



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
(Nevada Revised Statutes 439B.200)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The second meeting of Nevada's Legislative Committee on Health Care was held on November 15, 2005, at 9 a.m. in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 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 Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/Interim. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Publications Office, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chairman
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chairwoman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Joe Heck
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Assemblyman Joe Hardy
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Amber J. Joiner, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Leslie K. Hamner, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB
Erin DeLong, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division, LCB

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chairman, welcomed the Committee members and the public to the second interim meeting of the Legislative Committee on Health Care.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2005, MEETING IN CARSON CITY

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR HECK MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 25, 2005, MEETING HELD IN CARSON CITY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PRESENTATION REGARDING NEVADA HEALTH PLANNING EFFORTS

- Michael J. Willden, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), summarized the statutes and priorities concerning the health planning efforts of the DHHS ([Exhibit B](#)). Mr. Willden said the DHHS is statutorily required to develop and administer various health care plans in Nevada that cover what services are provided, and how those services are provided. Finally, he remarked that there are over 100 reports addressing specific health care areas and issues in Nevada, and he reviewed several of them.

There was a discussion regarding the DHHS priorities for health care planning, cost control, and cost data reporting. It was determined by the Committee that cost factors should be included in the strategic plan for health care.

- Alexander Haartz, M.P.H., Administrator, Health Division, DHHS, said the Health Division's planning activities are grouped into two broad types: individual health-oriented prevention planning and health care system-oriented planning. Mr. Haartz said there are additional activities statutorily mandated and may or may not be funded by federal grants, most of which provide planning activity funding and implementation phases of three to five years. He noted that most of the Health Division's activities focus on collecting and analyzing data, and the Division's main emphasis is on creating a central repository for data and databases. Mr. Haartz said the Division also serves as a resource for data collection and development of strategies for data analyses. He commented that challenges for the Health Division are limited staffing and resources. Mr. Haartz concluded with a discussion of the Division's current health planning activities, early intervention services, and improvement planning.

A discussion ensued regarding grant funding provided to the Health Division by the federal government. Mr. Haartz mentioned related topics including grant renewals, site visits, licensure, and certification, and said he would provide hard copies of related publications and reports to the members. Mr. Haartz noted that there are approximately 100 federal grants managed by the Health Division at any given time. Mr. Willden added that the DHHS maintains a list of recurring reports including health-related issues and trends, and he would also provide that database information.

UPDATE CONCERNING THE LONG-TERM STRATEGIC HEALTH CARE PLANS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 513 (CHAPTER 541, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2001*) IN THE AREAS OF:

A. SERVICES PROVIDED TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

B. RURAL HEALTH ISSUES

C. SENIOR SERVICES

D. THE RATE OF PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DHHS

- Mr. Willden stated that three of the four strategic plans funded by the 2001 Legislature were completed by the DHHS in 2002. He said the DHHS created Strategic Plan Accountability Committees (SPACs) for each of the following four areas to help guide the Department in its ten-year strategic planning process.

Rural Health SPAC

- Richard Whitley, M.S., Deputy Administrator, Health Division, DHHS, and member for the rural health SPAC, reviewed the process and summary of developing the strategic plan for rural health ([Exhibit C](#)). Mr. Whitley said the rural community stakeholders preferred specific community profiles instead of being clustered together as one entity, and health status profiles by county were provided in the strategic plan. He said data was an important component for making decisions, and noted that productive stakeholder meetings were held with both the health care service system and the public in the rural communities.
- Gerald Ackerman, Deputy Director, Center for Education and Health Services Outreach, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, Elko, Nevada, and Co-Chairman for the rural health SPAC, gave a presentation on the SPAC's first-year accomplishments concerning rural health ([Exhibit D](#)). Mr. Ackerman said the SPAC focused on four specific areas in the rural health care strategic plan: (1) the work force; (2) the loan pool program; (3) mental health access; and (4) data collection.

There were discussions regarding rural health issues noted in the SPAC's report including the population density of rural Nevada, mental health issues, telemedicine, and various educational and incentive programs offered in Nevada in comparison with other states.

Additional discussions ensued regarding rural public transportation systems and infrastructures, and resolving transportation problems for lower income populations including the difficulty for rural community patients to travel to Reno for care, and having to rely upon the sheriff's department and emergency medical services for transportation.

Other discussions ensued regarding: (1) travel time frames for rural health patients requiring primary, secondary, and tertiary care; (2) immunization and vaccination of children in rural communities; and (3) health care financing and insurance coverage in rural areas and the work force.

(As directed by Chairman Washington, Agenda Item IV-B was taken out of order.)

