

Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Senior Citizens and Veterans

(Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35, File No. 109, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*)

WORK SESSION DOCUMENT



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WORK SESSION DOCUMENT

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS (Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35, File No. 109, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*)

The following list of recommendations was compiled by the chair and staff of the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to Senior Citizens and Veterans (Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 35, File No. 109, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*). This document contains recommendations that were either submitted in writing to the Subcommittee staff, provided through correspondence with Subcommittee members, or presented during one of the Subcommittee's five hearings on December 11, 2007; February 5, 2008; March 18, 2008; May 7, 2008; or May 8, 2008.

This document is designed to assist the Subcommittee members in determining what action they may wish to take on certain issues, which may include making statements in the Subcommittee's final report, writing letters of recommendation or support, or forwarding recommendations for legislation to the 2009 Session of the Nevada Legislature. The Subcommittee may vote to make as many statements or send as many letters as they choose; however, pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 218.2429, the Subcommittee is limited to five bill draft requests, including requests for the drafting of resolutions. The bill draft requests must be submitted to the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau before July 1, 2008.

The recommendations listed in this document are conceptual recommendations arranged by topic, are in no particular order of importance, and do not necessarily have the support or opposition of the Subcommittee chair or members. The members may accept, reject, modify, or take no action on any of the proposals. The source of each recommendation is noted in parentheses, when available. Please note that specific sources may not be provided if the proposals were raised and discussed by numerous individuals during the course of the study, or only one main source may be listed when there were also others who contributed.

The recommendations may have been modified by being combined with similar proposals, or by addition of necessary legal or fiscal information. It should also be noted that some of the recommendations may contain an unknown fiscal impact. If a recommendation is adopted for a bill draft request, then the staff will work with interested parties to obtain fiscal estimates for inclusion in the final report. During the drafting process, specific details of approved requests for legislation or other Subcommittee action may be further clarified by staff in consultation with the Chair or others, as appropriate. Also, if a recommendation includes reference to specific chapters or statutes of the NRS, as part of the drafting process, amendments to other related chapters or sections of the NRS may be made to fully implement the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRAFTING LEGISLATION

1. **Draft legislation** to create an ongoing statutory committee on “Special Adult Populations” to address issues concerning groups such as senior citizens, veterans, and disabled adults. The Committee may study, among other important issues, the following topics:
 - A. Model guardianship laws and ways to improve protections for older persons involved in the guardianship system, including ways to improve investigation and monitoring systems (Sally Crawford Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney, Aging Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS], February 5, 2008, meeting; the Honorable David A. Hardy, Family Division, Second Judicial District Court of Nevada, February 5, 2008, meeting); and
 - B. Ways to improve long-term care facilities in Nevada, which may include: (1) a reduction in out-of-state placements; (2) the creation of both an acute and long-term special unit to treat people suffering dementia who have challenging behaviors; (3) the development of a long-term care gero-psych unit for treatment in both the north and south as an alternative to long-term care facilities; and (4) the creation of a Program for Assertive Community Treatment, similar to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Service’s Programs for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), that would provide follow-up care and track the progress of residents (Connie McMullen, Chair, Strategic Plan Accountability Committee for Senior Citizens, May 7, 2008, meeting; the Honorable Frances Doherty, Family Division, Second Judicial District Court of Nevada).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION RELATING TO ELDER ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, NEGLECT, OR ISOLATION

