



NEVADA LEGISLATURE

NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM

(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] [427A.320](#))

MINUTES

February 21, 2024

The first meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum for the 2023–2024 Interim was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 10 a.m. in Room 4401, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 3138, Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

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

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Fran Almaraz, Senate District 21, Forum President
Margaret Batts, Senate District 4
Marilyn E. Jordan, Senate District 9
Peggy Leavitt, Senate District 20
William Marchant, Senate District 12
Frank B. Slaughter III, Senate District 11
Rodger Troth, Senate District 18
Rosie Tyler, Senate District 1

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Charles Cohn, Senate District 16
Mary Fesenmaier, Senate District 17

FORUM MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY:

Lucille Adin, Senate District 13
Joann M. Bongiorno, Senate District 10
Diana Hoffman-Kazubowski, Senate District 14
Laura Leavitt, Senate District 8
Valarie Woods, Senate District 3

FORUM MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lisa Laughlin, Senate District 15
Fred Silberkraus, Senate District 5

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Nicolas C. Anthony, Research Director, Research Division
Jennifer Ruedy, Deputy Director Research Director, Research Division
Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division
Julianne King, Assistant Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division
Bryan Fernley, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.
[Indicate a summary of comments.]*

AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS

President Almaraz:

[President Almaraz called the meeting to order. She welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the first meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum.]

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

President Almaraz:

[President Almaraz called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.]

AGENDA ITEM III—INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE 2023–2024 INTERIM

President Almaraz:

We have many new members, so getting to know each other will be helpful. Members, I will call each of you by Senate district ([Agenda Item III](#)). Please introduce yourselves. Include your nominating Senator and your interest in the Forum. Please also note how long you have served on the Forum or if you are a new member. Let us begin with Senate District 1.

Ms. Tyler:

I am a retired health care provider, a nurse case manager. I represent District 1, Senator Pat Spearman. I am interested in it because I am a senior, and I am really concerned about seniors and the care seniors get.

Ms. Woods:

Good morning. I represent District 3. This is my second year, and I am interested in everything that has to do with seniors, from transportation to nursing homes to education. It is an honor to be here.

Ms. Batts:

Good morning. I am a retired medical instructor. I am representing District 4. I am really interested in the Forum. Some of my interests are price gouging pharmaceutical prescription medications, Medicare part B, senior benefits, transportation, mental health of seniors, health care costs, the lack of affordable housing, and the pressures that seniors are under today. Grocery prices— Utility bills are too high— I really appreciate being on this committee. I am very grateful.

President Almaraz:

Do we have someone for Senate District 6? This was an open seat; I am not sure if it has been filled yet. We will skip Senate District 6.

Dr. Jordan:

Welcome everybody. Glad to see you back. I am representing District 9. Our Senator is Melanie Scheible. I have been serving in this position since 2016. I am happy to be back. My focus this year will be on housing—affordable, available, and homeless; medical services—especially as it relates to mental health issues; and schemes, scams, and frauds—particularly Medicaid, Medicare, and the obvious ones, such as phone calls. I look forward to working hard with you.

Mr. Slaughter:

I am pleased to be on this Forum. I represent District 11, Senator Dallas Harris. One of my concerns is seniors with Parkinson's disease and Parkinson's disease in general. I volunteered for five years with people with Parkinson's, and I hope we can get more people to participate, especially when it comes to exercise and movement.

Dr. Marchant:

I am a retired professor and retired international lecturer and consultant. I have been gerrymandered into District 12. I started out in District 5, and I have no idea who my Senator is. I just noted that I was appointed. Just to make note, I am not new at anything.

President Almaraz:

Your Senator is Julie Pazina.

Ms. Adin:

District 13. Skip Daly is my Senator. I have been on this committee, I cannot remember how long. Julia Ratti was my Senator. I am interested in all senior care, that includes health care and all issues including seniors.

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski:

Good morning. I am in District 14, Senator Ira Hansen nominated me. I am new on this committee. I founded, in 2018, a nonprofit called Music with Confidence, which helps autistic and emotionally challenged and gifted children through the performing arts. I am extremely interested in working with the Legislature. My history is with legislative matters. I had a law firm in Silicon Valley for 20 years and was a business owner after that. My focus will be assisted living oversight; help with and assistance with service animals, especially in regard to their medical care, which costs those who need service dogs or other service animals quite a bit; and dementia services and focusing on dementia research. I am very pleased to be on this Forum.

President Almaraz:

Inadvertently, I skipped Senate District 10, Joann Bongiorno.

Ms. Bongiorno:

I am happy to be on this Forum once again. It is going on my 15th year. I am interested in almost everything that involves seniors, in particular scams. I have to compliment Ms. Jordan because I feel I could not have said it any better. I hope to stay with this. I have turned 88 years old, and once again, I am very happy to be here. Anything I can possibly do, I shall.

Mr. Cohn:

I represent Senate District 16, appointed by Senator Lisa Krasner. I live in South Reno. When I had my own business, I counseled people, large numbers of seniors, for over 40 years in managing their finances. I am acquainted with a few scams and a lot of people who manage very well on their own.

Ms. Fesenmaier:

I live in Smith Valley, Nevada, in Lyon County. I was appointed by Senator Titus. This is my first term. I am especially interested in transportation for seniors, as I live in a rather remote area, and it was expressed to me by others. Also schemes, scams, and fraud and exercise for seniors, which I think is so important.

Mr. Troth:

I was appointed by Senator Scott Hammond, who has termed out and is now working with the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation. I live in the northwest part of Las Vegas. I am retired military. I am still working as a defense contractor. This is my second term. I spent a lot of my adult life working with youth programs and the like. I am interested in helping people prepare to be a senior citizen, so all these issues are very apropos.

President Almaraz:

Senate District 19 is Senator Pete Goicoechea. He has not appointed anyone at this time, so that is an open seat.

Ms. Peggy Leavitt:

I am from Boulder City. I am not sure who appointed me either. Dr. Hardy appointed me originally, but I think my Senate district was changed as well. Most of my life, I have been a social worker involved with children, and now I am involved in various senior activities through a volunteer capacity. I have been on the board and helped to institute different programs at the senior center in Boulder City. I am presently involved with Meals on Wheels and I am a Meals on Wheels Driver. I serve on the Southern Nevada Regional Transit Coalition that helps with transportation for seniors. In Boulder City, we have the Silver Rider program that has been very successful. I am particularly interested in mental health issues for seniors. I enjoy serving. I was also on the city council in Boulder City and I have done some service in that capacity as well. I am happy to be back on this committee.

President Almaraz:

Thank you. Laura Leavitt of Senate District 8 has joined us on Zoom.

Ms. Laura Leavitt:

Senate District 8, appointed by Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop. This is my second term. I am a proud union member with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 4041 retirees, after being a State employee for 27 years. I am interested in follow up on what we did and went over last term, as well as some recent things that have come up for seniors that would be utilities, utility bills, and funeral service regulations.

President Almaraz:

Senate District 21. That is me, Fran Almaraz, representing James Ohrenschall. I am a retired Teamster. I am President of the Teamster Retirees Association. I am a Vice President on the Nevada Alliance of Retired Americans, and I serve on the board of ULAN, which is the United Labor Agency of Nevada. I am very proud to be your President. I was elected last term, and I am hoping to be elected this term. Thank you all for all your hard work. The last legislative session, we are able to get our bill passed—[Senate Bill 45](#). We also worked very hard with the State's Attorney General's Office to get the bill passed to enhance the penalties against scheming and scamming against seniors. We will have presentations on both of those bills. Thank you all for not only returning, but to all the new members. I look forward to working together.

Ms. Bongiorno:

I failed to mention something because of the new members. I did not qualify myself. I came to Nevada in 1958 as a musician, and from that point, I graduated, I had two real estate companies. I was a broker. I went into having the first female rental computer business and then into private financing, which I still am active in now. Those are my qualifications. Thank you.

Ms. Batts:

I am sorry, I did not give my qualifications either. I am a member of Top Ladies of Distinction. I serve as the Black Women's Agenda legislative Chair. Also, I am a civil rights activist. I am over Joe Biden's 89032 focus group. He emails me and asks me, "What should we do to help make America a better place to live?" I am also an advocate for women and people of color in Las Vegas.

President Almaraz:

This concludes the introductions of Forum members.

AGENDA ITEM IV—ELECTION OF FORUM OFFICERS

President Almaraz:

At this time, we will now move into the election of Forum officers. Mr. Anthony, would you please guide us through the process for elections?

Mr. Anthony:

Thank you, Former President Almaraz. I am filling in today for Patrick Ashton, who is typically staff for this committee. It is a pleasure to be with you today. We also have Ashlee Kalina from LCB and Bryan Fernley, our Legislative Counsel, joining us on Zoom.

Today before you on the item is the election of new Forum officers. There are four officers up for election, those being President, Vice President, Northern Facilitator, and Southern Facilitator. For ease of voting, we will take those positions one at a time. I will call for a nomination, and then if a person is nominated, I will then ask that person if they are interested to confirm the nomination. We will continue down that process in case there are multiple nominations. It will then go to a roll call vote, and a member who receives a majority of the votes will be elected. We will start with Forum President. Is there a nomination for Forum President?

Dr. Jordan:

It gives me great pleasure and good support for a person that has done a phenomenal job, and that is our current President, Fran Almaraz.

Mr. Anthony:

Ms. Almaraz, would you accept the nomination?

President Almaraz:

Yes, I do.

Mr. Anthony:

Are there any other nominations?

Dr. Marchant:

I move for selection by acclamation.

Mr. Anthony:

Not seeing any further nominations, there is one nomination pending before the body for Fran Almaraz to serve as President. Madam Secretary, would you please take a roll call vote?

