



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
TASK FORCE FOR THE FUND FOR
A HEALTHY NEVADA
(*Nevada Revised Statutes 439.625*)
March 5, 2002
Carson City, Nevada**

The fifth meeting of the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 439.625) for the 2001-2002 interim was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2002, at 10 a.m., in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, and videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Pages 2 and 3 contain the “Meeting Notice and Agenda.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Senator Raymond D. Rawson, Chairman
Assemblywoman Vivian L. Freeman, Vice Chairwoman
Bill Welch

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblywoman Kathy McClain
Maureen Brower
Dr. John Ellerton
Dr. Elizabeth Fildes
Carla Sloan

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Ron Mestre

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Crystal M. McGee, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Bob Atkinson, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division
Kimberly A. Morgan, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada
(Nevada Revised Statutes 439.625)

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 2002
10 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Legislative Building
Room 2135
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada

Note: Some members of the task force may be attending the meeting and other persons may observe the meeting and provide testimony, through a simultaneous videoconference conducted at the following location:

Grant Sawyer State Office Building
Room 4401
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can listen to it live over the Internet. The address for the legislative Web site is <http://www.leg.state.nv.us>. For audio broadcasts, click on the link "Listen to Meetings Live on the Internet."

A G E N D A

- I. Opening Remarks
Senator Raymond D. Rawson, Chairman
- *II. Approval of Minutes of the January 15, 2002, Meeting
- III. Report on the Potential Funds Available for Distribution for the 2002-2003/2003-2004 Grant Cycle
Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division,
Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)
- IV. Report on Procedures to be Followed for the 2002-2003/2003-2004 Grant Allocation
Crystal M. McGee, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Laura Hale, Grants Analyst, Department of Human Resources (DHR)
- *V. Consideration of Administration of the 2001 and 2002 Grant Award Based on Current Status of the Assistive Technology Loan Program, Nevada Community Enrichment Center
Laura Hale, Grants Analyst, DHR
- VI. Report on the Status of the Senior Prescription Drug Program
Jane Smedes, Management Analyst, DHR
- VII. Report on the Status of the Senior Independent Living Program
Mary Liveratti, Administrator, Aging Services Division, DHR
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

*Denotes items on which the task force may take action.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call Bonnie Borda Hoffecker at (775) 684-6825 as soon as possible.

- Notice of this meeting was posted in the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Office, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us.

OPENING REMARKS

Chairman Rawson called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and directed the Task Force secretary to call roll. All members were present except Ron Mestre. Chairman Rawson explained that the Task Force would continue to review pertinent health issues, specifically reviewing senior issues. He reminded the Task Force that the two-day meeting, April 24 and April 25, 2002, would be held in Las Vegas to reduce the burden of traveling to Carson City the second day.

Senator Rawson acknowledged that the grant application process has been a demanding and difficult task to receive and process numerous applications. He thanked the staff at the Department of Human Resources (DHR) for their hard work and noted changes will be made to decrease the amount of work required from DHR staff in the future.

Chairman Rawson referenced a letter from John E. Adkins, Chief Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer, Carson City, Nevada, to Senator Raymond D. Rawson, dated February 28, 2002, requesting administrative expenses in the amount of \$79,363 to fund a Management Analyst III (Grade 37) position pursuant to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 439.620 (Exhibit A), that the State Personnel and the Budget Office approved last fall. The Interim Finance Committee approved the work program for the designated amount at its meeting on September 25, 2001, which included authority for this position.

Pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 439.620, upon receiving a request from the State Treasurer for an allocation for administrative expenses from the fund, the Task Force must consider the request within 45 days after the receipt of the request. The Chairman noted that consideration of that item was not noted on the agenda, and that the Task Force could not take action on the request during the meeting. However, NRS 439.620 further provides that if the Task Force does not approve a requested allocation within 45 days after receipt of the request, the Treasurer may submit the request to the Interim Finance Committee. As previously noted, the Interim Finance Committee approved the request at its September 25, 2001, meeting. Therefore, unless any member wished to disapprove the request, the Task Force would not take action, effectively approving the request, explained Chairman Rawson. No objection was noted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2002, MEETING

- Chairman Rawson asked for approval of the minutes of the Task Force meeting held on January 15, 2002.