2. **Draft legislation** requiring the Aging Services Division, DHHS, to create a central registry of information relating to cases of abuse, neglect, isolation, or exploitation believed to have been committed against an older person. The information in the registry would include information related to cases of abuse, neglect, isolation, or exploitation gathered pursuant to NRS 200.5093. The Division could release information in the registry to an employer who provides services to older persons under certain circumstances. This legislation and the requirements for the registry should be modeled after NRS Sections 432.0999 through 432.130, which relate to a registry of information concerning the abuse or neglect of a child (Nancy McLane, Director, Clark County Social Service, February 5, 2008, meeting).
3. **Draft legislation** to reinstate members of the clergy and attorneys as mandatory reporters of abuse to those over age 60 in NRS 200.5093. In 2005, Section 5 of Assembly Bill 267 (Chapter 324, *Statutes of Nevada*) removed clergy and attorneys from the list of mandatory reporters of elder abuse. If the language were reinstated

exactly as it existed in statute prior to A.B. 267, then the following people would have to report suspected incidences of abuse, neglect, or isolation of persons over age 60: every clergyman, practitioner of Christian Science, or religious healer, unless he acquired the knowledge of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or isolation of the older person from the offender during a confession; and every attorney, unless he has acquired the knowledge of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or isolation of the older person from a client who has been or may be accused of such abuse, neglect, exploitation, or isolation (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada, February 5, 2008, meeting).

4. **Draft legislation** that would require the training of certain officers and employees of mortgage companies, title companies, real estate agencies, car dealerships, and casinos in the identification and reporting of exploitation of older persons and vulnerable persons. This legislation would be similar to Assembly Bill 87 (Chapter 328, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*), which requires such training for officials and employees of financial institutions, outlines the specific content of that training, and details under which circumstances suspicion of exploitation should be reported to authorities (Angie Christensen, Detective, Sexual Assault Section, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, February 5, 2008, meeting).
5. **Draft legislation** to require that the Division of Mortgage Lending, Department of Business and Industry, have total regulatory power and authority over the education and licensing of all mortgage brokers. This would require all originators of loans in the State of Nevada to hold a proper mortgage broker license, including those who are currently exempt under the provisions of NRS 645B.015, such as brokers in certain banks, credit unions, and other financial agencies (Rená E. Starks, Executive Strategic Marketer and Developer, IAMB, Inc., May 7, 2008, meeting).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN THE COMMUNITY

6. **Draft legislation** to make an appropriation from the State General Fund for the 2010-2011 biennium for the following programs:
 - A. The 2-1-1 System: Fund the continued operation of this program for nonemergency information and referrals concerning health, welfare, human, and social services (Connie McMullen, Chair, Strategic Plan Accountability Committee for Senior Citizens, December 11, 2007, meeting);
 - B. The Nevada Rural Counties Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP): The appropriation would fund two services:
 1. \$180,000 to subsidize a portion of the amount that senior citizens pay for the Lifeline service. The Lifeline service provides an emergency telephone

response security system 24 hours a day for seniors living alone. This amount would fund 500 more Lifeline units for senior citizens in the rural areas of Nevada (Janice R. Ayres, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), RSVP, March 18, 2008, meeting); and

2. \$176,000 to provide for the purchase of three wheelchair accessible vans, fuel, insurance, repairs, and maintenance so that the Home Companion Van Transportation Program can be expanded to Elko, Pahrump, and Tonopah (Janice R. Ayres, Executive Director and CEO, RSVP); and
- C. Newsline for the Blind: An appropriation of \$28,300 per year to the Nevada Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Division of State Library and Archives, Department of Cultural Affairs, to provide the Newsline service to Nevada residents, which would include access to two newspapers from Nevada and 256 other newspapers nationwide (Leon Rose, Representative, Newsline for the Blind; Scott A. White, Director of Sponsored Technology Programs, National Federation of the Blind, March 18, 2008, meeting).
7. **Draft legislation** to revise licensing requirements for residential facilities for groups and homes for individual residential care in the following ways:
 - A. Require the Bureau of Licensure and Certification, Health Division, DHHS, to license an independent living portion of a facility when it is housed within a residential facility for groups with more than ten beds (Senator Joyce Woodhouse, based on testimony by Paul Shubert, Health Facilities Surveyor IV, Bureau of Licensure and Certification, Health Division, DHHS, May 7, 2008, meeting).
 - B. Prohibit licensees of residential facilities for groups with ten beds or fewer and homes for individual residential care from renting rooms to boarders who do not meet the residency requirements of the type of group home for which they are licensed. An exception is that any person related within the third degree of consanguinity to a resident or staff person of the home may also reside there (Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Subcommittee Chair; based on testimony by Paul Shubert, Health Facilities Surveyor IV, Bureau of Licensure and Certification, Health Division, DHHS, May 7, 2008, meeting).
8. **Draft legislation** to increase the property tax rebate for senior citizens, provided by NRS Sections 427A.515 and 427A.520, from \$500 to \$1,000 (Senator Joyce Woodhouse).
9. **Draft legislation** to create the “Silver Alert” notification network for missing older persons. This alert system protects seniors who suffer from dementia or other cognitive impairments by quickly disseminating descriptive information about them to the public if they are missing. This should be modeled after the “Amber Alert” for