Ms. Adin—Yes

Ms. Batts—Yes

Ms. Bongiorno—Yes

Mr. Cohn—Abstain

Ms. Fesenmaier—Yes

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski—Yes

Dr. Jordan—Yes

Ms. Laura Leavitt—Yes

Ms. Peggy Leavitt—Yes

Dr. Marchant—Yes

Mr. Slaughter—Yes

Mr. Troth—Yes

Ms. Tyler—Yes

Ms. Woods—Yes

Ms. Almaraz—Yes

Ms. King:

Ms. Almaraz received 14 yes votes and 1 abstained. Mr. Anthony, can you please confirm the results?

Mr. Anthony:

Correct; thank you, Madam Secretary. Congratulations, President Almaraz.

President Almaraz:

Thank you all. It has been my honor to serve as your President for the past session, and I look forward to working with all of you during this next interim.

Mr. Anthony:

Moving on to the nomination for Vice President of the Forum. Is there a nomination for the position of Vice President?

President Almaraz:

I would like to nominate Dr. Jordan.

Ms. Bongiorno:

I would like to second that.

Dr. Marchant:

I will second that.

Mr. Anthony:

Are there any other nominations for the position of Vice President? [There were none.] Is there any further discussion? [There was none.] Madam Secretary, will you please open the roll?

Ms. Adin—Yes
Ms. Batts—Yes
Ms. Bongiorno—Yes
Mr. Cohn—Abstain
Ms. Fesenmaier—Abstain
Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski—Yes
Dr. Jordan—Yes
Ms. Laura Leavitt—Yes
Ms. Peggy Leavitt—Yes
Dr. Marchant—Yes
Mr. Slaughter—Yes
Mr. Troth—Yes
Ms. Tyler—Yes
Ms. Woods—Yes
Ms. Almaraz—Yes

President Almaraz:

Dr. Jordan has received 13 yes votes and 2 abstained. Mr. Anthony, can you please confirm the results?

Mr. Anthony:

Madam Secretary, those results are confirmed. Congratulations, Dr. Jordan, for the position of Vice President for this interim.

Moving on to the next position up for nomination—Southern Facilitator. Are there any persons wishing to make a nomination for Southern Facilitator?

Vice President Jordan:

I would like to nominate Mr. Troth.

Mr. Troth:

I appreciate that, but I am not in a position to serve at this time.

President Almaraz:

I would like to nominate Ms. Rosie Tyler.

Dr. Marchant:

I would like to nominate Ms. Tyler.

Mr. Anthony:

Ms. Tyler, would you accept that nomination? You have been nominated for the position of Southern Facilitator.

Ms. Tyler:

I accept.

Mr. Anthony:

Are there any further nominations? [There were none.] Is there any further discussion on the nomination? [There was none.] Madam Secretary, will you please open the roll?

Ms. Adin—Yes
Ms. Batts—Yes
Ms. Bongiorno—Yes
Mr. Cohn—Abstain
Ms. Fesenmaier—Abstain
Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski—Yes
Dr. Jordan—Yes
Ms. Laura Leavitt—Yes
Ms. Peggy Leavitt—Yes
Dr. Marchant—Yes
Mr. Slaughter—Yes
Mr. Troth—Yes

Ms. Tyler—Yes
Ms. Woods—Yes
Ms. Almaraz—Yes

Ms. King:

Ms. Tyler has received 13 yes votes and 2 abstained. Mr. Anthony, would you please confirm the results?

Mr. Anthony:

Madam Secretary, those results are confirmed. Congratulations, Ms. Tyler, on your appointment as Southern Facilitator.

We will now open the nominations for the position of Northern Facilitator. Is there anyone wishing to make a nomination?

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski:

I have a question. Because I am new to the Forum, I do not know what the responsibilities of a Facilitator are. I know what the word means. I have experience with regards to facilitation, but I do not know what it means with regards to this Forum. Could someone please explain that to me?

Mr. Anthony:

The position of Facilitator is statutorily tasked with collecting information and ideas for presentation of issues of importance to the Forum at each future meeting. Largely, they facilitate that discussion of potential future agenda topics.

Is there anyone wishing to make a nomination?

President Almaraz:

I would like to nominate Lucille Adin, if she would like to accept.

Mr. Anthony:

Ms. Adin, do you accept the nomination?

Ms. Adin:

Yes.

Mr. Anthony:

Are there any other nominations for the position of Northern Facilitator? [There were none.] Is there any discussion on the nomination? Seeing none, Madam Secretary, will you open the roll?

Ms. Adin—Yes
Ms. Batts—Yes
Ms. Bongiorno—Yes
Mr. Cohn—Abstain
Ms. Fesenmaier—Abstain

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski—Yes
Dr. Jordan—Yes
Ms. Laura Leavitt—Yes
Ms. Peggy Leavitt—Yes
Dr. Marchant—Yes
Mr. Slaughter—Yes
Mr. Troth—Yes
Ms. Tyler—Yes
Ms. Woods—Yes
Ms. Almaraz—Yes

Ms. King:

Ms. Adin has received 13 yes votes and 2 abstained. Mr. Anthony, will you please confirm the results?

Mr. Anthony:

Correct, Madam Secretary. Congratulations, Ms. Adin, on your nomination for the position of Northern Facilitator. With that, Madam President, this concludes the agenda item.

President Almaraz:

Thank you, Mr. Anthony. Congratulations to all those who are elected and are going to serve for the next interim. I also wanted to let the members know, especially new members, in your booklet under [Agenda Item IV](#), it gives you an overview of the officer positions for the Forum ([Agenda Item IV](#)).

AGENDA ITEM V—PRESENTATION REGARDING MEETING PROTOCOL AND GUIDELINES OF DECORUM

President Almaraz:

Moving on to [Agenda Item V](#). This is a presentation regarding meeting protocol and guidelines of decorum. This will be presented by Ms. Ashlee Kalina, our Constituent Services Analyst from the Research Division, LCB.

Ms. Kalina:

Thank you, President Almaraz, and good morning, Forum members. I am a Constituent Services Analyst with the Research Division of the LCB, and I also will be serving as an assistant Coordinator for the Forum this interim. We realize that a number of you have served on public bodies in the past, and some of this information may be familiar, but for those who are new to the experience, we want to provide an overview of the guidelines that may be helpful to your service on a public body such as the Forum. In your meeting packet under [Agenda Item V](#), you will find an informational memorandum titled "Meeting Protocol and Guidelines of Decorum," and it is available so you can follow along during this presentation ([Agenda Item V](#)). The memo provides an outline of the procedures of a Forum meeting and reflects the rules and standards used by other public bodies. I do not intend to read all of the information covered in the memo, but I want to highlight some particular points that will help make the meetings as effective and streamlined as possible for everyone involved. I encourage you to take time to read the memo at your leisure so we can all have a greater understanding of how we can make the Forum function as well as possible.

Allow me to provide a brief overview of how the Forum functions in a hearing process. A hearing serves two main purposes. Since it is open to the public, it provides many individuals with access to information on what topics a public body like the Forum is discussing or taking action on. Because policy experts, lobbyists, and members of the public offer testimony on specific subject matter during a hearing, Forum members can use the information they learn to create or improve legislation, express concerns to state and local government representatives, and provide timely responses to constituent questions.

Let us now get into the procedures for the Forum President, who serves as the Chair of the Forum. The Chair has the primary job of charting and steering the course of a hearing. The Forum President is responsible for calling the hearing to order, opening and closing the discussion of agenda items, calling witnesses, and adjourning the hearing. The Forum Chair should be referred to as President or Vice President and their last name or Chair and their last name. The Chair may temporarily delegate Forum responsibilities to the Vice President, and in the event of their absence, another member of the Forum. When opening a hearing, the Chair will call the meeting to order by asking for roll call and going over any announcements for the Forum. The Chair begins with asking for public comment and then moving into the presentation of agenda items. The Chair may also ask whether any agenda items need to be taken out of order. For example, if any of the presenters have time constraints, the Chair or President may grant the permission to do so. The Chair will then begin with the first item on the agenda. After testimony has been given, the Chair will ask for members if they have any questions. Be sure to raise your hand if you are attending the meeting in person, or if you are participating virtually, you can also raise your hand on the camera or briefly unmute your mic and then indicate to the Chair that you have a question. Please remember that you must wait until you are recognized by the Chair before you proceed with a question. If action is required for an agenda item, the Chair will ask for a motion from the Forum members to take action on the item in question. Most of our meetings at this point are simply about information gathering, so the Forum may need not to take any action on items for the time being. We will discuss this process of taking action on items as we get closer to the work session that will be later in the interim. Once testimony, discussion, and action on all agenda items are addressed, the Chair will then ask for any public comment. The Chair has the authority to limit the time for such testimony, but generally speaking, each speaker is limited to two minutes. There may also be times when the Chair needs to limit the time for testimony or presentations in order to stay on target with the meeting schedule and to be respectful of other presenters who have been invited to testify to the Forum. At the conclusion of public comment, and if no one else comes forward to testify, the Chair may discuss the next meeting time with the Forum members and any other important announcements for the Forum. If there is nothing more to come before the Forum, the Chair has the responsibility to adjourn the meeting. The Chair also has the authority to adjourn the meeting without a motion.

I would now like to bring your attention to the section procedures for Forum members. You can find that at the top of page 3. I want to emphasize a few points of general guidelines for service as a Forum member. The main responsibilities for a Forum member are listening to testimony and presentations to the Forum, questioning witnesses, and making motions based on witness testimony and any other information provided to the Forum. We would like to highlight that it is critical for a Forum member to raise their hand and wait to be recognized by the Chair before asking questions of a witness or presenter. This helps to maintain professional decorum during the course of the meetings, and it prevents multiple people from talking all at once and minimizing any confusion. Also, please be mindful when you are using the mic button or unmuting your mic, if you are participating virtually, unmute it while you speak, and then make sure to mute it again once you are finished with your comment.