DR. ELLERTON MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE TASK FORCE MEETING HELD ON

JANUARY 15, 2002, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. ASSEMBLYWOMAN FREEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REPORT ON THE POTENTIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 2002-2003/2003-2004 GRANT CYCLE

-

Mark W. Stevens, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), Carson City, appeared on behalf of Bob Atkinson, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB. He referred to a memorandum from Mr. Atkinson, pertaining to the potential funds available for distribution for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-2003 and FY 2003-2004 Grant Cycle (Exhibit B). Mr. Stevens explained the following:

- Proceeds from the Tobacco Settlement received each year in January are referred to as the “initial payments,” and proceeds received in April are referred to as the “annual payments.” In 1999, based on the Master Settlement Agreement, proceeds were estimated for future years, and adjusted for inflation, volume, et cetera. In FYs 1999, 2000, and 2001, the actual payments received were within 1 percent of the original estimates.
- The payment received in January 2002, the initial payment, represented approximately 87 percent of the amount originally projected for that payment. The reduction is primarily due to a portion of the proceeds being placed in a disputed account for pending litigation. The disputed account is the result of a complaint filed by the tobacco company, Brown and Williamson Tobacco, indicating that PricewaterhouseCoopers incorrectly calculated the amount that Brown and Williamson were required to pay under the terms of the tobacco settlement. If the amount included in the disputed account were added to the January payment that was received, it would have been approximately 98 percent of the original estimate. At this time, the amount of the annual payment to be received in April, as well as other future payments, is unknown and this estimate is based on receiving approximately 87 percent of the original estimate.
- Each year, 50 percent of the annual proceeds received are allocated to the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada. The funding received in 2002 (net of administrative expense allocations) will be available for expenditure during FY 2002-2003. The funding received in 2003 (net of administrative expense allocations) will be available for expenditure during FY 2003-2004. The available funding is allocated 30 percent to the Senior Prescription Drug Program (Senior Rx Program), 30 percent to the Aging Services Division for Independent Living Grants (ILGs), 20 percent for grants to reduce tobacco use, and 20 percent for grants to improve the health of children and persons with disabilities.
- The following table indicates the estimated amounts to be received and available for distribution for each of the next two years based on receiving 87 percent of the original estimates:

	FY 2002-2003	FY 2003-2004
Estimated Proceeds to be Received	\$20,146,721	\$20,467,242
Projected Interest Earnings*	\$1,231,245	\$922,920
Less Administrative Expense	(\$720,702)	(\$732,972)
Net Amount Available for Distribution	\$20,657,264	\$20,657,190
Allocated to: Senior Rx Program**	\$6,161,978	\$6,163,656
Independent Living Grants**	\$6,290,154	\$6,275,326
Reduce Tobacco Use Grants	\$4,102,566	\$4,109,104
Children/Disabilities Health Grants	\$4,102,566	\$4,109,104

* Interest earnings are projected to decrease in FY 2003 as the cash balance in the account declines. Historically, the fund has benefited from the receipt of interest on the accumulated cash available for the Senior Rx Program and from the original \$5 million allocation for accessible space. With the Senior Rx Program in full operation and the accessible space funding being utilized, the cash balance earning interest will decline.

** While the Senior Rx Program and the ILGs each receive a 30 percent allocation, the variance in the available amounts is attributable to the allocation of administrative costs.

Mr. Stevens emphasized that the actual amounts received could vary considerably; the actual amounts will be disclosed at the April 24 and 25, 2002, meetings. Estimates will still be necessary for the allocations for the 2003-

2004 grant cycle.

In response to a question by Assemblywoman Freeman, Mr. Stevens indicated the current interest rate earned is 3.3 percent return.