abducted children provided in NRS 432.300 through 432.380 (Lucy Peres, President, Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum, May 7, 2008, meeting).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION RELATING TO MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

10. **Draft legislation** to require continuing medical education in geriatrics and gerontology for practicing health care professionals, similar to Assembly Bill 108 introduced during the 2007 Legislative Session (Dr. Lawrence J. Weiss, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada, Reno [UNR], Nevada System of Higher Education [NSHE], March 18, 2008, meeting).
11. **Draft legislation** to create a loan forgiveness program, targeting all health professionals, to encourage practitioners and pharmacists to become educated in geriatrics and gerontology (Dr. Lawrence J. Weiss, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Sanford Center for Aging, UNR, NSHE, March 18, 2008, meeting).
12. **Draft legislation** to create and provide funding for the first biennium of an educational body within the School of Medicine, now the Division of Health Sciences, NSHE, to focus on geriatric medical education and interdisciplinary health sciences (Dr. Lawrence J. Weiss, Ph.D., Director and Associate Professor, Sanford Center for Aging, UNR, NSHE, March 18, 2008, meeting).
13. **Draft legislation** that creates a program to provide financial assistance to middle income families to help pay for skilled care home health services (Stephanie Eigenrauch, Administrator, Dynamic Home Health Care, March 18, 2008, meeting).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION RELATING TO LONG-TERM CARE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

14. **Draft legislation** that amends the provisions of NRS 118A.335 to remove the duplication of background checks that was created for certain facilities by the passage of Assembly Bill 352 (Chapter 315, *Statutes of Nevada*) in 2007. The amendment should state that employees working in facilities that are currently licensed by the Bureau of Licensure and Certification, and that meet the requirements for those employees under NRS 449.176 through 449.188, are exempt from the requirements listed in NRS 118A.335 (Assemblywoman Rosemary Womack, Clark County Assembly District No. 23; Wendy Simons, Co-Chair, Assisted Living Advisory Council, May 7, 2008, meeting).

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION RELATING TO
BENEFITS AND SERVICES FOR VETERANS**

15. **Draft legislation** to create tuition or fee waiver programs for certain veterans and their dependents, including:
- A. Provide that the NSHE may grant tuition and fee waivers to the child, widow, or widower of a person who was killed while performing his or her duties as a member of the Nevada National Guard. This would be a redrafting of Assembly Bill 104 introduced during the 2007 Legislative Session (John V. Hefner, Chairman, Legislative Committee, Nevada Chapter, Enlisted Association for the National Guard of the United States; D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion, May 8, 2008, meeting);
 - B. Provide that veterans who are reservists may receive the same tuition and fee waivers currently granted to members of the Nevada National Guard, as provided by NRS 396.544 (Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE, May 8, 2008, meeting);
 - C. Waive nonresident college fees for dependents of veterans who do not qualify for the Dependent Educational Assistance part of the Government Issue (GI) Bill that requires the veteran to be either deceased or 100 percent disabled. This change would allow a dependent who may not have met the residency requirements to receive resident status for college fees if the parent is a veteran or the veteran parent has any type of service connected disability (Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE, May 8, 2008, meeting); and
 - D. Waive all tuition and fees for the following students who reside in Nevada and have met the minimum qualifications for establishing residency:
 - 1. The spouse, domestic partner, child (under the age of 27), or unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran who is 100 percent service-connected disabled, or who has died of service-connected causes (Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE, May 8, 2008, meeting); and
 - 2. The child of a veteran who has a permanent service-connected disability (Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE, May 8, 2008, meeting).

16. **Draft legislation** to change property tax provisions for certain veterans:
 - A. Provide for a 100 percent property tax or privilege tax exemption for 100 percent service-connected disabled and individually unemployable veterans (NRS 361.090);
 - B. Increase the amount of property tax exemption for veterans and add a new tier for those who are 40 to 59 percent disabled (NRS 361.091); and
 - C. Exempt service-connected disabled veterans from property tax, based on the level of their disability (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, Nevada's Office of Veterans' Services [NOVS], May 8, 2008, meeting).
17. **Draft legislation** to change license plate provisions for veterans:
 - A. Provide for handicap privileges and stickers for disabled veterans to use on Purple Heart license plates; and
 - B. Create a gold star license plate for family members of those killed while on duty (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting).
18. **Draft legislation** that provides for preference or set-aside opportunities for Nevada veteran-owned businesses (VOBs) and Nevada service-disabled veteran-owned businesses (SDVOBs) when competing for State, local government, or school district contracts for products or services. One model might be Public Law 109-461, which provides the basis for the set-aside programs for VOBs and SDVOBs doing business with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Kathy Agee, Director, Procurement Outreach, Nevada's Commission on Economic Development; Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan suggests similar legislation for minorities, women, and veteran business owners, May 8, 2008, meeting).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WRITING LETTERS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LETTERS RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS

19. **Write a letter** to Nevada's Congressional Delegation urging the passage of the Elder Justice Act (U.S. Senate Bill 1070 and House Resolution 1783) (Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Subcommittee Chair, May 7, 2008, meeting).
20. **Write a letter** to district attorneys' offices in Nevada requesting that they take steps to improve the identification and prosecution of crimes against older persons. Specifically, the letter will encourage them:

- A. To identify cases involving crimes against persons older than 60 so that the prevalence of crimes involving seniors can be tracked more accurately and data regarding the types of crimes that involve seniors can be more easily sorted and responded to (Barbara L. Appurle, Program Administrator, Victim Witness Assistance Center, Clark County District Attorney's Office, February 5, 2008, meeting);
 - B. To prosecute cases even when the victim is not available or willing to testify (Kay Panelli, Social Services Chief II, and Sally Crawford Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney, Aging Services Division, DHHS, February 5, 2008, meeting); and
 - C. Not to engage in plea bargaining for cases involving crimes against older persons that are punishable as gross misdemeanors or felonies (Kay Panelli, Social Services Chief II, and Sally Crawford Ramm, Elder Rights Attorney, Aging Services Division, DHHS, February 5, 2008, meeting).
21. **Write a letter** requesting that Nevada's State Demographer, Office of the State Demographer, NSHE, collect and report demographic information about persons age 60 or older in Nevada, not only age 65, as is currently the practice. The federal government uses 65 years of age as the definition of a senior, but Nevada laws vary, and many use age 60 as the definition of an older person or senior (Josh Porter, Statistician, Records and Technology Division, DPS, February 5, 2008, meeting).
 22. **Write a letter** to the Elder Abuse Task Force, the Attorney General, Aging Services Division, district attorneys, Clark County Protective Services, the Henderson Police Department, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the North Las Vegas Police Department, and the Reno Police Department to encourage the use of multidisciplinary team approaches when handling cases of elder abuse, exploitation, neglect, or isolation. Send a copy of the letter to the Governor and members of the Legislature (Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Subcommittee Chair).
 23. **Write a letter** to local governments to encourage them to take the following action:
 - A. Develop or support pilot projects that would help create aging-in-place resources for local communities. The project could be modeled after the Atlanta Regional Commission's "Lifelong Communities" and "Fifty Forward" strategy, and Fairfax County, Virginia's "Age Friendly Community - 50+" (Grady Tarbutton, Director, Senior Services, Washoe County Department of Social Services). In the letter, also promote the use of adult day health care centers as an alternative to nursing homes (Christopher A. Vito, M.H.A., President and CEO, Rehabilitation Institutes of Nevada). In the letter, also encourage the expansion of funding for home- and community-based programs to provide cost-efficient services that keep people in their homes living with dignity and independence at lower cost than

nursing homes or residential facilities (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada); and

- B. Improve transportation for senior citizens in the community by: encouraging livable communities where services are conveniently located; supporting funding for existing clustered services such as senior centers that provide meals, recreation, and legal services; supporting transit-oriented development and public-private partnerships; supporting funding for public transportation; encouraging “complete streets” designed for safe, convenient access for all users including bicyclists, motorists, pedestrians, and transit riders of all ages and abilities; supporting measures that simplify the processes for obtaining information; and requiring that transportation and land use decisions be made with equal consideration (Lea M. Rogers, Paratransit Administrator, Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, May 7, 2008, meeting).
24. **Write a letter** to Governor Jim Gibbons, the Senate Committee on Finance, the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, and the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services supporting the continued funding of Senior Rx to pay for pharmacy, dental, and vision programs (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada).
25. **Write a letter** to the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education and the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services during the 2009 Legislative Session to encourage them to examine the following issues: the possible need to appropriate additional funds for oversight and supervision of health care facilities, including the funding of surveyors; and the creation of mechanisms to ensure public protection and immediate actions to protect consumers. Also encourage them to examine affordable prescription drug legislation and programs, including: pharmacy benefit manager transparency; oversight and reporting of pharmaceutical marketing practices and the payments and gifts to physicians; and restrictions on marketing practices known as “prescriber profiling,” which allow pharmaceutical companies to target doctors and reward salespeople for what doctors prescribe (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada).
26. **Write a letter** to Governor Jim Gibbons and State agency administrators that are involved with the aging population (e.g., Nevada’s Department of Transportation (NDOT); Aging Services Division, DHHS; Bureau of Licensure and Certification, Health Division, DHHS; Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS; and the Mortgage Lending Division, Department of Business and Industry) requesting that they conduct “internal scans” of their services. During the internal scan, agencies would examine their ability to provide services for the senior population currently in the State, project the needs in the future, integrate aging issues into their planning processes, and plan how they anticipate meeting the needs in the future. This could be modeled on the State of New York’s “Project 2015,” or Arizona’s

“Aging Arizona 2020” project. Also request in the letter that the results of the internal scans be reported to the Commission on Aging, the Aging Services Division, and the Legislative Commission’s committee or subcommittee that is responsible for senior issues at the time of the report’s release (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada , March 18, 2008, meeting).

27. **Write a letter** to NDOT to encourage it to include in its executive budget request the provisions of Assembly Bill 467 from the 2007 Legislative Session. This measure would have appropriated \$4,999,999 each year of the biennium to the NDOT to fund rural transit operations. Of this amount, each year of the biennium, the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program would have been allocated \$212,499, and the Non-Urbanized Areas Public Transit programs would have received the remainder (Chuck Ricker, Executive Director, Northern Nevada Transit Coalition and Vice-Chairman, NDOT’s Advisory Committee for Transit).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LETTERS RELATING TO VETERANS

28. **Write a letter** to the appropriate military entities in the federal government and Nevada’s Congressional Delegation, as appropriate, urging the following:
 - A. The provision of a more seamless transition for service members to receive medical services when they return home from duty. The letter would encourage the creation of a system of mandatory registration with the Nevada branch of the Military Department for health and other services before service people leave active duty. Also, strategies to increase awareness of, and attendance at, TAP (Transition Assistance Program) seminars should be explored (Alicia M. Adams, R.N., Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Program Manager, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Veterans Health Administration, May 8, 2008, meeting; D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion);
 - B. The creation of a memorandum of understanding between the Military Department and State of Nevada agencies (especially health agencies) to facilitate better coordination of services and records sharing. This would allow for more seamless transitions between active duty and redeployment regarding the coordination of health services (Carmen Rank, Transition Assistance Advisor, Office of the Military, May 8, 2008, meeting);
 - C. The ability to use contracted medical care in highly rural communities so that veterans do not have to travel long distances and pay for overnight accommodations for themselves and their families to receive care (D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion, May 8, 2008, meeting); and

- D. The authorization for military personnel in all branches to transfer their GI Bill benefits for education to their dependents (derived from Assemblyman James Settelmeyer's question of Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE, who said that the Army already does this but the other branches do not, May 8, 2008, meeting).
29. **Write a letter** to the NSHE encouraging the provision of the following:
- A. Programs to help recruit more mental health providers to the State. Some programs might include: providing scholarships or loan forgiveness programs for mental health professionals who serve in rural areas of the State for a certain length of time; funding continuing education credits for mental health professionals to receive specialized training in post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); or, instead of funding the continuing education credits, grant double credit towards continuing education for those who pay for a class in PTSD. This letter should also be sent to the School of Medicine (Alicia M. Adams, R.N., Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Program Manager, VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System, Veterans Health Administration, May 8, 2008, meeting); and
- B. A program in the universities similar to the "Boots to Books" program in Glendora, California. The course teaches interpersonal skills; transition issues; and methods of adapting to civilian life at home, school, and work. Options include incorporating such skills into a first-year experience course that already exists at the university or to create a course specifically for veterans (Johann Sprenger, Coordinator of Veterans Services and Admissions, Department of Admissions and Records, UNR, NSHE).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEMENTS RELATING TO SENIOR CITIZENS

30. **Write a statement in the final report** expressing the Subcommittee's support for the important training role of the Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission (P.O.S.T.) and requesting that the Legislature authorize the distribution of Court Assessment Fees to P.O.S.T. for training officers, pursuant to NRS 176.059 (Frank Adams, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association, February 5, 2008, meeting).
31. **Write a statement in the final report** that expresses the Subcommittee's acknowledgement of the important roles that grandparents and great-grandparents can

play in the lives of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren (derived from testimony by John Yacenda, Ph.D., Government Relations Consultant, representing Families United Now, Inc., February 5, 2008, meeting).

32. **Write a statement in the final report** urging the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS, to take certain action relating to Medicaid:
 - A. Create an enhanced funding model that includes a graduated reimbursement system for Medicaid. For example, in some states there are tiers of funding in the Medicaid system so that adult day health care facilities that are willing to take the most difficult cases (advanced Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injuries, et cetera) are reimbursed at a higher rate. This would help prevent seniors from being placed in facilities prematurely (Jeffrey Klein, Executive Director, Adult Day Care Center of Las Vegas, March 18, 2008, meeting);
 - B. Examine national Medicaid reimbursement rates and consider increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for skilled care home health services in Nevada (Stephanie Eigenrauch, Administrator, Dynamic Home Health Care, March 18, 2008, meeting); and
 - C. Institute programs for reimbursement for certain uncovered home health services, such as bowel services and medication setup (Stephanie Eigenrauch, Administrator, Dynamic Home Health Care, March 18, 2008, meeting).
33. **Write a statement in the final report** that emphasizes the importance of adequate exercise programs for older people in residential facilities. An "adequate exercise program" should include resistance exercise to prevent disability, aerobics for improved endurance, and stretching for flexibility. The statement will also encourage the revision of *Nevada Administrative Code* 449.260(b), which requires caregivers employed by a residential facility to facilitate group activities that provide mental and physical stimulation and develop creative skills and interests, to specifically require that adequate exercise programs be provided (Glen E. Martin, Nevada Senior Resistance Coordinator; Barry and Beverly Edis, Nevada Resistance Training Coordinators).
34. **Write a statement in the final report** that expresses support for measures to improve long-term care services in Nevada, including: providing effective and ongoing training for existing care staff to help transition and stabilize residents; expanding bed space capacity; stopping out-of-state transfers; providing alternative housing in the least restrictive environments, including expansion of group homes and in-home living options; providing industry incentives and remediation of potential misperceptions of licensing challenges; and supporting residents' rights to access treatment and living opportunities (the Honorable Frances Doherty, Family Division, Second Judicial District Court of Nevada, May 7, 2008, meeting).