Here are some additional points to review under virtual meeting considerations, which can be found in the middle of page 2, especially if you anticipate any virtual participation in a Forum meeting. Please make sure that you have a reliable Internet connection. If you are not hardwired, please make sure that your Wi-Fi is dependable and your battery is charged and you are connected. Be mindful of any background visuals or lighting to minimize distractions or interruptions. Again, be sure to keep your microphone muted until the Chair recognizes you to speak and be sure to turn it off when you are finished speaking. This reduces any potential for audio delay or echoes in the feedback, and it also makes work for our Broadcast and Production Services team a little easier. The camera needs to be on at all times to ensure the presence of a Forum member during a meeting so we are always maintaining a quorum. Because public hearings require open deliberation, please do not share content or discussions related to agenda items in the Zoom chat or in group emails. The chat is restricted to identifying and resolving technical issues that might occur during virtual meetings. If you do decide there is something you would like to share with the Forum as a whole through an email, let the staff or the President know, and then we can disseminate that information, but please let us know first.

We also ask Forum members to address each other as well as witnesses giving testimony by official titles, such as Mr., Ms., Dr., Director, Senator, Assembly Member, Governor, Administrator, et cetera. Again, this helps us to maintain a professional decorum. We realize you know some folks outside of this setting on a first-name basis and informally, but for this setting, we want to maintain formality and be respectful of each other's offices.

Again, we will talk more about taking action on agenda items as we move closer to the work session. With respect to procedures concerning witnesses and presenters—and that information can be found on the bottom of page 3 of the memo—it is very important to refrain from talking and having side conversations while information is being shared with the Forum. This can make it challenging for presenters to get through all the information they need to share, and it can also cause unnecessary distractions for those around you. We would also like to stress that when the Chair asks for public comment, it is necessary for Forum members to refrain from discussion during that time. While public comment is taking place, you are encouraged to take notes and observe, but we cannot make comment on public comment. If additional topics or subjects are brought up during the public comment portion that have not been included on the agenda, Forum members can make note and then request staff to schedule those items for a deeper discussion at a later meeting date.

This leads me into some brief comments related to Open Meeting Law (OML), and you can find that towards the conclusion of the memo. Because the Forum is a public body and working on behalf of Nevada citizens, it is subject to the OML, which can be found in Chapter 241 of the NRS—in case you would like some weekend reading before the next meeting. This means the work of the Forum must conform to statutory requirements in public meetings under an agenda that provides full notice and disclosure of discussion topics and any possible action to be made by the Forum, so it is important for Forum members to stick to the topics listed on the agenda and refrain from getting off course. It is not to inhibit your ability to address the topics that are of concern to you, but it is to comply with OML requirements, so the public is provided with sufficient notice before the Forum goes into any deeper discussions on topics.

Another point to keep in mind is action is only taken by the body as a whole. Forum members have no individual decision-making powers and may only speak on behalf of the Forum if authorized to do so during an open meeting. You are encouraged and welcome to go out into the community in your respective Senate districts and meet with people and gather information on the topics of concern for seniors in Nevada; however, you are not

authorized to speak on or act on behalf of the Forum without proper authorization from the Forum. If you have any more detailed questions about OML and its applications, you are welcome to reach out to our legal counsel, Mr. Fernley, or those of us as staff, and we are happy to help address those concerns or questions that you might have about OML. This concludes my presentation on the memorandum. Again, this memorandum provides an overview and does not address every possible topic regarding protocol and guidelines for the Forum, but staff and legal counsel are available, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. President Almaraz, this concludes my presentation, and I am happy to take any questions at this time.

President Almaraz:

Are there any questions? Seeing none. Before we move to Agenda Item VI, which is where we start our presentations—our bills that were passed—I would like to say ten years or so ago when I was brand new, I had no idea of what this committee did other than we are meeting to talk about issues that affect seniors. As a body, we are allowed one bill draft request (BDR) per session. Last interim, when we were discussing what was the most important, we had two issues. One was the scamming of seniors, and the other was the disparity between Medicaid payments to seniors in certain living facilities. This body chose the Medicaid problem as their primary issue. We had a bill to address that, and we have presenters here who are going to tell you about that. The other big issue we had was the scamming occurring to seniors. We did ask a legislator, as a personal favor—not as a BDR for the Forum—but as a personal favor, to carry a bill that would address scamming. We were lucky to have a legislator do that.

AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 373 (2023), WHICH INCREASES THE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES OF AN ELDERLY PERSON, AMONG OTHER PROVISIONS

President Almaraz:

Our next presenter, Mark Krueger, who is the Chief Deputy Attorney and Consumer Counsel in the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, is going to present that bill, let you know why it was important, and the outcome of what is happening because of that bill. I would like to say that Mark Krueger and the Attorney General's Office was very involved in getting the language for this bill and for helping to get it passed. Mr. Krueger, if you would like to proceed.

Mark Krueger, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection (BCP), Office of the Attorney General (OAG):

Thank you for the introduction, I could not have said it better myself. I also have a co-presenter here, Deputy Attorney General Samantha Feeley, who is appearing in the southern office.

First and foremost, as an overview of the BCP, we are going to touch on who we are, go over some statistics, and then go over a few highlights of the scams and schemes we are seeing out there ([Agenda Item VI A](#)). We will also touch on some education and awareness and then transition into investigation and prosecution—that is where we will touch on the bill. Then we will provide you with some information about how to submit consumer complaints.

As an overview, the BCP is a statutorily created division within the OAG. We enforce laws that seek to ensure Nevada consumers and businesses have a fair, honest, and competitive marketplace in which to work, invest, and obtain goods and services. Basically, the sale of goods and services—we look for any kind of problems, misrepresentations, deception, et cetera. What laws do we primarily use to do this? We use the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, which is primarily the misleading consumer laws, the unfair trade practices—some of you know that as antitrust laws—stop unfair business practices that threaten competition. We advocate for the ratepayers before the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN). This has also become a very important part of what we do given the recent increases to the utility rates. I am going to turn it over to my colleague to go over some of the statistics we are seeing, and these statistics focus on older adults, senior citizens.

Samantha Feeley, Deputy Attorney General, BCP, OAG:

Good morning, President Almaraz, and the members of this Forum. I want to provide you with some Federal Trade Commission (FTC) statistics that give you an overview about older adults across the country. Essentially, older adults are less likely than younger adults to report losing money to fraud. Older adults continue to report higher median losses than the younger adults. The biggest losses across the country is to investment scams. Because of the underreporting, the FTC estimates the overall cost for fraud to older adults in America can be between \$5 billion and \$48.4 billion. With a lot of these scams, the highest form of payment that goes to the scammers are bank transfers, followed by cryptocurrency, credit cards, and gift cards.

The FTC provides statistics on the top scams that seniors face. These scams include investment scams as number one, business impostors, romance scams, government impostors, and tech support scams. The FTC puts out information through its Consumer Sentinel Network. This is where state agencies contribute to this database. Nevada is one of those contributing agencies. Out of all the states that report, Nevada is third when it comes to fraud against seniors. The staggering amount that was lost in the year 2023 was \$113.6 million in the State of Nevada. It reported over 46,000 total frauds, and that median fraud loss was about \$649.

Mr. Krueger:

As you can tell, there are many types of scams and schemes. They are all basically designed to steal personal information and ultimately money. That is, generally speaking, what the scammers are after. We noticed that most scams generally create a sense of urgency in order for them to perpetrate the scam or the scheme—that sense of urgency should be a red flag at all times. When you talk to other senior citizens, let them know that is absolutely one of the biggest red flags to a scam or scheme. Some examples—and we are not going to go over all of them. I wanted to highlight a few, especially some that we have seen recently pop up and are particularly egregious, especially with them being able to target older adults. Artificial intelligence (AI)-based scams are becoming very popular for scammers to perpetuate their frauds. Generally, what we see is a recording which they are bringing from social media. Say, you have a child or a grandchild—it is basically what we used to call the grandparent scam, but amped up a bit. They get a social media post of your children or grandchildren. All they need is their voice, that they pull off the Internet and the social media post, and AI will create a whole script. When they telephone you, the script will sound exactly like your child or grandchild to the point where you will think you are speaking to your grandchild or child. There will be this sense of urgency for you to do something—either give them a gift card, money, access to your account, or other personal

identifying information. This kind of scam is becoming, sadly, very popular among the fraudsters. We are probably going to see more of it as we go down the road here.

The other scam is the gift card scam. This is tied in because you will often see imposter scams pop up. Imposter scams oftentimes utilize your bank accounts. They mirror or mimic an email, text, or call from your bank. Remember, your bank is never going to ask you for personal information or to provide any kind of account data when they contact you. However, these emails and text messages look like your bank or your financial institution, and they try to trick you into giving them information. A lot of times they ask for gift cards. Sadly, we had an older adult in Reno who ultimately got tricked into giving \$38,000 in gift cards to these scammers, which are very difficult to find. When you go to purchase a gift card, merchants have been trained to ask you, "Are you sure buying multiple gift cards is not a scam?" Please do not take offense to that. Merchants are trained to do that so we can try to get some education and awareness to individuals who are purchasing gift cards under duress or some sort of sense of urgency, like they need to get those gift cards. When they give the gift cards' numbers, immediately, the money is gone and pretty much untraceable. Along with that, we are finding if you go to the store and purchase gift cards off of the counter or racks, you should inspect them carefully. Sometimes they are being tampered with and the numbers are being taken so when you purchase the gift card at the counter or at the register, the money is immediately gone from the gift card. Those are a few. I would like to also have Ms. Feeley talk about cryptocurrency and specifically the term "pig butchering" as well as the residential rooftop sales. I think it is good to highlight these things, and that will become apparent as we go.