People With Disabilities SPAC

- Todd Butterworth, Chief, Office of Disability Services, DHHS, said his office was designated to facilitate the development of Nevada's strategic plan for people with disabilities, and will work with the SPAC to accomplish the objectives outlined in the July 2005 Annual Report ([Exhibit E](#)).
- Robert Desruisseaux, Chairman for the people with disabilities SPAC, provided an executive summary for the strategic plan ([Exhibit F](#)). He gave an overview on the results from the 2005 Legislative Session regarding services provided to adults and children with disabilities. Mr. Desruisseaux reviewed three accomplishments from the session as follows: (1) the addition of an *Olmstead Decision* unit in the state budget; (2) the creation of a state board on transition services; and (3) the passage of two bills to improve personal assistant services. Mr. Desruisseaux concluded his presentation by listing potential legislation for the 2007 Session, including: (1) funding for the 2-1-1 program; (2) adding autism behavioral services to the mental health and mental retardation waiver and placing a request as an *Olmstead Decision* unit within the budget; (3) funding Medicaid's traumatic brain injury request; (4) adding traumatic brain injury applicants to the reporting requirements under personal care assistant services; (5) combining various disability reports required in statute by the Office of Disability Services into one comprehensive biannual report; (6) expanding highway income eligibility; (7) mandating property owners' or managers' participation in Nevada's new affordable housing registry; (8) addressing certain aspects of the American Sign Language interpreter certification program; (9) examining the strategic plan currently being developed for autism, traumatic brain injuries, and school-to-work transitions, and determining if further legislation is necessary; and (10) addressing the county match issue in nursing home services, which keeps patients unnecessarily institutionalized.

Seniors SPAC

- Mary Liveratti, Deputy Director, DHHS, began a slide presentation on the strategic plan for senior services ([Exhibit G](#)). She said the senior SPAC coordinates with the other plans in order to maximize progress, and is partnered closely with the people with disabilities SPAC.
- Susan Rhodes, Chairwoman for the seniors SPAC, continued the slide presentation and outlined the second year plan for senior services ([Exhibit H](#)). She reviewed the status of goals and objectives to form the entire plan ([Exhibit I](#)), and a summary and background including targeted areas was also provided ([Exhibit J](#)).
- Connie McMullen, Vice-Chairwoman for the seniors SPAC, reviewed the plan strategies on transportation for seniors, and discussed problems in the rural areas. She concluded the slide presentation for senior services.

The Rate of Payment for Services Provided by the DHHS

- Mr. Willden stated that a strategic plan had not been completed for the fourth area concerning provider rates; instead, a Rates Task Force was assigned to review various mental health and provider rates paid primarily through Medicaid.
- Patrick Cates, Administrative Services Officer IV, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS, discussed challenges of cost containment initiative issues in terms of how a single state can address problems experienced on a national level. He reviewed the strategic plan for provider rates ([Exhibit K](#)), and identified areas where reimbursement issues are preventing access to health care.

There were discussions regarding provider growth and the timeliness of Medicaid reimbursements, the collection of cost information from providers, and Medicaid rates in Nevada. Mr. Willden discussed cost drivers, and commented that the issue is not only about the rate paid, but how services are utilized.

Another discussion ensued on rate percentage breakdowns for Medicaid providers, physicians, drugs, hospitalization, and long-term care. Mr. Willden said a Medicaid payment projection model is completed by the DHHS on a quarterly basis, indicating the cost centers for all of the areas concerned. Mr. Willden discussed the Medicaid budget and eligibility group percentages, and referred to a chart created by the DHHS that is available on-line.

PRESENTATION CONCERNING VARIOUS HEALTH CARE PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS' PROPOSALS TO ASSIST THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE PURSUANT TO NRS 449.520 AS AMENDED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 342 (CHAPTER 418, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2005*)

- Marsheilah D. Lyons, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, discussed the process of hiring a consultant to assist the Committee in developing the statewide health care plan. She provided an update on organizations that responded to the request for proposal (RFP) ([Exhibit L](#)).

The following four prospective consultants responded to the RFP and gave presentations:

1. Peter Burns, Corporate Director, EP&P Consulting, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, previously submitted his firm's proposal ([Exhibit M](#)).
2. Dina Hunsberger, Ph.D., M.P.H., Hunsberger Consulting, Reno, Nevada, and Sara McConnell, M.P.A., McConnell Consulting, Reno, also previously submitted a proposal ([Exhibit N](#)). They gave a slide presentation and provided copies ([Exhibit O](#)).
3. Robert H. Cameron, Director, LECG, Evanston, Illinois, and Ms. Marcia A. McDonell, Executive Director, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), Phoenix, Arizona, previously submitted a proposal ([Exhibit P](#)), and also provided a proposal overview from LECG ([Exhibit Q](#)).
4. J. Bruce Wiggins, President, Strategic Medical Management, Las Vegas, Nevada, also previously submitted a proposal ([Exhibit R](#)).

Chairman Washington requested that each consulting firm provide a list of past or present representations of other clients, as well as a disclosure of relationships and affiliations.

The Chairman directed the Committee members to review the four RFPs and submit their recommendations to staff by the end of the month. He said the selected contractor would be responsible for working with individual stakeholders, and members assigned to specific topics as follows:

Senator Washington – health care facilities

Senator Heck – health care professionals

Senator Horsford – public health systems

Assemblyman Hardy – health care professionals on education

Assemblywoman Leslie – medical coverage

Assemblywoman McClain – pharmaceutical coverage

**CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH CARE REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO
NRS 439B.225**

(CONTACT THE LEGAL DIVISION, LCB, FOR A LIST OF REGULATIONS.)