**REPORT ON PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE
2002-2003/2003-2004 GRANT ALLOCATION**

Crystal M. McGee

Crystal M. McGee, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB, Carson City, provided the Task Force with a revised timeline (Exhibit C). Ms. McGee noted the Task Force has passed the most critical deadline, the deadline to submit grant proposals. She explained that the Task Force would receive four binders containing all of the grant applications, summary, and scoring sheets prior to the April meeting. Ms. McGee recommended Task Force members bring the application binders to the April meeting, at which time separate binders containing scoring sheets only will be made available for reference. She reiterated that the

April 24 and 25, 2002, meetings would be held in Room 4412, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas.

Laura Hale

Laura Hale, Grants Analyst, DHR, Carson City, provided the Task Force with the following information:

- Requests for health grants including both the children and the disability services funding totaled \$17.7 million for FY 2003 and \$7 million for FY 2004. Requests for tobacco cessation and prevention funding totaled \$10.1 million for FY 2003 and \$8.4 million for FY 2004.
- The DHR received a total of 124 proposals; 122 proposals are eligible and subject to Task Force review. The proposal from the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe was withdrawn after they found an alternative funding source. The other proposal received from Support Incorporated Family Center, Ely, Nevada, was disqualified by DHR for failing to meet specific requirements of the grant.
- Utilizing electronic mail and facsimile machines to obtain grant applications, created additional problems for DHR. In the future, hard copies would simplify the process of obtaining complete grant applications.
- Over 70 percent of the grant applications had technical problems. The DHR recommended splitting the application process into two parts. The first deadline would allow DHR to work with the applicant on the technical aspects of the proposal, primarily the budget, to ensure accurate and complete applications. The second deadline would be submittal of the final application.
- The DHR recommended separating the proposal review into separate topics. For example, review the tobacco cessation and prevention programs at one meeting, and then review the proposals for child health services and services for individuals with disabilities at another meeting.

Chairman Rawson suggested DHR move forward with the changes offered by Ms. Hale, and explained that the Task Force will ensure both deadline requirements are clear.

Ms. McGee noted grant applicants are welcome to attend the April 24 and 25 meetings; however, due to the volume of applications, time is not allotted for each applicant to address the Task Force. Ms. Hale will broadly describe each application and if there are questions the applicant may address the Task Force. Chairman Rawson reiterated the time constraints with respect to testimony and suggested utilizing the videoconferencing option.

**CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2001 AND 2002 GRANT AWARD BASED ON
CURRENT STATUS OF THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN PROGRAM, NEVADA COMMUNITY
ENRICHMENT CENTER**

Laura Hale

Laura Hale, Grants Analyst, DHR, Carson City, referenced a memorandum from Ms. Hale to the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada (Exhibit D). The Nevada Community Enrichment Program (NCEP) was awarded \$450,000 for FY 2001 and \$525,000 for FY 2002. The actual amount of the first year's allocation was \$432,897.

Ms. Hale indicated the nature of a revolving loan fund is cumbersome to administer within the grant framework since it does not have a finite period of activity, and the funds are not easily tracked with interest accumulation, loan payments, and loan defaults. Multiple funding sources, administrators, and grantees further complicate the Assistive Technology Loan Fund (ATLF) program. She explained that \$902,612 in federal funds would be administered through the Office of Community Based Services (OCBS) under a subgrant to Nevada CARE Chest. Two full-time staff positions have been budgeted by CARE Chest to market the loan program and assist applicants with the loan process. By comparison, the NCEP lost the original staff that was to work on the loan program and have been using other staff on a part-time basis with less than optimal results. The program has fallen short of its original goals for administering loans, and the relationship between DHR has been strained through poor communications and lack of timely and accurate reporting.

The DHR, through Ms. Hale, agreed that the grant should be sustained at some level; however, the activity to date does not appear to warrant release of the FY 2002 funds. According to the Director of the Office of Community Based Services, Todd Butterworth, the deobligation of the FY 2002 funds of \$525,000, would not jeopardize the federal funds commitment through his office to the ATLF program. Based on conversations between the parties, DHR proposed that the grant continue through June 30, 2002, as per the contract with NCEP, and then a new contract be drafted for CARE Chest and NCEP for continued loan referrals. CARE Chest would then take full responsibility for the loan program and reporting requirements. CARE Chest may continue to work with the part-time staff at NCEP to continue to provide technical assistance and referrals from southern Nevada.