Ms. Feeley:

Pig butchering relates to investment scams where they use cryptocurrency or investment opportunities. Essentially, an individual will make contact with someone and develop a relationship, whether it is friend-based or romantic. It will last days, weeks, or months. During this relationship, the scammer is providing investment opportunities to the victim. Because it is such a long scam, the victim may see wins that may legitimize the investment opportunity they are going into. They also may be presented with a certain platform, when in reality, these platforms are controlled by the scammer or its associates. The term "pig butchering" comes from when you fatten up a pig for slaughter. They are taking these victims and enticing them to invest more and more and more until the pigs fatten and are ready for slaughter. Pig butchering goes towards people who are lonely, people who are looking for that relationship.

As well as residential rooftop solar sales— A lot of these third-party salespeople are doing deceptive practices to gain or entice customers into these contracts. Oftentimes, they will misrepresent the solar panels are free, and they are not to expect any payments. When, in fact, they will always be expected, at least, a minimal bill from the electric company. But they are told they will never have to pay another bill again, and that is not true. They may even take advantage of individuals who do not have the capacity to enter into a contract. Enticing an individual who does not have the mental capacity to enter into these \$50,000 or \$100,000 loans that affect the homes. These residential rooftop solar sales are involved in some of these scams and schemes.

Mr. Krueger:

What can we do about it? We found, in the BCP, the best way to avoid scams and schemes is to educate yourself and become educated in the first place—that way, you can identify them and avoid them. We strive to have a robust, educational-type outreach. We like to

provide information and tips so people can avoid the scams in the first place. We do this through presentations, as we are doing today. Speaking engagements, we were at another event this last weekend. We do online information and tips. We have videos on our website, as well, that go through the tips and how to identify and avoid scams. We do print media quite often. We do news interviews, community outreach, and many other things.

Now on to AB 373 ([Agenda Item VI B](#)). Through efforts, as President Almaraz said, of the Forum, we were delighted to assist Assemblywoman Gorelow in pushing through her bill, which was fully supported by the Forum. It was a great bill that came about at a good time to give us some additional tools in our continued fight against fraud and fraudsters.

Essentially, it increased the violations for those types of misrepresentations and deceptive conduct against older adults from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per act. It is important because that is quite a bit of punishment when you consider an act is every phone call, every email, et cetera. We have found that once a person becomes a victim, they are not the only victim. These fraudsters are doing it to many people. We are able to go after them civilly. It also increased the criminal penalties associated with acts where an older individual is a victim of a fraud, schemes, and different deceptive acts under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act so we can utilize our Criminal Unit in the OAG to bring actions. We have made referrals. Obviously, any open cases we cannot discuss, but we have already started that process and are actively bringing both civil and criminal actions on behalf of the OAG against individuals who have scammed other individuals, particularly senior citizens. We investigate complaints that come into our office, and we have identified, in some cases, patterns and practices of complaints that are numerous and occurring over and over again. When we do, we have civil and criminal authority. We have assisted in the recovery of thousands of dollars for older adults.

In particular, as Ms. Feeley identified, we have gone after some of the fraud and schemes that have occurred in the residential rooftop solar industry. Assembly Bill 373 gave us some tools to punish individuals, but we also had a couple of other bills that gave us some other tools to change the way in which we can investigate. We have seen a big change in the way the solar industry is able to do their sales. We have a mechanism in place now, under the law, that requires solar companies to confirm the safeguards are in their contracts to make sure individuals understood and were not specifically told things like, "You will never see an electric bill again," which, as Ms. Feeley pointed out, is not the truth.

Collecting complaints and information about the schemes and frauds out there is one of the most effective tools we have to determine whether businesses or individuals are engaging in deceptive trade practices. We take every complaint very seriously. We review them. We encourage individuals to file them with our office. It is very easy to find where you can file an online complaint by going to the Attorney General's website at www.ag.nv.gov. In addition, the FTC encourages individuals to file complaints. We work well with our federal partners in figuring out whether certain complaints are actionable, whether we can find the fraudsters—which sometimes is difficult for us, but we are very tenacious in our efforts. With that, I will end my presentation and leave it to any questions you may have.

President Almaraz:

Are there any questions? Dr. Jordan.

Vice President Jordan:

Thank you for this overview, it is really appreciated. My major concern is many of our seniors are in facilitated places where there is no computer availability. We need to have a

number to call, because many of our seniors are technologically challenged, in some instances, and they need to have an alternative methodology to file complaints. Could you share some information other than being online and how that could happen?

Mr. Krueger:

Thank you for your question. You bring up an excellent point and one which we have dealt with on a regular basis. We oftentimes have some older adults who do not even have the ability to make telephone calls. Recently, we had an older gentleman, who was the subject of a potential fraud in a solar case, who had throat cancer and could not speak clearly. We had to engage with this individual through mail. We are open to receiving mail and having those conversations, as well as having the telephone calls. As far as a dedicated line for older adults, that is something our office has discussed internally. We do not know how that would look at this point in time, but we want to remind you that you have the ability to contact the OAG through the telephone. We have a constituent services response that will also be the first line of contact for individuals. They are very good about returning calls and spending time talking to consumers and residents in the State. When a complaint is filed, oftentimes, if they deal with the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, they will be transferred to our unit, and then we take it from there. I hope that answers your question, but you do bring up a very good point.

Vice President Jordan:

Thank you, that is very good. We are here this morning because we serve a certain audience, and our direction is for that audience. Anything you can do to facilitate making that happen as soon as possible, we would greatly appreciate.

President Almaraz:

Mr. Cohn, do you have a question?

Mr. Cohn:

I have several. I will try to keep them brief. The bill you just described, is this an enhancement of a previous bill?

Mr. Krueger:

It was an enhancement of a statutory law we have—the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, which is Chapter 598 of NRS. It changed many of the penalties and allowed us to have the higher increased penalties, which does two things: (1) it acts as a deterrent; and (2) it gives us more ability to impose sanctions against those who would defraud our seniors.

Mr. Cohn:

Under the previous bill, was anybody arrested? Has anybody gone to jail?

Mr. Krueger:

I do not have the statistics on how many criminal cases we had previously. But recently, through this legislation, other legislation, as well as a change in our internal policies, we now have a dedicated criminal prosecutor for violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. It was a really great change for us because sometimes the only way to get a message is to take criminal action. Sometimes we can do it civilly, but it really depends on whether

the fraudster is a business that wants to operate legitimately in the State or if it is truly somebody who is just behind the scenes trying to steal money.

Mr. Cohn:

Under the previous law, you mention there was a civil penalty. Have civil penalties been levied and collected?

Mr. Krueger:

Yes. Civil penalties are levied and collected. Sometimes, in addition to civil penalties, there is restitution that we have gotten over the years.

Mr. Cohn:

Where do the civil penalties go?

Mr. Krueger:

Civil penalties under Nevada law are required to go into an operating account, which we are able to use. The excess, over a certain amount, is swept and goes to two different funding sources. One of them provides funds for the legal aids operating in this State who sometimes work with us as partners, and the other funds some salaries in investigations and other units that will work on many of these cases.

President Almaraz:

Mr. Slaughter, do you have a question?

Mr. Slaughter:

Yes, I do. I assume that most of the people are contacted over the telephone or cell phone. Is there any way to prevent them from calling that number over and over again? I have seen this happen.

Mr. Krueger:

What you are referencing is these robocalls. Oftentimes, we see that come up quite a bit. The best advice we have for you is, if you do not recognize the number, do not answer it. However, we are on a multistate task force that is trying to get the federal laws changed for the smaller carriers, which is where we see this occurring quite often, so we can stop robocalls. Robocalls have been problematic for almost everybody in this State. I do not know anyone who does not get robocalls. They can absolutely be troubling. There are ways you can block those numbers. We find with robocalls that they oftentimes use another spoof number. It dovetails into the spoofing of phone calls, where you might get a call where it looks like a utility is calling you, and then they are asking you for money. They are saying they are going to cut off your power. These things are generally scams. Utilities do not call you and threaten to turn off your power. To answer your question, we are actively working on those types of investigations.

Ms. Bongiorno:

I find in my constituency, I run across something, that I consider, as predatory loans. For example, they have 16 percent interest, they are a day late, it goes to 24 percent interest.

In fact, in one such case, I appeared before the Arizona Supreme Court. Luckily enough, we won the case. Do you run across that much?

Mr. Krueger:

When we get into unlicensed predatory loans, yes, we would run into some of those types of issues. Most of the time, when you talk about loans that have a higher interest rate, there are laws in place. Generally, those types of lenders are regulated by the Financial Institutions Division, so most of the complaints would go to the Financial Institutions Division, who would handle them.

President Almaraz:

Are there any other questions? We would like to point out that if you have more questions concerning this bill, the bill is in your binder under [Agenda Item VI B](#). After reading it, if you have more questions, I am sure the OAG could answer those questions for you. Thank you, Mr. Krueger and Ms. Feeley. We appreciate your time and work with us on this legislative measure. I think the members of the Forum very much appreciate all the work you did to help us get this bill passed.

I would like to bring your attention to a document, in your binder, that highlights a number of scams commonly committed against elderly people and provides information on how to handle them ([Agenda Item VI C](#)). I hope this information will be a valuable resource for our State's seniors.

