



NEVADA LEGISLATURE

NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM

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

MINUTES

August 7, 2024

The fifth meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum for the 2023–2024 Interim was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. in Room 165, Nevada Legislative Office Building, 7230 Amigo Street, 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
Marilyn E. Jordan, Senate District 9, Vice President
Peggy Leavitt, Senate District 20
William Marchant, Senate District 12
Fred L. Silberkraus, Senate District 5
Frank B. Slaughter III, Senate District 11
Rodger Troth, Senate District 18

FORUM MEMBERS ATTENDING REMOTELY:

Lucille Adin, Senate District 13, Northern Facilitator
Joann M. Bongiorno, Senate District 10
Cher Daniels, Senate District 14
Laura Leavitt, Senate District 8
Fayyaz Raja, Senate District 6

FORUM MEMBERS ABSENT:

Margaret Batts, Senate District 4
Mary Fesenmaier, Senate District 17
Bob Linden, Senate District 7
Elizabeth Martinez, Senate District 2
Valarie Woods, Senate District 3

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Patrick B. Ashton, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division
Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division
Julianne King, Assistant Manager of Research Policy Assistants, Research Division
Bryan Fernley, 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—CALL TO ORDER

President Almaraz:

Welcome to the fifth and final meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum.

[President Almaraz reviewed housekeeping measures.]

AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT

[President Almaraz reviewed public comment guidelines.]

President Almaraz:

Since we will have a work session today, I encourage individuals to address any item in the work session during the first public comment period. This does not preclude me from requesting clarification if the Forum has questions regarding specific items in the "Work Session Document" (WSD). Therefore, to ensure you have an opportunity to present your views, you may want to address items in the WSD during the first public comment period. We will start with public comment from those in the physical locations, and then move on to public comment from anyone who has called in. Is there anyone in Carson City who would like to provide public comment? Seeing none, is there anyone in Las Vegas who would like to provide public comment? Seeing none, our Broadcast and Production Services (BPS) staff will interact with those phoning in to provide testimony to facilitate participation in the meeting. Broadcast and Production Services, please add the first caller with public comment to the meeting.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Owner, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Strategist, Winged Wolf Innovations; Coordinator, Rural Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC):

I would like to say we appreciate the fact that you are considering improving access to secure and stable housing for seniors in Nevada. I am here to help support in any way possible as you work through today's work session. I am here to provide support, give you any information, and provide you with anything you might need as you go through this work session. I will be on standby. I wanted to make sure you are aware I am in the listening audience.

BPS:

President, your public line is open and working, but there are no callers to participate at this time.

AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON JUNE 26, 2024

President Almaraz:

We will get started on the approval of the minutes for the meeting on June 26, 2024. Are there any questions regarding the minutes from the last meeting? [There were none.] I will take a motion to approve the minutes of the Forum meeting on June 26, 2024.

DR. JORDAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 26, 2024.

MS. ADIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM IV—WORK SESSION—DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO:

President Almaraz:

We will begin the work session. The WSD contains a list of various proposed recommendations. Ms. Kalina will walk us through each recommendation in the WSD.

Ms. Kalina:

As nonpartisan staff, I can neither advocate for or against a measure that comes before the Forum. With that, I will provide a short overview of the work session. While the WSD is designed to assist the Forum in determining what actions it wishes to take, each item in this document may be subject to further discussion, refinement, or action. It is important to remember the Forum is limited by statute to one legislative measure or bill draft request (BDR), and any recommended legislation proposed by the Forum must be approved by a majority of the Members. The Members may also vote to send as many letters of recommendation or support as it chooses and include position statements in its final report. With that, I will walk the Forum through the recommendations in the WSD. ([Agenda Item IV](#))

The Forum will be presented with the opportunity to choose which of the first two recommendations will become the BDR to submit to the 2025 Nevada Legislature. After I present the first two recommendations, President Almaraz will ask for a raise of hands to show preference for either Recommendation A or Recommendation B. Once we have determined which recommendation has the greater show of hands, President Almaraz will then ask for a motion.

A. INCREASED PROTECTIONS FOR SENIORS AGAINST PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL HARM

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation A is to increase the maximum term of imprisonment from 15 to 20 years as a penalty for home invasion found in NRS 205.067 that results in the injury or death of Nevadans 60 years of age or older, which would be in addition to the enhancement prescribed in NRS 193.167 and expand the categories of the list of crimes committed against persons 60 years of age and older punishable by law in NRS 193.167 to include theft, general fraud, and violations of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) found in Chapter 598 of NRS. The recommendation was made by President Almaraz and Vice President Jordan in response to testimony by Mark J. Krueger who is participating on Zoom. He is available to answer any questions from Forum Members on this recommendation.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions regarding the recommendation on increasing the penalties against seniors as Ms. Kalina explained to us?

Mr. Troth:

Were these penalties increased to the current ones in the last session, if I remember correctly from the discussion?

Mark J. Krueger, Consumer Counsel and Chief Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Nevada's Office of the Attorney General:

No, the last session increased the civil penalties for violations of the DTPA.

B. ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AMONG SENIORS

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation B is to draft a bill to address food insecurity of senior citizens in Nevada by requiring the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to seek all federal authority to reduce the number of verification requirements for Nevadans 60 years of age or older in certifying and recertifying eligibility to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, provide applicants 60 years of age and over with a simplified version of the SNAP application in large print, allow telephone enrollment for SNAP benefits to applicants 60 years of age and older, and revising the definition of "food bank" in subsection 7(b) of NRS 561.515 to mean a food bank or other organization that is a member of the Feeding America Network or any other nonprofit organization in Nevada providing food services to individuals in need, as determined by the Director of the State Department of Agriculture. This recommendation was proposed by: President Almaraz in consultation with Forum staff; Sarah Rogers, Deputy Chief Nutrition Unit, Bureau of Child Family and Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), DHHS; Allison Genco, Chair of Nevada Governor's Council on Food Security; and Patricia Hoppe, Administrator, Division of Food and Nutrition at the State Department of Agriculture. Robert Thompson, Administrator of DWSS, is in Las Vegas and is available to answer any questions from Members of the Forum.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions? [There were none.] Mr. Thompson, do you have anything you would like to add? [He did not.] