Immediate Past President, Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association, expressed appreciation to the legislature for its support of SB 366 and for acknowledging Nevada's oral health crisis. She shared a presentation outlining issues and challenges in providing critical oral health care in the state ([Agenda Item IX B-1](#)).

Ms. Mercier discussed dental hygienists':

- Many professional roles, including those of prevention and education specialists;
- Training/accreditation requirements; and
- Recent classification as health care diagnosing/treating practitioners.

Ms. Mercier discussed disparities in health and dental care as reported by DHHS and noted Nevada ranks 44th in the nation for access to health care and 31st for public health. She stressed the importance of educating patients about the evidence that links poor oral health to most systemic diseases. Ms. Mercier submitted a document that addresses the oral health crisis in Nevada ([Agenda Item IX B-2](#)).

Continuing the presentation ([Agenda Item IX B-1](#)), Ms. Mercier discussed the following critical dental health issues:

- The growing number of adults experiencing tooth decay and loss of teeth;
- CDC reports and emphasis on prevention;
- Gum/periodontal disease, which is now considered a public health crisis;
- The death rate of Americans with oral and oropharyngeal cancer and treatment options;
- The need for access to quality dental care;
- Efforts to incorporate requirements of SB 366 into the *Nevada Administrative Code*;
- Advantages of midlevel dental therapy providers and the services they can offer; and
- Professional opportunities and barriers for dental hygienists.

Ms. Mercier proposed implementing teledentistry, which would improve access to patients in underserved areas, provide the ability to coordinate care with other health care professionals, and reduce costs, among other things.

Responding to Chair Cohen's question regarding advanced education for dental therapists, Ms. Mercier explained attendance at a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) program is required for licensing. She stated that because there are no programs in Nevada, students must attend classes in another state. Ms. Mercier said the programs require two to three years to complete.

Chair Cohen asked whether teledentistry is available in Nevada.

Antonina Capurro, previously identified, explained the Oral Health Program, DHHS, requested an advisory opinion from the Board of Dental Examiners of Nevada regarding teledentistry.

AGENDA ITEM X—PRESENTATION FROM THE DENTAL PLAN PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS OF MEDICAID MANAGED CARE (LIBERTY DENTAL PLAN)

Amy Tongsiri, D.M.D., Nevada Dental Director, LIBERTY Dental Plan, presented an overview of the plan, which is administered by LIBERTY, a privately held dental benefits corporation contracted as the state's dental MCO ([Agenda Item X](#)). Dr. Tongsiri explained that LIBERTY administers dental coverage for Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up recipients living in Clark and Washoe Counties. She discussed LIBERTY's operations in Nevada; its focus on health, prevention, and education, and case management services.

Dr. Tongsiri outlined the difference in Medicaid benefits for children and adults. Children's benefits include: (1) comprehensive care; (2) X-rays, exams, and cleanings; (3) crowns, fillings, partials and dentures, and root canals; and (4) extractions and sedations, while adult benefits are more limited. Continuing the presentation, Dr. Tongsiri discussed LIBERTY partnerships in Nevada, including the following topics ([Agenda Item X](#)):

- Emergency room (ER) redirect program for nontraumatic toothaches;
- Washoe County's nurse pilot program—educating and training nurses in dental health issues; and
- CAMBRA (Caries Management by Risk Assessment) value-based pilot program—rewarding participating providers with incentive payments for prevention and proactive care.

Dr. Tongsiri provided information relating to LIBERTY dental plan statistics regarding: (1) availability of care; and (2) case management volume and turnaround time. She shared LIBERTY's future community-related plans for expanding the ER redirect program, expanding school nurse education and training, and increasing school-based sealant programs.

Committee members and Dr. Tongsiri discussed the following:

- Process of assigning dental homes to adults and children;
- Process of informing recipients of covered services;
- Information provided to parents regarding early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment, (EPSDT) benefits; and
- Family-wide enrollment under EPSDT.

Vice Chair Ratti observed that adult members' services are limited and do not include comprehensive dental care. She requested a sample of the welcome packet that is sent to members.

Responding to Assemblywoman Titus's questions regarding program utilization, Dr. Tongsiri said she will provide information relating to: (1) the number of children who did not utilize

available preventive services and LIBERTY's efforts to encourage participation; and (2) the efficacy of value-added strategies and outreach programs.

Matt Robinson, representing LIBERTY Dental Plan, discussed outreach plans and said more information will be provided to the Committee.

Senator Hardy requested an overview of quality measures, including HEDIS scores. He asked how the utilization and quality of care compares when dental benefits in Nevada were provided by medical MCOs. Senator Hardy referred to page 19 of the presentation ([Agenda Item X](#)) and asked why case volume declined and turnaround time increased. Senator Hardy also asked whether dental care provided in rural areas changed following the establishment of the UNLV dental school and whether data is available to demonstrate the value of the state's investments.

Cody L. Phinney, previously identified, and Mr. Robinson offered to research and provide information addressing Senator Hardy's questions.

AGENDA ITEM XI—OVERVIEW OF NEVADA ORAL HEALTH PROVIDER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Erin Greene, D.D.S., Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, College of Dental Medicine, Roseman University of Health Sciences, Henderson, Nevada, provided background on Roseman College postdoctoral education programs ([Agenda Item XI A](#)). She focused on the University's advanced education general dentistry (AEGD) program in Henderson.

Dr. Greene discussed paths taken by students interested in dentistry and said that after earning undergraduate and dental school degrees, students may choose to open a practice, practice as an associate with an owner-doctor, work for a community clinic or corporate dentistry practice, or opt to specialize. She stated two types of alternative one-year programs are available: (1) general practice residency, which is usually hospital-based; and (2) AEGD, which is offered through Roseman University.

Chair Cohen and Dr. Greene discussed:

- Other colleges/institutions that offer AEGD programs;
- Community outreach efforts to provide information regarding public dental clinics; and
- A suggestion to setup informational booths in the many Henderson park events.

Missy Abel, R.D.H., M.Ed., Dental Hygiene Programs Director, College of Southern Nevada (CSN), shared a presentation regarding CSN's dental hygiene program ([Agenda Item XI B](#)).

She focused on the following topics:

- A community outreach program served by dental hygiene students and students' contributions;
- Value to students of learning to assist underserved populations;
- The correlation between dental and medical health and dentists' ability to recognize serious health conditions;

- Enhanced dental hygiene education for students and clinical opportunities for the public;
- The availability of a dental hygiene bachelor's degree;
- Increased student interest in public health issues; and
- Information related to dental assistants.

Concluding, Ms. Abel shared CSN's commitment to providing quality education and supporting oral health. She stressed the contributions of CSN's administrative and support staff, faculty, and students and expressed appreciation for the Legislature's support of SB 366.

Vice Chair Ratti asked for policy recommendations and proposals to address ongoing challenges and expressed her confidence that those participating in the LCHC meeting will continue communicating and identifying critical oral health issues.

Julie Ellsworth, Ph.D., Dean of Sciences, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC), provided an overview of the TMCC dental hygiene programs and services provided ([Agenda Item XI C-1](#)). She discussed:

- Details of staff, faculty, and facilities;
- Data relating to the number of patients treated;
- Clinic funding, costs, and services provided without reimbursement through insurance plans;
- Community collaborations and dental education outreach efforts;
- The fact that the program has upgraded to provide a bachelor of science in dental hygiene;
- The slight increase in the number of dental hygienists licensed in rural Nevada; and
- Tuition costs and support opportunities.

Dr. Ellsworth provided fact sheets summarizing TMCC dental hygiene and dental assisting programs ([Agenda Item XI C-2](#)) and ([Agenda Item XI C-3](#)).