AGENDA ITEM VII—OVERVIEW OF SENATE BILL 45 (2023), WHICH INCREASES THE MONTHLY PERSONAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE PROVIDED UNDER MEDICAID TO AN INSTITUTIONALIZED RESIDENT OF A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY

President Almaraz:

We will now move on to our next order of business. This is the overview of SB 45, which increases the monthly personal needs allowance provided under Medicaid to an institutionalized resident of a skilled nursing facility. During the last interim, we came to find out the discrepancy in how much money a resident in this facility got compared to a resident in another facility. It was a huge discrepancy. We decided for our bill, we would ask to get this more in line, so the \$35 the person in this facility was allowed, and the \$120 in this facility— It was such a disparity, and we did not know why. We took this as our bill, and we are happy to have today, Marie Coe, Kirsten Coulombe, and Malinda Southard, Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). We will hear from these representatives of the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) and DHCFP on how they are going to implement this bill.

Marie Coe, State Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman, Office of the State LTC Ombudsman, ADSD, DHHS:

I would like to thank the President and members of the Forum for allowing me the opportunity to share updates on SB 45 with you today. I would like to take a walk down memory lane for everyone to recall how we arrived at this point today ([Agenda Item VII A](#)). The Office of the State LTC Ombudsman serves as advocates for residents who reside in licensed LTC settings, such as skilled nursing facilities, residential facilities for groups, assisted livings, and homes for individual residential care. The number of facilities this bill

affected was 70 skilled nursing facilities statewide. To give you an idea of the impact of residents, over 8,000 residential beds could be affected by this bill, so it is very significant for the residents in LTC in Nevada. We will provide an overview of the bill, the current status, impact on the nursing facility residents, and then the next steps and monitoring today.

Residents in skilled nursing facilities receive a high level of skilled nursing care where they live day to day. However, the items and events that are most meaningful to us were limited to these residents. Simple things, such as a favorite snack, shampoo, or even basic clothing items that are not provided by the facility were limited. Residents must use their personal needs allowance for these items. The personal needs allowance was \$35, and remained at \$35 for the past 30 years, with no intent of an increase until this Forum took on this issue and took it to heart for the residents. The Office of the State LTC Ombudsman provided an overview during the interim, and before the 82nd Legislative Session, regarding the personal needs allowance being a low amount and needing an increase in order to meet the basic needs of residents. The Forum took a vote and accepted this issue as a BDR.

The Ombudsman Office then conducted a survey of residents around the State, before the session, in which residents were able to use their voices to express what was missing in their lives and what a possible increase would be used for. In addition, the State Office of the LTC Ombudsman advocated for the personal needs allowance to not be stagnant again and equal to the personal needs allowance of those in the residential facilities. The Forum advocated and was successful in not only assisting residents to gain an increase in the personal needs allowance, it also ensured the personal needs allowance was routinely reviewed and increased as appropriate, never again to remain stagnant for 30 years. This was significant, and SB 45 is now in effect for residents who are eligible as of January 1, 2024, so it is very newly implemented.

The current status— The \$35 is outlined in the Nevada Medicaid policy known as the State Plan. The State Plan is adjusted and approved, at a federal level, to enact that increase and allow those funds to be implemented to the residents in LTC. Nevada Medicaid has been working with its federal partners to review the policy updates and allow for that increase to now be at \$154. Federal approval will be retroactive to allow for the January 1, 2024, effective date. Once the federal approval is received, Nevada Medicaid will notify all enrolled Nevada Medicaid nursing facilities of this approval.

Some of the impact on the residents you can see here. Residents have newly been able to access these funds. I wanted to share with you some of the comments and items the residents are able to use these funds and have been using them for. A simple item such as a better tasting toothpaste—something that we take advantage of—is one of the main things for the residents. A nicer toothbrush to use every day, haircuts that have been delayed, ingredients to make personalized snacks, paying off bills so they do not have to save and make small payments on—they can get those bills paid off—a new pair of shoes, toiletries. We were talking earlier about the ability to have electronics. They are purchasing cell phones, streaming services for entertainment, going out into the community to engage in our community events and no longer be institutionalized. You can see some of the things that improve the quality of life with the residents. Transportation—being able to afford transportation was big. Transportation is expensive, and on \$35 it limited the ability to go out and do things with friends and families. The personalization of the items and the ability to have choice instead of remaining and relying on others for basic personal needs. Most importantly, the equality for residents in all settings—to be equal no matter where you live and what your care needs are. I would like to turn it over to Kirsten Coulombe, who will explain further.

Kirsten Coulombe, Social Services Chief III, DHCFP, DHHS:

I am a Social Services Chief III with Nevada Medicaid. I am going to go over the process Nevada Medicaid has in place. It is not necessarily a new process. We have been monitoring the Patient Trust Funds, that the money goes into, for several years. Since this is such a large increase, we let the partners we work with, who oversee that, be notified of this. Essentially, the personal needs allowance that Ms. Coe just went over—all those excellent things the recipients can use that money for—they do have the choice to either have the nursing facility manage that for them—that might be more of a convenience, they can have a family member, or they can monitor it themselves.

If the recipient wants the nursing facility to maintain that money, the monthly amount is put into a separate bank account called a Patient Trust Fund. Nevada Medicaid contracts with a vendor to help us to conduct audits. It will do random audits for nursing facilities to see how the facility manages those funds, and essentially is reviewing to make sure the nursing facility is in compliance with any state and federal laws related to those funds. If part of that audit determines there are discrepancies in how the nursing facility may be depositing the funds or did withdrawals, they will work with the nursing facility on a corrective action plan. They will send out a formal letter summarizing what their audit findings are. Once they have that corrective action plan, they have 30 days to do that, and then 60 days at the nursing facility to implement that corrective action plan. The facility is audited at least every other year to ensure compliance. This is not necessarily a new process, but there are going to be larger amounts since the \$35 up to the \$154 that will be deposited each month. We wanted to share what steps were in place to currently monitor that. This ends our formal presentation, Ms. Coe and I are available for questions.

President Almaraz:

Are there any questions, Members? Dr. Jordan.

Vice President Jordan:

I am really proud of this Forum to see a problem, to develop a goal, and see a positive outcome. It is very strategic and very positive, and what we are all about. I hope we can continue to do that.

Mr. Cohn:

I am trying to understand what you have accomplished here. Where do the funds come from?

Ms. Coulombe:

The funds are in the Medicaid State Plan. It is essentially our paperwork and our contract with our federal partners, the United States Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is a requirement we have in our State Plan. The amount determined for the patient liability is done through the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services when they are determining Medicaid eligibility. The amount is set for all individuals, they all receive the same amount, which will now be increased to \$154. With SB 45, because the amount for the personal needs allowance is increasing, we did receive money in our budget from this last session to cover that for the Medicaid amount. It comes from our budgeting process, essentially.

Mr. Cohn:

Do the bank trust accounts pay interest?

Ms. Coulombe:

It is an excellent question. I do not know the answer, but I am happy to look and see. I will check with my counterparts over in the audit unit. I know they are watching, and they might have the answer. I am happy to follow up to see if there is interest on those accounts.

Mr. Troth:

I appreciate the presentation. Back to the money. The Nevada Legislature approved money to use from Nevada Medicaid on Slide 4. Is there still a pending request from the federal Medicaid to reimburse or pay for that?

Ms. Coulombe:

Correct. We did have a fiscal note tied to SB 45 that authorized us and gave us funding to support the increase. The bill went into effect on January 1, 2024. Nevada Medicaid worked with our federal partners, CMS, to review our draft language. At this point, it is just the paperwork piece that will be submitted. There is a process to allow retroactive approvals with Nevada Medicaid, this is one of those instances where that is permissible. We are currently in the process of submitting the paperwork, the State Plan amendment, to CMS. They have already reviewed this language with us, informally at this point, and we do not anticipate it not being approved since CMS is aware of the changes we are making, and they already added suggestions. The system updates were already made in the welfare system because, as Ms. Coe spoke to, the impact it has for our individuals in nursing facilities is such a low risk to make those changes on the front end while we are waiting for federal approval. Sometimes we do proceed before the paperwork is finalized, but we do not have any concern that we will not receive the federal approval. I hope that helps to clarify the status.

President Almaraz:

Are there any other questions? I have one remark before we conclude this presentation. During our committee hearing when we heard about this discrepancy—for many years, the funding did not increase from the \$35 for the folks in this type of facility, but for the folks another type of facility, they got—I am not sure if it would be called—a cost-of-living increase every year. Their money for personal needs would go up, but for these folks, it did not. It was such a discrepancy that the Forum members took it to heart. I thank you and your department, Ms. Coe, for seeing that this bill got passed. If there are no other questions, thank you for your presentation.

In your binder is SB 45, if you would like to read that ([Agenda Item VII B](#)).

AGENDA ITEM VIII—PRESENTATION ON LEGISLATIVE MEASURES RELATED TO SENIORS THAT PASSED DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND UPDATES ON STATE SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS IN NEVADA

President Almaraz:

Agenda Item VIII is a presentation on legislative measures related to seniors that passed during the 2023 Legislative Session and updates on state services and programs for seniors in Nevada. Our presenters are Arianna Ramos, Marie Coe, and LaDonne Knighten.

Arianna Ramos, Social Services Manager, Office of Community Living (OCL), ADSD, DHHS:

We are going to be reviewing a summary of the agency operations and our home- and community-based services. Ms. Knighten is going to be discussing our community service programs, as well as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) (H.R.1319, 117th Congress) projects. Ms. Coe will finish us off today with our legislative updates, and then we will leave some time at the end for your questions ([Agenda Item VIII A-1](#)).

Within ADSD's adequacy operation, we have Adult Protective Services (APS). They safeguard the rights and well-being of vulnerable adults in the community by investigating reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, abandonment, and isolation of vulnerable adults ages 18 to 59 and individuals aged 60 and over.