Chairman Rawson thanked Bob Hogan, Director of NCEP for his diligence in seeing this program succeed. He suggested the loan program expand the opportunity for loans to southern Nevada since individuals who are eligible for the loans are unable to travel to the north to process loan applications.

Patti Meals

Patti Meals, Director, CARE Chest, Reno, Nevada, indicated the ATLF program would continue to operate without the FY 2002 allocation of \$525,000, since federal monies were obtained. She requested that CARE Chest be considered for future funding. Chairman Rawson reassured Ms. Meals that revoking FY 2002 funding would not preclude or prevent CARE Chest from applying for grant allocations in the future.

In response to a question by Chairman Rawson, Ms. Meals estimated the expenses of administrative costs, which include a cost of living increase, would be approximately \$120,000 to \$125,000. Ms. Meals explained that with only two months of experience it is difficult to be accurate; however, CARE Chest is committed to using the FY 2001 funds to provide loans and seek additional funding for administrative expenses. Chairman Rawson stated there is an 8 percent limit on administrative costs to ensure maintenance of the fund. Ms. Hale stated DHR monitors the 8 percent limit of administrative costs.

Responding to a question by Chairman Rawson, Ms. Hale indicated there is an additional contract with Nevada State Bank that addresses interest expenditures. The ATLF program is unique and she suggested working with the Office of the Attorney General to determine contract language.

Ms. Meals thanked the Task Force and DHR for assisting CARE Chest, reaffirmed they understand the guidelines of the grant, are committed to making the program work, and will be seeking additional funding for administration. She stated the \$450,000 should be on deposit in the name of CARE Chest at the Nevada State Bank, to ensure the interest is included in CARE Chest revenue.

DR. ELLERTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEOBLIGATION OF FY 2002 FUNDS OF \$525,000 AND RECOMMEND A NEW CONTRACT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE

FUNDS BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND CARE CHEST.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN FREEMAN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

Jane Smedes

Jane Smedes, Management Analyst, DHR, Carson City, referred to a report pertaining to the Senior Prescription Drug program (Senior Rx) [Exhibits E and F]. Ms. Smedes explained the that:

- Effective February 28, 2002, Senior Rx enrollment reached 6,911 members. Enrollment is estimated at 6,911 by March 1, 2002. Since July 1, 2001, new enrollments have averaged 775 members per month. Open enrollment will continue until 7,500 members are enrolled based on the amount of funds available to the Senior Rx program.
- A waiting list will be established with the lowest income applicants given priority. If two applicants have identical incomes, the applicant with the earliest application date will take priority. A system is in place to prioritize the waiting list. Applicants will be enrolled from the waiting list as current members cancel enrollment if sufficient funds are available.
- Since inception of the program, 111 enrolled seniors were determined to be ineligible or cancelled voluntarily from the insurance. This averages nine per month since program inception, and the numbers increase each month as enrollment grows. The majority of the disenrollments involve seniors who become eligible for full Medicaid benefits, which includes prescriptions.
- Additional disenrollments are expected as DHR conducts an annual reverification of eligibility on each member. The DHR anticipates finding members who are deceased, relocated out-of-state, or whose income is now over the maximum allowed. The process is planned to begin in April 2002.

Continuing her discussion, Ms. Smedes explained that a new agreement with Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company is pending. The agreement will be completed as soon as all signatures are obtained. The premium was reduced from \$106.64 per member per month to \$85.27 per member per month. If the paid claims cost average is less than \$65.55 per member per month for calendar year 2002, the state will receive 100 percent of the underwriting savings.

Additionally, another Administrative Assistant was added to the Senior Rx program staff. The Interim Finance Committee approved the position, which is currently being classified by State Personnel. The anticipated hire date is April 1, 2002.

Further, existing regulations were updated to include the changes from Senate Bill 539 (Chapter 529, *Statutes of Nevada 2001*). The regulations were formally adopted December 17, 2001.