David P. Cappelli, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Dental Medicine (SDM), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), provided an overview of the dental medicine program offered by UNLV ([Agenda Item XI D-1](#)) and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss oral health disparities and access to care issues in Nevada.

Dr. Cappelli focused his presentation on:

- SDM service in every county in the state;
- The school's mission to provide education and improve oral health through innovative programs;
- Student achievement metrics;

- Special programs and special care dentistry clinic; and
- Community service programs.

Among other things, Dr. Cappelli highlighted goals and objectives including initiation of a dental health residency program and expanding the reach of the UNLV School of Medicine into rural areas. He provided a fact sheet, which summarizes the SDM program, community service outreach, and service learning opportunities ([Agenda Item XI D-2](#)).

Responding to Senator Hardy's question regarding SDM efforts to improve access in rural areas, Dr. Cappelli noted students are encouraged to consider opportunities outside of urban centers and said the proposed dental public health residency program would incorporate rural outreach programs.

AGENDA ITEM XII—OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF [ASSEMBLY BILL 223](#) AND [SENATE BILL 366](#) THAT PASSED DURING THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FEDERAL WAIVER NECESSARY TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DENTAL CARE TO PERSONS WITH DIABETES

Antonina Capurro, previously identified, provided information related to the implementation of AB 223 and focused on the following topics: (1) prevalence and impact of diabetes in the United States; (2) objectives and goals to expand Medicaid dental services to patients with diabetes; (3) Nevada counties with the greatest need for medical and dental providers; and (4) types of dental services authorized by AB 223 ([Agenda Item XII](#)).

Cody L. Phinney, previously identified, explained application strategies for the Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Services 1115 Demonstration Waiver ([Agenda Item XII](#)). She focused on waiver metrics, the need to provide a budget neutrality, test and obtaining CMS approval.

Committee members, Dr. Capurro, and Ms. Phinney discussed:

- Medicaid billing and reimbursement for dental therapists and national provider identifier coding;
- Public health endorsements and sustainable business models/billing barriers for providers who practice independently;
- Dental hygienists with public health endorsements who work within public health programs that focus on specific populations; and
- Regulatory requirements for public health endorsements during the approval process.

B. INFORMATION CONCERNING DENTAL THERAPY

Dr. Capurro shared a presentation that highlighted the following topics: (1) background relating to SB 366, which established the profession of dental therapy, educational and clinical requirements, and areas of practice; (2) access to oral health care in Nevada by county; (3) regulatory oversight and licensing; and (4) Medicaid reimbursement for services ([Agenda Item XII](#)).

Dr. Capurro discussed the following topics:

- The goal to expand the provision of affordable preventive services in community settings; and
- The increasing number of states enacting legislation relating to dental therapy.

Ms. Phinney continued the presentation ([Agenda Item XII](#)) and offered an overview of the methodology for the implementation of SB 366. She noted that once regulations are approved, DHCFP will enroll dental therapy providers and establish their eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement.

AGENDA ITEM XIII—UPDATE ON THE MANNER IN WHICH CHANGES TO FEDERAL DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION BY IMMIGRANTS IN PUBLIC WELFARE PROGRAMS (PUBLIC CHARGE RULE) MAY AFFECT THE HEALTH OF IMMIGRANTS IN NEVADA

Suzanne Bierman, J.D., M.P.H., Administrator, DHCFP, DHHS, provided an overview of the public charge final rule and discussed determinations of those who will be affected ([Agenda Item XIII](#)). Ms. Bierman discussed implications for Nevada and said the resulting public reluctance to apply for benefits is known as the *chilling effect*.

Chair Cohen asked whether families with questions and concerns should seek legal assistance or contact DHCFP.

Ms. Bierman explained that DHCFP has been advised to provide broad-based information and suggested individuals and families consult an attorney for advice regarding their specific situations.