35. **Write a statement in the final report** that expresses support for the Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities' goals and objectives, including: (1) the full utilization of the FOCIS (Facility Outreach Community Integration Services) project, which includes identifying the best possible and least restrictive placement within the community setting and the return of people living out of state, if possible; and (2) the expansion of the Pre-Admission Screening Annual Resident Review to provide all elements of the setting neutral assessments prior to entry into any segregated residential setting in-state or out of state. This should include behaviorally challenged senior populations (Connie McMullen, Chair, Strategic Plan Accountability Committee for Senior Citizens).
36. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting affordable housing for older adults. Express the importance of protecting funding for affordable assisted living programs such as Silver Sky, and protect definitions for assisted living in statute (Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STATEMENTS RELATING TO VETERANS

37. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting measures to clean up language in the NRS relating to veterans, including:
- A. Revising the definition of "Veteran" in the NRS so that different sections do not have different, confusing definitions (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting); and
 - B. Removing from Chapter 361 of NRS the loophole for Global War on Terror (GWOT) veterans. This chapter of the law relates to tax exemptions, and currently GWOT veterans are being excluded because Public Law 102-1 is referenced, but local assessors do not know that the law includes GWOT veterans (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting).
38. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting funding for the following items in the NOVS budget:
- A. The proposed funding model, design, and construction of a Nevada State Veterans' Home in Sparks, Nevada (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting; D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion, also supports no delay in funding the Sparks Home, May 8, 2008, meeting);
 - B. Resources for the Nevada State Veterans' Home in Boulder City, Nevada, including: more bariatric furniture and equipment; one additional Registered Nurse/Licensed Practical Nurse (RN/LPN) position; two additional administrative staff positions; one additional facility maintenance staff member; additional

classroom and storage building; and two new vehicles (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting);

- C. Resources for the Veterans' Service Offices, including: one administrative assistant position for the Las Vegas Trinity Team; two veterans' service officers and one administrative assistant for the creation of a Trinity Team in Fallon; one veterans' service officer and one administrative assistant to complete the Boulder City/Las Vegas Trinity Team; and two veterans' service officers and one administrative assistant for a Trinity Team at the new Sparks veterans' home (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting);
 - D. Resources for the Nevada Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Southern Nevada, including: one administrative assistant III, two maintenance repair workers, and two ground maintenance workers (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting); and
 - E. Funding for the Nevada Veterans' Cemeteries in Boulder City and Fernley (D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion, May 8, 2008, meeting).
- 39. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting funding and programs that provide supportive services for homeless veterans and their families, including: outreach, health care, rehabilitation, case management, daily living, personal financial planning, transportation, vocational counseling, employment training, and education (D. Rodger Waters, Commander, Department of Nevada, American Legion, May 8, 2008, meeting).
 - 40. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting the modification of voter and election laws to make it easier for deployed active duty members of the military and their dependents to participate in the electoral process (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting).
 - 41. **Write a statement in the final report** supporting the provision of reduced State park entry and hunting and fishing license fees for active duty military, National Guard members, and veterans (Tim Tetz, Executive Director, NOVS, May 8, 2008, meeting).