We also have our LTC Ombudsman Program. They advocate for residents in nursing homes, residential facilities, and care facilities to ensure the quality of care of individuals in our long-term settings.

Our advocacy attorney provides education and policy adequacy for the Division. They also provide legal support to enhance overall adequacy efforts for adult protection.

Our Office for Consumer Health Assistance, better known as OCHA, assists consumers and injured employees in understanding their rights under various health care plans. They provide education and advocacy for those with or without insurance.

For our children's services, we have the Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). They identify and address developmental delays or disabilities in infants and toddlers. We have our Autism Treatment Assistance Program, also known as ATAP. They provide treatment for children diagnosed with the autism spectrum disorder. They have a commitment to early intervention and support children with special needs.

Our Developmental Services provide services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Services are delivered through three regional centers statewide, and their goal is to maximize independence and community inclusion. Our OCL offers an array of services. They provide support to people with disabilities, older adults, and family caregivers. Community services are provided through competitive grants, and they focus on preventing institutionalization. Key programs within OCL are the assistive technology for independent living, communication access program, and our home- and community-based services.

Finally, we have our quality assurance operation that ensures provider compliance with state and federal regulations by using monitoring systems that have improvement plans to ensure the delivery of quality services.

I am going to discuss more about our home- and community-based services. They provide services to our vulnerable individuals who are at risk of nursing home placement. Services are authorized based off eligibility and the individual's choice. Next, is a list of our waiver services offered to the home- and community-based services recipients. As you can see, case management, chore, homemaker, respite—the emergency button is very commonly used—as well as our home delivered meals. We, specifically, have our Frail Elderly (FE) and Physically Disabled (PD) programs. The FE waiver serves individuals aged 65 or older who meet a nursing facility-level of care and are at risk of nursing home placement and have a waiver need. Our PD waiver serves individuals of all ages who have a documented physical disability and meet nursing facility-level of care and are at risk of nursing facility placement and have the waiver need. Waivers do require a financial approval, which is completed by the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). A final approval is issued by DHCFP. Together, DHCFP, DWSS, and ADSD work together to determine eligibility and authorize services.

In the event an individual is determined not to be financially eligible for the waivers, ADSD has two state-funded options they may still qualify for. If you are interested on how to apply, Nevadans can go to our website, and click on the seniors link. On the “How to Apply” section, we have our OCL application listed there. We accept applications in person, fax, or email. People can also contact us if they have additional questions on how to get us an application, so we can support them through that application process as well. I will now turn it over to Ms. Knighten.

LaDonne Knighten, Chief of Community Services, OCL, ADSD, DHHS:

The ADSD's Community Services section utilizes federal and state funding to deliver an array of services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers through nonprofits, for-profits, and community organizations. In State Fiscal Year 2024, we used approximately \$16.8 million in federal and state funding to support community partners to address the diverse needs of Nevada's most vulnerable populations. Individuals, caregivers, and advocates seeking connection to ADSD's array of community services can access us through Nevada 211, which is an information and referral hub. They can access it through telephone or the website. All ADSD-funded partners are required to register with Nevada 211. We can also be accessed through Relay Nevada, which is a landline relay service that allows access to telecommunications for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or speech impaired. Our Nevada Care Connection is a network which is designed to provide resource and service navigation to help individuals make informed decisions and to connect them with the services that best meet their needs.

An overview of the array of some of the services that are provided through our community partners include in-home services, which includes: senior companion—designed to help prevent isolation through contact and support; home modifications and repair; and homemaker. Also, our nutrition services, which includes: congregate meals; home delivered meals; and food security service. Transportation through direct service and vouchers— Caregiver support, including respite care support groups and education— Our assistive technology for independent living services is a consumer-driven service to support individuals to live independently within their own home. Also, Nevada Assistive Technology Collaborative identifies and helps to address the barriers for individuals who are living with disabilities to assist them in exploring devices and training to help meet their needs. Our Medicare assistance program includes outreach and individualized counseling to assist individuals to make informed decisions about their health care options under Medicare, assists them in applying for services that help them pay for Medicare costs, as well as to help educate them to detect, report, and prevent health care fraud, errors, and abuse. We

also have legal assistance services and health promotion services, which includes services to help support disease prevention and health promotion through awareness, education, and classes.

The ARPA funding has allowed ADSD to implement various projects. Some of the funding has been used to address waitlist of various programs, such as our Homemaker program, our Assistive Technology for Independent Living program, our Nutrition program, and our Home Modification and Repair program. We have also used the funding to implement services to help the agency identify barriers to promote efficiency in services, modernize our data systems, and receive information about our current processes so we can improve upon them. Some of our other projects include the community-based care capacity building project, which will result in the expansion of bed capacity in residential facilities for groups. Also specialize intensive services for developmental services, which would be the development of contracted intensive behavior support homes for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities and/or behavioral health diagnoses. Our NEIS analysis contract project results in conducting an analysis of the NEIS services model so we can receive recommendations on the best proactive service delivery model. A resource and service navigator capacity program will help to increase the amount of resource and service navigators across the State to help connect individuals with services that meet their needs. Our telehealth workforce training project will help to expand existing efforts to support the training of health care providers to offer telehealth services and telemedicine cards. We have been able to purchase mobile telemedicine cards for telehealth delivery of services. Thank you for this opportunity, and I will now turn it over to Ms. Coe.

Ms. Coe, Previously Identified:

I would like to give an overview of some of the bills that were passed in the last legislative session and affect the residents and clients that we serve in ADSD. The first bill is SB 298 (2023), which provided involuntary discharge of residents in the residential facilities for groups or group homes and assisted living-level of care. This was a significant bill, as it provided protections for residents who were being discharged at this level of care that were not in place before. Residents who needed care could receive a notice—and there was no method to have a voice to disagree with the notice, have an advocate, or have legal representation—and this bill, has been implemented as of January 2024, increased those protections.

Assembly Bill 119 of the 82nd Legislative Session created the Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee. The committees are recommended from the American Bar Association after national Adult Protective Services data trends indicated an increase in abuse complaints resulting in death. The Committee reviewed deaths relating to adult maltreatment. The duties of the Committee will be to collaborate between members of various capacities to aid in the fair conclusion of adult maltreatment deaths and will identify gaps in services to mitigate vulnerable adult abuse resulting in death. Committee members include representatives of the Clark County and Washoe County Medical Examiner's Offices, Nye County, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, APS, rural public guardians, victim advocates, Clark County Social Services, and the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance. Paul Greenwood, who is a retired deputy attorney for San Diego County, and the developer of San Diego County's Elder Abuse Fatality Review Team, is assisting the team in Nevada. The first in-person meeting is being held February 29, 2024, in Las Vegas.

Lastly, AB 202 (2023) was established for electronic communication devices in skilled nursing facilities. This bill allows residents or their representatives, such as a guardian or power of attorney, to have an electronic device, camera, or any device of their choice in

their room. There are many requirements to have this, such as an agreement of a roommate, or if the resident lacks capacity, to be able to go through a court process. This has proven in other states to prevent abuse of residents. In addition to the monitoring, it is also a communication device. Residents who live in Nevada may have family members or friends in another state, and they did not have a method to virtually communicate with them, this allows that. That is the conclusion of our presentation, and we are available for questions.

President Almaraz:

I have a question, before we start with all questions, for Ms. Ramos—the waiver eligibility. Is that income, or do you have to be on Medicaid? What are some of the criteria?

Ms. Ramos:

Yes, we do consider your income and assets. I do not like to get too much into it because it is a very technical and complex determination. We work to assist DWSS, and they make the determination. Because of that, we just say, "Please apply. If those services look like you are interested or you need them, apply." We will then help walk you through the financial part of it.

Vice President Jordan:

You have Medicaid and Medicare Centers. What is the difference between the two?

Ms. Ramos:

Are you asking the difference between our Medicare and our Medicaid?

Vice President Jordan:

I understand the difference, but you have two separate centers in your material. You say you have a Medicare and a Medicaid center. Why are they not one?

Ms. Ramos:

It is an excellent question, and because it is more of a complex question, I can get something together for you and provide that to you at a later date. The DWSS works with us, along with ADSD and DHCFP. We all have a hand in Medicaid.

Vice President Jordan:

Just about everything I read has to do with Medicare, but we have a number of seniors who need help with Medicaid, so that is our most needy audience. I wanted to know what you do for that group.

Ms. Ramos:

Thank you for clarifying that. It still is a very complex answer. Welfare does work in terms of providing that financial eligibility. Once they have Medicaid, there is a vast array of services that are potentially open to them. We do have sections of information and referrals to help navigate. We have Access Nevada, which is another online system, to help them navigate the services they are eligible for through Medicaid.

Vice President Jordan:

I think in presenting this kind of information as to what you are doing for the aging, you have to have something for those that have and those that do not have. I would like to see more of that, so we know how we can be of assistance to those people and their increasing numbers. I would like to see that happen. My second question is, where would I direct somebody who has mental health issues?

Ms. Coe:

Nevada has, in the North and the South, mental health resources. We can get you the specific agencies that offer services for those who have been diagnosed with mental health.

Vice President Jordan:

But to this date, you do not have anybody that does it through your organization?

Ms. Coe:

Through ADSD specifically, we do not have an identified program. We partner with Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services.

Vice President Jordan:

I am bringing that up because it is one of the biggest issues known to man right now. It is hard to find a doctor. It is hard to find services, and I think that we have a number of people in need of those services, and it is ever-increasing.

President Almaraz:

Are there any more questions? Yes, Mr. Slaughter.

Mr. Slaughter:

How about people who are homeless? They come voluntarily to your program, correct? But what about homeless people who are on the street, have mental problems, and are of age. How do you contact and identify them?