Responding to Vice Chair Ratti's inquiry related to the potential for uncompensated care, Ms. Bierman noted a national study for the American Hospital Association identified Nevada as one of three states that may be significantly impacted by the public charge rule eligibility changes.

Vice Chair Ratti stated her concern regarding costs of deferred care when those who are eligible to continue receiving benefits are reluctant to seek health care due to the public charge rule.

Discussion ensued among members and Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, Program and Field Operations, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, DHHS, regarding: (1) Medicaid eligibility; (2) recipients who voluntarily withdraw or fail to renew coverage; (3) impact on the 2020 Census and federal funding; and (4) outreach efforts to alleviate public concerns.

AGENDA ITEM XIV—UPDATE CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND NEVADA'S RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS

(This agenda item was taken out of order.)

Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist, DPBH, DHHS, provided an update concerning the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak; Nevada's response and preparedness efforts;

and DHHS's partnership with the CDC and local health authorities. She focused on: (1) the likely center of the outbreak; (2) epidemiology; and (3) the Nevada, national, and global situation ([Agenda Item XIV A](#)). Ms. Peek-Bullock discussed the key symptoms of COVID-19 and said they include: fever, coughs, and shortness of breath. She discussed what is currently known about COVID-19, as well as information gaps. She noted there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nevada and said DPBH is the direct link between local public health and the CDC's Emergency Operations Center. She concluded by providing contact information and informational resources ([Agenda Item XIV A](#)).

Assemblywoman Titus expressed appreciation for the presentation and said it is important that Nevada's citizens be assured that those who contract COVID-19 can be successfully treated and the goal should be containment.

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D., M.P.H., Chief Medical Officer, DPBH, DHHS, discussed goals in containing the virus including, early detection, containment, and delay of infections. He also said this is a public health opportunity to demonstrate nonpharmaceutical measures to contain COVID-19.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Quarantine procedures in Nevada;
- Risk rating measures;
- Transportation and care of quarantined individuals; and
- The likelihood that reported symptoms are indicative of influenza rather than COVID-19.

Ms. Peek-Bullock shared the [DPBH website](#) on COVID-19, which is being updated regularly.

Subsequent to the meeting Julia Peek, M.H.A., C.P.M., Deputy Administrator, Community Health Services, DPBH, DHHS, submitted a fact sheet outlining an overview of Nevada's response to COVID-19 ([Agenda Item XIV B](#)).

AGENDA ITEM XV—PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristen Reeves expressed her support of religious exemptions to mandatory vaccine laws, and she stated her objection to intrusions into parents' and children's rights.

Norman Wright discussed the need to develop a uniform system for reporting diseases that are public health concerns.

Subsequent to the meeting the following documents were submitted:

Michelle Agasi, Nevada resident, submitted written remarks regarding her objections to mandated vaccines and the elimination of vaccine exemptions ([Agenda Item XV A](#)).

Daphne Lee, Nevada resident, provided written remarks and information related to the dangers of the Human Papillomavirus vaccine ([Agenda Item XV B](#)).