- Leslie K. Hamner, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, reviewed one new regulation for the State Board of Pharmacy, LCB File No. R151-05 ([Exhibit S](#)). Ms. Hamner said the regulation addresses the licensing of medical products providers and medical products wholesalers, and authorizes certain additional providers to be licensed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments made from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin DeLong
Senior Research Secretary

Marsheilah D. Lyons
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Marsheilah D. Lyons, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit B](#) is a four-page document titled “Summary of the Department of Health and Human Services Health Planning Efforts,” submitted by Michael J. Willden, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Carson City.

[Exhibit C](#) is a 22-page document titled “Executive Summary,” provided by Richard Whitley, M.S., Deputy Administrator, Health Division, DHHS, and member of the rural health Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC), Carson City.

[Exhibit D](#) is a one-page letter dated July 12, 2005, to The Honorable Kenny C. Guinn with a ten-page attachment titled “Contributions to Improving the Rural Healthcare Delivery System in Nevada,” dated June 2005, submitted by Gerald Ackerman, Deputy Director, Center for Education and Health Services Outreach, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, Elko, Nevada, and Co-Chairman of the rural health SPAC.

[Exhibit E](#) is a nine-page document titled “Nevada’s Strategic Plan for People With Disabilities, Annual Report, July 2005,” presented by Todd Butterworth, Chief, Office of Disability Services, DHHS, Carson City.

[Exhibit F](#) is a six-page document titled “Nevada Strategic Plan for People With Disabilities, Executive Summary,” submitted by Robert Desruisseaux, Chairman of the people with disabilities SPAC, Carson City.

[Exhibit G](#) is a seven-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Preparing for the Future, Nevada’s Strategic Plan for Senior Services,” given by Mary Liveratti, Deputy Director, DHHS, Susan Rhodes, Chairwoman of the seniors SPAC, and Connie McMullen, Vice-Chairwoman of the seniors SPAC, Carson City.

[Exhibit H](#) is a nine-page document dated September 27, 2005, and titled “Department of Health and Human Services Strategic Plan for Seniors, Year Two Plan Status,” provided by Susan Rhodes, Chairwoman of the seniors SPAC, Carson City.

[Exhibit I](#) is a 17-page document titled “Strategic Plan for Seniors, Status of Goals and Objectives,” submitted by Susan Rhodes, Chairwoman of the seniors SPAC, Carson City.

[Exhibit J](#) is an 11-page document titled “Summary and Background,” given by Susan Rhodes, Chairwoman of the seniors SPAC, Carson City.

[Exhibit K](#) is a two-page document titled “Provider Rates Strategic Plan,” submitted by Patrick Cates, Administrative Services Officer IV, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS, Carson City.

[Exhibit L](#) is a four-page request for proposal, dated November 3, 2005, to prospective consulting firms from Marsheilah D. Lyons, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, Carson City.

[Exhibit M](#) is a two-page letter dated November 11, 2005, to Ms. Marsheilah Lyons with a 59-page attachment titled “Response to Nevada State Health Plan RFP, Issued by Legislative Committee on Health Care,” given by Peter Burns, Corporate Director, EP&P Consulting, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.

[Exhibit N](#) is a 28-page document titled “Proposal: Legislative Committee on Health Care, 2005-2006, Work Plan for Assembly Bill 342,” provided by Dina Hunsberger, Ph.D., M.P.H., Hunsberger Consulting, Reno, Nevada, and Sara McConnell, M.P.A., McConnell Consulting, Reno.

[Exhibit O](#) is a 39-slide PowerPoint presentation titled “Proposal: Legislative Committee on Health Care, 2005-2006, Work Plan for Assembly Bill 342,” submitted by Dina Hunsberger, Ph.D., M.P.H., Hunsberger Consulting, Reno, and Sara McConnell, M.P.A., McConnell Consulting, Reno.

[Exhibit P](#) is a one-page letter dated November 11, 2005, to Ms. Marsheilah Lyons with a 45-page attachment titled “Legislative Committee on Health Care, Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Health Care in Nevada,” provided by Robert H. Cameron, Director, LECG, Evanston, Illinois, and Marcia A. McDonell, Executive Director, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), Phoenix.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a two-page document titled “LECG, Proposal Overview,” submitted by Robert H. Cameron, Director, LECG, Evanston, Illinois, and Marcia A. McDonell, Executive Director, HSAG, Phoenix.

[Exhibit R](#) is a 33-page document titled “Proposal for Health Care Consulting Services, State of Nevada, Assembly Bill 342,” provided by J. Bruce Wiggins, President, Strategic Medical Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit S](#) is a 13-page document dated November 2005, and titled “Health Care Regulations, Legislative Committee on Health Care,” submitted by Leslie K. Hamner, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB, Carson City.

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.