Michael Hillerby

Michael Hillerby, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, Carson City, in response to a question by Chairman Rawson, explained that the census numbers are somewhat useful; however, the insurance habits of senior citizens are unknown. Mr. Hillerby stated the following:

- Approximately one third of the senior population that is potentially eligible for the Senior Rx program is without prescription drug insurance for some part of the year.
- Census figures reveal 50,000 individuals in the correct income and age range for the Senior Rx program; however, the state must discern how many of those individuals are eligible for Medicaid, how many individuals are eligible for prescription drug benefits for retired military, and how many individuals have other benefits or go without benefits.
- National trends indicate approximately 10,000 to 15,000 seniors go without some form of meaningful prescription drug insurance.

Chairman Rawson noted the Senior Rx program is reaching a large portion of those seniors who need prescription drug benefits.

Responding to a question from Assemblywoman Freeman, Mr. Hillerby stated that:

- A number of states have expressed interest in the Senior Rx program. Governor Kenny C. Guinn has met with other governors and counterparts who are interested in the program. A number of states have begun to offer a prescription drug benefit; however, Nevada is unique since it is offered through a private insurance model. Mr. Hillerby indicated the Governor's Office is interested in obtaining statistical data regarding the senior population.
- Fidelity Security Life Insurance has indicated a future in providing prescription benefits in other states. He noted that never before had a program in the senior population been offered that provided a drug benefit that was privately insured through the state opuses, and offered a \$5,000 annual benefit. Mr. Hillerby suggested that after a year of following the program and gathering statistical information, such as average drug use and the number of seniors taking advantage of the catastrophic limitations of spending \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year, the necessary changes to the program can be determined. The more experience and statistical data the state gathers, the number of insurers coming forward to implement the program will increase.

Mr. Hillerby stated the monthly premium with a prepayment discount equals \$82.70. Chairman Rawson indicated the cost is approximately \$1 million per 1,000 Senior Rx members, and that supplementary revenue should be obtained to enable additional membership throughout the state.

Assemblywoman McClain requested that DHR implement a customer satisfaction survey in addition to the reverification project to discover the positive results of the program. Mr. Hillerby implied that many surveys would be executed within the senior population. Utilizing the program was made easier by administrative changes to the formulary. The initial program had two levels of the insurance benefit, the basic plan and the premium plan. Currently there is only one level of benefit, which is the premium plan. The changes to the formulary provide generic drugs at \$10, and preferred drugs at \$25; and any other drugs that is considered medically necessary is available to the senior at \$25. He requested input on ways to improve the program.

Dr. Fildes requested DHR provide information on tobacco use in the senior population and how that usage relates to medicinal use.

Chairman Rawson suggested any senior having problems with the Senior Rx program contact Ms. Smedes at (775) 684-4001.

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE SENIOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Mary Liveratti

Mary Liveratti, Administrator, Aging Services Division, DHR, Carson City, referred to the annual *Independent Living Grants Report* (Exhibit G). Ms. Liveratti presented the Task Force with an overview of the report. She stated that:

- In July 2000, the Aging Services Division issued a request for proposals for the newly established ILGs. Grant awards were made in October and November 2000. Initially 43 projects were awarded in three major areas: (1) respite care; (2) transportation; and (3) in-home services. An additional 29 grants were funded at the end of FY 2000.
- Respite services provide a period of time daily or weekly to allow caregivers the opportunity to get away from the constant demands of care giving. Respite services include: adult daycare, companion services, and in-home residential respite.
- Transportation services are essential to allow seniors to attend medical appointments, travel to the grocery store and the bank, and provide essential services in order to live independent lives. Transportation funds were used to purchase vehicles, provide escorted rides, extend transportation routes, and increase the number of rides available. Escorted transportation was developed and expanded to assist seniors who are too frail to utilize existing transportation options. Their physical condition often prevents them from waiting at bus stops and they regularly need assistance getting in and out of any type of vehicle. Approximately 48 percent of the individuals utilizing transportation services are 74 years of age or older. Additionally, funds were allocated to expand the hours of transportation services provided by senior centers in rural communities.
- In-home services offer various types of support that allow seniors in poor health to remain in their home. Personal care assistance helps frail seniors with bathing, dressing, and eating. Homemakers assist seniors who are unable to complete the basic tasks of maintaining a household, with tasks that include changing beds, cleaning, vacuuming, dusting, meal preparation, grocery shopping, and doing errands.
- Home repair and modification services assists with tasks ranging from changing light bulbs, installing ramps and grab bars, repairing furnaces, air conditioners, and water heaters.
- Independent Living Grant funds were also utilized as matching funds for two major federal grants the state received in FY 2001. Nevada received a three-year Alzheimer's disease and related dementia grant in FY 2001. The first year, \$110,000 was used from the ILGs to match \$350,000 in federal funds. The Aging Services Division has partnered with the northern and southern Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic and Treatment Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, to develop models of assistance for underserved individuals, their families, and caregivers. The Division sub-granted \$350,000 in federal monies each year to provide consumer directed respite vouchers, educational forums, diagnostic workshops, training for families and professionals, and rural telemedicine presentations. The ILG funds were also used to match the federally funded National Family Caregiver Support Program. Nevada received over \$603,000 in federal funding under this program in FY 2001.
- With the additional funding, the Aging Services Division has launched an effort to establish a single point of entry system. This system would simplify access to senior services and provide assistance to seniors and their family caregivers.
- Clients served in FY 2001 include:
 - Respite services: 1,724 clients;
 - Transportation services: 1,344 clients; and
 - In-home services: 4,515 clients.
- The units of service provided during FY 2001 were as follows:
 - Respite services had 58,032 units of service;
 - Transportation services had 7,501 units of service; and
 - In-home services provided 72,091 units of service.
- Along with federal funding received through the Older American's Act, ILGs currently provide a major source of

support for senior programs throughout Nevada. The ILGs have reduced waiting lists for ongoing programs and have assisted in funding new services throughout the state. In addition, some senior programs were provided funding equipment purchase.

- A new initiative for FY 2002 is a request for proposal that is designated specifically for respite care. The request for proposals was advertised in major Nevada newspapers and the Aging Services Division will accept applications until April 23, 2002. The Division has set aside \$1 million in an attempt to replicate the consumer directed respite vouchers that are available for Alzheimer's victims. The respite services will be available to any senior that requires services.

In response to a question by Chairman Rawson, Ms. Liveratti explained the

Aging Services Division completes a technical review of each application to ensure there is no duplication of services among other agencies. She indicated that the Division works to expand programs, but not to replace existing support for current programs. The age limit for the Division's programs is 60 years; however, the Alzheimer's Demonstration Grant is available at any age.

Marcia Cuccaro

Marcia Cuccaro, Grants Administration Manager, Aging Services Division, DHR, Reno, in response to a question by Assemblywoman Freeman, explained that the Christmas in April program was awarded two grants by the Aging Services Division. The City of Reno and the Board of Trustees for the Christmas in April program are under investigation for their involvement for mismanagement of the program. Ms. Cuccaro stated that the Clark County Christmas in April program is functioning well.

-
-
PUBLIC COMMENT
-

Carolyn Gillis

Carolyn Gillis, Director, Mineral County Share and Care Senior Center, Hawthorne, explained that the independent living program allows seniors to manage daily chores, remain in their homes, and keeps senior out of indigent care facilities. The Meals on Wheels program has increased service by over 300 percent and is close to exceeding 8,000 meals served. The senior center in Mina and Hawthorne offer the only transportation in Mineral County, which allows seniors to participate in social excursions as well as attend necessary doctor's appointments in Reno. The advocacy representative had 958 contacts with seniors from February to September 2001.

Vicky Kleinfeldt

Vicky Kleinfeldt, Senior Companion Program, Carson City, Lyon, and Washoe Counties, stated all goals set out in their application were met and the program has doubled in population served.