Ms. Ramos:

We receive applications from people who are unhoused. It is very person-specific to their situation. We do not have services that directly support them, but through our information referrals, our advocacy team, and the different systems we presented here today, we work together to try to assist them in connecting to services that ultimately they need in order to find a safe placement.

Mr. Slaughter:

You say that people come and fill out an application, what about the people who do not fill out applications that may end up in the criminal justice system, and they need your help?

Ms. Ramos:

We have that as well. It is education and letting the other entities know about us, which we are doing a lot more community outreach in order to educate people. We do receive applications from people who are coming out of jails, and that does happen.

Ms. Tyler:

My question is twofold. Is Nevada 211 the best way to reach you? What type of programs do you have in place as far as community outreach? Do you visit the senior centers, and things of that nature, and give presentations? I have not been privy to the outreach programs you do, so exactly how do you go about reaching the senior community with your services?

Ms. Knighten:

Many of our providers go out into the community and perform various events for outreach to raise awareness for individuals that are seeking services. In addition, we have brochures and other pamphlets and information that are left at libraries, senior centers, and various places. We continuously work to enhance our outreach efforts, but we do collaborate.

Ms. Tyler:

Who are your providers that provide the information to seniors? Is it you, or do you contract with someone that reaches out to seniors to let them know that your services are available? If a senior called Nevada 211, do you visit the home and do an assessment? What takes place there? My main concern is a lot of services are available, but people do not know about it.

Ms. Knighten:

It is a major concern that continues to drive our efforts to increase our outreach in many ways. Yes, ADSD does outreach events as well as our contracted providers.

Ms. Coe:

We also have regional coordinators within ADSD. Their target intent is to do that outreach effort for all the programs ADSD offers, to reach as many communities as possible throughout the State and provide education, provide the connection to our programs, the eligibility— Education is a big part, so as many people that we can connect with, we are going out and connecting to collaborate with everybody, so it is not a siloed method of the information, but partnering in as many areas as we can.

Mr. Troth:

Can you give us an idea of this outreach and these services that are provided? What percentage is provided by government workers, i.e., city, county, and state workers, and your community partners who are contractors or people that receive government money to do these services? Just an idea—you do not have to give me specific numbers.

Ms. Knighten:

We would be happy to get a percentage and provide that information to you.

Mr. Troth:

From the standpoint of who is doing the work. Does that make sense? Is it government employees or is it a contractor or other agencies that do that? We would appreciate that. I think it is something we need to have some clarity on as a group. Who is actually doing all this?

The next question is on Slides 8 and 9 when we talked about the ARPA innovative projects. Can you give us an idea of how much money the State of Nevada received to do some of these initiatives? What is DHHS's thought process about one day that money is going to stop, who is going to pick it up and continue those programs?

Ms. Knighten:

We will get back with you on the amount of funding the State of Nevada has received to do our initiatives under ARPA funding. As far as the thoughts on long term when the funding is no longer available, we continue to work and find ways to support our community partners and collaborate to make the best use of our funding for long-term projects.

Ms. Peggy Leavitt:

I wanted to make a comment, and it is certainly not a reflection of what you do and all the services you provide, but I know accessing help for mental health problems is a huge problem. It is a problem for people who have insurance. It is a problem for people who are not homeless and intelligent and know how to talk to people. It is a continual frustration to try and find mental health services for people of any age, so I cannot imagine what it is like for people who are homeless and seniors. I think something we need to address as a state is mental health services. I have worked with children both in the state and the county, and it was extremely hard to find help for them. Now, I am in the senior arena, and in my opinion, mental health services have never been adequately funded in Nevada. It might be something, we as a committee, might want to address for the senior population. In my experience, it has been very frustrating to access mental health services for clients.

President Almaraz:

Anyone else? Ms. Leavitt.

Ms. Laura Leavitt:

I wanted to mention, or ask to verify, has the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) now been changed to the Medicare Assistance Program for seniors?

Ms. Knighten:

The SHIP program is under the umbrella of the American Medicare Assistance program. It allows access to the variety of services for Medicare under one umbrella.

Ms. Laura Leavitt:

I want to say how helpful that agency has been to myself and others that I recommended.

President Almaraz:

Thank you for your time and the information you provided in this presentation. It was very informative.

[Subsequent to the meeting, Dena Schmidt, Administrator, ADSD, DHHS; and Stacie Weeks, Administrator, DHCFP, DHHS, provided a memorandum responding to questions from Forum members. ([Agenda Item VIII A-2](#)).]

AGENDA ITEM IX—OVERVIEW OF THE FORUM: BUDGET, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND RELATED INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, INCLUDING AB 215 (2023), WHICH REVISES THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT AS A MEMBER ON THE FORUM

President Almaraz:

We are going to move to Agenda Item IX, which is an overview of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum, our budget, duties, responsibilities, and related informational items. This will be presented by Mr. Anthony of LCB. Mr. Anthony, you may proceed.

Mr. Anthony:

Good afternoon, President Almaraz and members of the Nevada Silver Hair Legislative Forum. I am serving as nonpartisan staff to the Legislature and filling in for Patrick Ashton as staff for today. It is a pleasure to be with you. Agenda Item IX is a brief overview of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum, of which you are a part of now. We will walk through some of the statutory history and a couple of the duties and responsibilities, and then we can open it up for questions.

In your materials, you will see there is a PowerPoint presentation ([Agenda Item IX A-1](#)), as well as a memo on your travel claim ([Agenda Item IX A-2](#)), and a copy of AB 215 from the last session, which is the legislation regarding the membership of the Forum ([Agenda Item IX A-3](#)). We will walk through those in due time.

The authority and purposes of the Legislative Forum— As you may recall, this Forum was established in 1997, so it has been around legislatively for quite some time. It is governed by the NRS, which are the blue books to the left—that is our codified law of Nevada passed by the Legislature. Its duties and responsibilities can be found in NRS 427A.313 through 427A.400 ([Agenda Item IX A-4](#)). The purpose behind the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum is to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons in this State. That is the broad catchall of some of the legislative history of why the Forum was established and the need for it and the importance to the Nevada Legislature.

The Forum elects its own officers, as you all did earlier this morning. There are also members who may be appointed. The President can serve a maximum of two, two-year terms. Vice President is a one-year term, and the Vice President assists the President in coordinating the duties of the Forum. There are two facilitators, who were nominated and elected earlier, one from the northern part of the State and one from the southern, that are also there to assist and gather information of issues of importance to the Forum and report back at each meeting.

Vacancy and membership— A vacancy of an appointed member becomes vacant upon death, resignation, illness, absence, or for any reason that prevents the member from

attending three consecutive meetings, unless excused by the President. If a vacancy occurs, the Legislative Commission—currently chaired by Senator Nicole Cannizzaro and with representatives from both the Senate and Assembly—will fill the vacancy at the Legislative Commission level from the same senatorial district where the vacancy was created.

The duties and powers of the Forum— Pursuant to NRS 427A.390, the Forum is required to submit a report containing recommendations for legislative action to the Legislative Commission and the Governor. The report typically comes out in the fall, so that will be the fall of this year 2024. The Forum can also accept gifts, grants, and donations to further their purposes and adopt procedures to conduct meetings of the Forum and committees thereof. The Forum is also statutorily authorized to request one BDR. As President Almaraz referred to earlier, a BDR is a bill draft request for legislation. This Forum is allotted one. Typically, the Forum takes a vote at your last meeting, called a work session, on various ideas that you will hear throughout this interim, and then there would be one recommendation for advancement to the 2025 Session of the Nevada Legislature for a BDR to change the law relating to an issue of importance that you all found during your committee hearings. This interim, that BDR request is due by September 1st of this year.

Appointment of advisory members— This Forum may appoint advisory members. The Forum must prescribe title and duties of the advisory member. The term length is not to exceed one year, or 12 months, and the advisory member must fulfill certain eligibility requirements. Such an advisory member could be, for example, a member of the public that had expertise in one particular area of the law or of a particular interest to you. The Forum could decide to appoint an advisory member to further explore that issue and then report back to the Forum at the next meeting.

Public meetings— As discussed earlier, the Silver Haired Forum is a public body under the Nevada Open Meeting Law, Chapter 241 of the NRS. The Forum may meet three or more times during the interim or as often as necessary during a legislative session. Forum committees may meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the Forum. Typically, the Forum meets throughout what we call the “interim period” between legislative sessions. Our Nevada Legislature meets biannually for 120 days, every other year, beginning on the first Monday in February. This Forum is scheduled to meet from today through August of this even-numbered year, 2024. You are budgeted for five meetings, so you will have five meetings between now and August with the goal of coming up with one BDR to submit to the 2025 Legislature. The Forum is also free to make other recommendations in that report. Recommendations can be to support other legislation or other ideas for legislation, to draft a letter recommending certain action by certain bodies of the State, or you can simply include a statement that the Forum found a particular issue of interest meaningful and wants to memorialize that in your report back to the Legislature and Governor. It can be included in the report as well.

The budget for this fiscal year that was approved by the Legislative Commission in November is \$7,500, which is anticipated to suffice for five meetings. Compensation of members— There is a memo in your meeting materials explaining the per diem and travel expenses. As Forum members, you are entitled to the same per diem and travel expenses as other members of the government. You can get reimbursed for mileage and meals. All those rules are spelled out in your packet. A blue form should be on the first page of your binder. Please make sure to fill that out, and then leave it afterwards. The Forum staff will come around and pick it up. You are eligible for mileage reimbursement to and from the meeting location, as well as meals if you meet certain circumstances of the timing. For instance, this meeting today started at 10 a.m. and will be potentially running through the lunch hour. You would be eligible to claim lunch. Your mileage, which is now 67 cents a

mile, is raised—those are the government GSA (General Services Administration) rates—and then your per diem for lunch as well.