AGENDA ITEM XVI—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Brase

Research Policy Assistant

Patrick B. Ashton

Senior Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen, Chair

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item II A	Nancy Bowen Executive Director, Nevada Primary Care Association	Written testimony
Agenda Item II B	Leann McAllister, M.B.A., Executive Director, Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	Written testimony
Agenda Item II C	Lynda Tache, Founder and past-Chief Executive Officer, Grant a Gift Autism Foundation	Written testimony
Agenda Item II D	Mia Lowry, Nevada resident	Written testimony
Agenda Item II E	Amanda Cassell, Nevada resident	Written testimony
Agenda Item IV A	Eric Robbins, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	LCB File R105-19 of the Board of Occupational Therapy
Agenda Item IV B	Eric Robbins, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB	LCB File R115-19 of the Board of Psychological Examiners,
Agenda Item V A	Paul Devereux, Ph.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, School of Community Health Sciences, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Agenda Item V B	Gerold Dermid, M.B.A., Director, Nevada Public Health Training Center, School of Community Health Sciences, UNR	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
Agenda Item VI	Antonina Capurro, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., State Dental Health Officer, Oral Health Program, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
	Health and Human Services (DHHS)	
Agenda Item VII A-1	Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD)	Introduction to AAVD program
Agenda Item VII A-2	Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, AAVD	Link to video presentation
Agenda Item VII A-3	Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, AAVD	Program progress fact sheet
Agenda Item VII A-4	Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, AAVD	Participating providers flyer
Agenda Item VII A-5	Linda J. Haigh, President and Founder, AAVD	AAVD 2019 newsletter
Agenda Item VII B-1	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Written testimony
Agenda Item VII B-2	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Curriculum Vitae
Agenda Item VII B-3	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Program overview
Agenda Item VII B-4	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	End of year summary
Agenda Item VII B-5	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Golden Knights report
Agenda Item VII B-6	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Link to report regarding fluoride products
Agenda Item VII B-7	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Block grant guidance report

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Agenda Item VII B-8</u>	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Funding information
<u>Agenda Item VII B-9</u>	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Appropriations request
<u>Agenda Item VII B-10</u>	Terri Chandler, R.D.H., Founder and Executive Director, Future Smiles	Link to article regarding children's oral health and academic performance
<u>Agenda Item VIII A</u>	Lisa M. Collier, D.D.S., Chief Dental Officer, Community Health Alliance	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item VIII B</u>	Tyree G. Davis, D.D.S., Chief Dental Officer, Nevada Health Centers	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item IX A</u>	Robert H. Talley, D.D.S., C.A.E., Executive Director, Nevada Dental Association	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item IX B-1</u>	Sara Mercier, R.D.H., B.S.D.H., Immediate Past President, Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association, (NDHA)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item IX B-2</u>	Sara Mercier, R.D.H., B.S.D.H., Immediate Past President, NDHA	Report titled <i>The Oral Health Crisis</i>
<u>Agenda Item X</u>	Amy Tongsiri, D.M.D., Nevada Dental Director, LIBERTY Dental Plan	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XI A</u>	Erin Greene, D.D.S., Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry, College of Dental Medicine, Roseman University of Health Sciences, Henderson, Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Agenda Item XI B</u>	Missy Abel, R.D.H., M.Ed., Dental Hygiene Programs Director, College of Southern Nevada	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XI C-1</u>	Julie Ellsworth, Ph.D., Dean of Sciences, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XI C-2</u>	Julie Ellsworth, Ph.D., Dean of Sciences, TMCC	Dental hygiene program fact sheet
<u>Agenda Item XI C-3</u>	Julie Ellsworth, Ph.D., Dean of Sciences, TMCC	Dental assisting program fact sheet
<u>Agenda Item XI D-1</u>	David P. Cappelli, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Dental Medicine (SDM), University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XI D-2</u>	David P. Cappelli, D.M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Biomedical Sciences, SDM, UNLV	SDM data sheet
<u>Agenda Item XII</u>	Antonina Capurro, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., State Dental Health Officer, Oral Health Program, DBPH, DHHS, and Cody L. Phinney, M.P.H., Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, (DHCFP), DHHS	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XIII</u>	Suzanne Bierman, J.D., M.P.H., Administrator, DHCFP, DHHS	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Agenda Item XIV A</u>	Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist, DPBH, DHHS	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
<u>Agenda Item XIV B</u>	Julia Peek, M.H.A., C.P.M., Deputy Administrator, Community Health Services, DPBH, DHHS	Fact sheet—Nevada’s response to COVID-19
<u>Agenda Item XV A</u>	Michelle Agasi, Nevada resident	Public comment
<u>Agenda Item XV B</u>	Daphne Lee, Nevada resident	Public comment

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