Mary Lou Mateus

Mary Lou Mateus, Senior Companion for the Senior Companion Program, explained that working for the program helps her by providing a stipend for her automobile expenses while she assists clients. The program provides four hours a day for the companions to perform a variety of household chores, prepare meals, and provide transportation to doctor's appointments. The companions attend training once a month relative to services available to seniors.

Joyce Sawyer

Joyce Sawyer, Client of the Senior Companion Program, stated that the companion program gave her back control of her life. After losing her son, Ms. Sawyer's eyesight was failing and she was in desperate need of assistance. The senior companion provides help with reading, shopping, meal preparation, transportation to doctor's appointments, socializing, and any other needs Ms. Sawyer may have.

Linda Hendrickson

Linda Hendrickson, Director, Churchill County Senior Center, expressed concern that funding provided to the senior program may cease, bringing an end to the newly established programs.

Patricia M. Davis

Patricia M. Davis, Fallon Paiute/Shoshone Tribe, explained that the Task Force should consider funding home modification programs. Home modification includes adding bars to the bathroom allowing for safe bathing, lowering counters for persons in wheel chairs, adding ramps, and other modifications necessary for elderly individuals to continue living in their homes.

Marjorie Skinner

Marjorie Skinner, Director, Senior Center, Pershing County, thanked the Task Force for the previous funding, which allowed the center to employ a senior advocate at the senior center. The senior advocate has provided over 1,000 contacts to seniors. Ms. Skinner also requested that the Task Force continue funding of the ILGs.

Janice Macintosh

Janice Macintosh, Director, Carson City Senior Citizen Center, stated in addition to the many services provided by the center, the meals on wheels program has seen tremendous growth. The ILGs allowed the Carson City Senior Center to provide 26,116 meals to seniors. Of the seniors served, 75 percent are 75 years of age and older. The need for fundraising has taken away from the basic function of the center, which is to provide direct services to seniors.

Annette Smith

Annette Smith, Supervisor, Homemaker Program, Clark County Social Services, Las Vegas, stated the Homemaker program discovered an unmet need to provide additional and intensive services to the senior population. Senior protection was intervening on behalf of seniors who were unable to maintain sanitary homes. The Homemaker Program concluded that intensive cleaning services were needed to allow seniors to remain safe in their homes. The program has served 209 clients, including cleaning of 142 carpets, organizing clutter, moving furniture to allow safe access with walkers, and allowing seniors to invite people into their homes to be socially interactive. There has been an improvement in the clients psychologically, emotionally, and physically. The program has provided financial savings to the community by not placing seniors in long-term care facilities.

Ms. Smith explained that a newly initiated safety service program would cover mobile homes and various situations that are not covered by other homemaker programs. The program provides equipment such as grab bars, shower seats, and toilet frames that allow seniors to use the bathroom in a safe manner. The program has also provided amplified phones and large number phones, canes, grab sticks, and walkers. In addition to equipment, the program has provided handymen who were able to change filters and light bulbs, clean air ducts, fumigate homes, and repair heaters, air conditioners, plumbing, swamp coolers, and make other necessary home repairs.

Karen Mabry

Karen Mabry, Director, Washoe County Senior Services, Reno, provided the Task Force with written testimony and two letters from clients of the Washoe County Senior Services (Exhibit H). Ms. Mabry made the following remarks:

- Utilizing the ILGs funds, Washoe County Senior Services developed a county based Holistic Case Management Program to benefit low income individuals 55 years of age and older who were at-risk for institutional placement. The program includes a collaborative component that allows three county departments to ensure the health, safety, and economic well being of the county's older adults.
- Specific services were enhanced as a result of the funds, which include advocacy, adult daycare, case

management, health monitoring, legal assistance, representative payee, homemakers, and home delivered and congregate meals. The funds have assisted clients with health related problems and their subsequent impact on normal activities of daily living.

- For over 25 years, Washoe County Senior Services has been refining and reassessing its programs to meet the needs of the elder population while retaining the primary strategic goal of avoidance of premature institutionalization. It is for this reason that continuation of financial assistance to established programs is encouraged rather than providing “quick fixes” or uncertain pilot projects that may not generate quantifiable outcomes.