I also wanted to cover a little bit about AB 215. In your meeting materials, you have a copy of the enrolled, enacted version of AB 215 from last session. It was sponsored by Assembly Members Gorelow, Orentlicher, and Thomas, with a joint sponsor of Senator Ohrenschall. That bill passed both Houses of the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. It relates to the eligibility to serve on the Forum and the residency requirements. Prior to AB 215, not only did you have to be a resident of the state for five years, but you also had to live in the district for at least three years. Each of you have been nominated by one of our 21 State Senators, so you each represent a State Senatorial District. Assembly Bill 215 changed that requirement to live in the district from three to one, so you have to be a resident for one year. Some of the discussion surrounding the legislative need for that change was due to redistricting. Every ten years when the census comes out, the Legislature conducts redistricting, and the districts get redrawn. This is a conforming change to allow members to live in the district one year before they are eligible to serve on the Forum. With that Madam President, I would be pleased to answer any questions.

President Almaraz:

Are there any questions from the Forum members? Dr. Marchant.

Dr. Marchant:

I want to point out that throughout all the pieces you went over, everything is written in the plural, except when it gets to request one thing to the Legislature. It happens that this group is rather wily, clever, and intelligent. Last time we managed to do private letters to individual legislators to get a couple of the extra things done. I want to note that any time you try to restrict an elderly person to only one thing, you are likely to run into some resistance.

Vice President Jordan:

One of the things we heard earlier today is that people were not familiar with what senate area they were represented by. If you live in the district for one year, but it is determined that it is changed, how do you know who you are representing? How do they know that they are representing us?

Mr. Anthony:

The appointments are done at the time by the Senator where you currently reside. They are listed the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum Roster ([Agenda Item III](#)). Those are the Forum member's name as well as the Senator's name at the time of appointment. You would be a resident of that particular district at the time of appointment.

Ms. Bongiorno:

I have the same problem because I did not know who my Senator was. I started in District 5, then 7, and now I am in 10. I would like to know what the border lines are of the area that I am representing. Is that possible?

Mr. Anthony:

Staff can certainly provide maps of the 21 senatorial districts for each member because those lines get redrawn every ten years, and they were redrawn during the 2021 Legislative Session. I should also point out they are online on the Nevada Legislature's website. There is an easy place to type in who is my Senator, who is my Assemblyman, who are my representatives. You put in your address, and it pops up. We can also provide at the next meeting a hard copy for each of the 21 as well.

Ms. Bongiorno:

Thank you. I would like that very much.

President Almaraz:

Anyone else? I am not seeing any. Thank you, Mr. Anthony, for this information.

AGENDA ITEM X—DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED AT FUTURE MEETINGS

President Almaraz:

We are going to move to Agenda Item X, which are discussions of agenda items and possible meeting dates. The meeting dates we had to lock in because the legislative calendar was filling up for these rooms. I can give you those dates if you would like, or we can have them sent out in an email. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10 a.m. We have Wednesday, May 22; Wednesday, June 26; and Wednesday, August 7. We have three meetings in which to have presenters and try to decide what we would like to bring to the Legislature for the 2025 Session. August 7, 2024, will be our work session.

The other thing I wanted to ask everyone about is that two people have suggested they would like to have lunch during our committee meetings. I did not approve it for this meeting because it will extend your time here by one half hour. We have to take a break and go into another room to have lunch, which would be provided by the Forum, because we cannot eat in this room. I wanted to ask if you want to do that and extend your time here by a half an hour, so you can have lunch, if that is a priority for anyone, or if snacks will suffice. Do we have any comments?

Ms. Adin:

From the time we have during our meeting, I do not think lunch would be necessary. If we want lunch, we can do it after we finish the meeting. I think that would be sufficient, if anybody wants to do that.

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski:

The questions I have do not deal with lunch but deal with the fact of Wednesdays. I do not know if this is an appropriate time to talk about the dates that have been selected. If it is, I would like to address it.

President Almaraz:

Yes, go ahead. As I stated, we had to pick days that were available. Each month, there was only one or two days available for us to have this room and the room in Carson, but go ahead, please.

Ms. Hoffman-Kazubowski:

My organization takes care of autistic and emotionally challenged children. Wednesday is my busiest day. I had to move three students who are homeschooled. I could maybe move one student, but Wednesdays are the hardest. Because these children have special needs, and we are the only ones, unfortunately. I was told by the Vice President of Uber that we are the only ones in the United States who provide these types of services—that was shocking. It really affects these children a lot if we do not have sustainable and continuous dates for them. If there is no other date that is available, I will have to reconsider my position here or see what else can be done.

President Almaraz:

Thank you. Does anyone else have a problem with dates?

Ms. Batts:

Madam President, I have one concern. On April 9, I will be on vacation. It was paid for last year, and I will be on the phone in a hotel room. Is that ok?

President Almaraz:

Of course. You can do Zoom.

President Almaraz:

Is there anyone else? Mr. Troth.

Mr. Troth:

Going back to your lunch idea— Either way. I am good with whatever is decided. I can do without lunch, or we can do snacks.

President Almaraz:

Lunch would be sandwiches, something quick—not a sit-down meal by any means, but just a sandwich and a drink. But again, it will add half an hour onto your time here. I want you to have a choice because I do not know what you have going after these meetings. I know you all have a life, and I do not know if extending the day here would bother you.

Dr. Marchant:

I would prefer, in the words of a notable comic, to just “get ‘er done.”

Vice President Jordan:

I believe that it probably depends on the length of the meeting. If we are going to go until three o’clock, for example, then perhaps we should have a half an hour break rather than ten minutes between coming in at 10 a.m. and staying until 3 p.m. For the most part, in

most employment situations, it is four hours, and then it is lunch, and we are getting out of here before the four hours. Plus, we get paid for lunch already, so what is the point?

Ms. Batts:

Madam President, can we just take a vote, please?

President Almaraz:

It has been brought to my attention that on a day when we have many presenters, and I am thinking especially August 7, which is usually our longest day. We will have lunch on a case-by-case basis. If we have a day like today when we are finished by 1:30 p.m., I do not know that you all want to prolong it for lunch. But on another day, especially August 7, I think that would be a day which we could have lunch. Are there any comments or questions?

Ms. Adin:

For me, it depends on the day. Because at two o'clock, [due to medical appointments], it conflicts with some of the days I have—not all of them, but some of them. I can always skip lunch, but not if you have it in between the meetings. I do not know.

President Almaraz:

Thank you, Ms. Adin. Ms. Leavitt?

Ms. Leavitt:

I agree depending on the length of the meeting, and that sounds very reasonable to have lunch in August.

President Almaraz:

Once we know the agenda, which Ms. Kalina usually lets me know two or three days ahead, we will decide if that is a good day for lunch. We will let everyone know by email before the meeting that we will be having lunch, and it will be a longer meeting. One more thing I need to bring up—the binders and their contents are wonderful. I like it a lot. It has made it very easy to see our pages; however, the contents of the binders are ours to keep. I have some little clips that can hold your papers together. We must leave the binders so they can be reused.

Forum members, thank you for your input. Please keep in mind that our staff members can also provide policy and research assistance to help us make informed decisions about the issues reviewed and studied by the Forum. Feel free to reach out to Mr. Anthony or Ms. Kalina if you have specific questions or if there are presentations you would like to have scheduled for future meetings. I did receive an email from Ms. Batts with several items she would like to have considered. If anyone else has items you would like to see considered, please email them to Ms. Kalina or Mr. Anthony, so we can see if we can get presenters to talk about those issues in our future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM XI—PUBLIC COMMENT

President Almaraz:

[President Almaraz called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.]

AGENDA ITEM XII—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Forum, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne King
Assistant Manager of Research Policy
Assistants

Ashlee Kalina
Constituent Services Analyst/Program
Facilitator

APPROVED BY:

Fran Almaraz, President

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item III	Patrick Ashton, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)	Forum Roster
Agenda Item IV	Patrick Ashton, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, Research Division, LCB	Forum Officer Positions
Agenda Item V	Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division, LCB	Memorandum
Agenda Item VI A	Mark Krueger, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection (BCP), Office of the Attorney General (OAG); and Samantha Feeley, Deputy Attorney General, BCP, OAG	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item VI B	Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division, LCB	Assembly Bill 373 (2023)
Agenda Item VI C	Fran Almaraz, President, Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum	Common Elder Scams
Agenda Item VII A	Marie Coe, Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and Kirsten Coulombe, Social Services Chief III, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), DHHS	PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda Item VII B	Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division, LCB	Senate Bill 45 (2023)
Agenda Item VIII A-1	Arianna Ramos, Social Services Manager, Office of Community Living (OCL), ADSD, DHHS; LaDonne Knighten, Social Services Chief, OCL, ADSD, DHHS; and Marie Coe, Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, ADSD, DHHS	PowerPoint Presentation

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Agenda Item VIII A-2</u>	Dena Schmidt, Administrator, ADSD, DHHS; and Stacie Weeks, Administrator, DHCFP, DHHS	Follow-up Memorandum
<u>Agenda Item IX A-1</u>	Nicolas C. Anthony, Research Director, Research Division, LCB	PowerPoint Presentation
<u>Agenda Item IX A-2</u>	Nicolas C. Anthony, Research Director, Research Division, LCB	Memorandum on Travel Expenses and Per Diem Allowance
<u>Agenda Item IX A-3</u>	Nicolas C. Anthony, Research Director, Research Division, LCB	AB 215 (2023)
<u>Agenda Item IX A-4</u>	Nicolas C. Anthony, Research Director, Research Division, LCB	<i>Nevada Revised Statutes</i> Governing the Forum

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