Janice R. Ayers

Janice R. Ayers, Executive Director, Nevada Rural Counties Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Carson City, provided the following information:

- In 1984, RSVP initiated the Home Companion Program in the rural areas without federal funding, but through fundraising. The RSVP conducts 22 fundraisers annually, which provides 70 percent of their budget.
- Many seniors in rural communities were admitted to long-term care facilities when they might have been able to stay in their homes if access to the programs found in urban areas were available. The RSVP is currently providing those services through its 2,600 volunteers enrolled in the rural county program. Of those volunteers, 425 are home companions who have taken care of 600 individuals in their homes.
- Volunteers receive \$20 per month to assist in the purchase of gasoline and car maintenance.
- The rural program has received \$32,000 for the Lifeline Program, which has seniors wearing wristbands or necklaces in case of an accident in the home; the senior has verbal access to an emergency facility. The entire program functions with volunteers, and is expanding rapidly although it is supported with only four full-time staff, which places a burden on volunteers.
- The transportation program is provided exclusively with volunteer drivers. The rural program partners with other programs to ensure seniors are receiving the proper service. In 2001, RSVP provided 350,000 hours of service either through the direct service programs or by assisting other agencies by delivering their services.
- The rural program would suffer greatly if the current ILGs funds were to cease. Individuals in need of the rural programs are not turned away because of age or income.

Dr. Fildes thanked RSVP for doing God’s work.

There were no additional comments from the public.

-
-

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Task Force and Chairman Rawson adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Exhibit J is the “Attendance Record” for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Borda Hoffecker
Senior Research Secretary

Crystal M. McGee
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Raymond D. Rawson, Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A is a letter from John E. Adkins, Chief Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer, Carson City, Nevada, to Senator Raymond D. Rawson, dated February 28, 2002, regarding funding for a Management Analyst III (Grade 37) position, that was provided by Crystal M. McGee, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

Exhibit B is a memorandum dated February 26, 2002, from Bob Atkinson, Program Analyst, Fiscal Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada, to Task Force Members, titled "Potential Funds Available for Distribution for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2002-2003 and FY 2003-2004 Grant Cycle" provided by Mr. Atkinson.

Exhibit C is a document titled "REVISED Fund for a Healthy Nevada 2001-2002 Timeline" prepared by Crystal M. McGee, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada, regarding pertinent dates for the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada, provided by Ms. McGee.

Exhibit D is a memorandum dated February 25, 2002, from Laura Hale, Grants Analyst, Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada, to Task Force Members of the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada, titled "Administration of the Grant Award for the Assistive Technology Loan Fund (ATLF)" provided by Ms. Hale.

Exhibit E is a status report titled "Senior Rx" prepared and submitted by Jane Smedes, Management Analyst, Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

Exhibit F is a document titled "Senior Rx Status Report Data as of February 28, 2002" prepared and provided by Jane Smedes, Management Analyst, Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

Exhibit G is a report titled *Independent Living Grants Report* prepared by the Aging Services Division, Department of Human Resources (DHR), Carson City, Nevada, regarding the 43 projects initially funded, provided by Mary Liveratti, Administrator, Aging Services Division, DHR, Carson City, Nevada.

Exhibit H is a document dated March 5, 2002, titled "Presentation to the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada" provided by Karen Mabry, Director, Washoe County Senior Services, Reno, Nevada. This exhibit also contains two letters regarding the necessity for retaining the community nurse program. The first letter was written by Connie Peterson, LSW, Social Worker III, and Anna Strub, LSW, Social Worker III, and the second letter was written by LuAnn Mavromichalis, MSW, LSW.

Exhibit I is a packet of materials, which include testimony and letters not discussed at the meeting, provided by Carol Crane, Elderly Service Coordinator, Housing Authority of the City of Reno, Nevada, in support of the services provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Reno.

Exhibit J is the "Attendance Record" for this meeting.

Copies of the materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel

Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the library at (775) 684-6827.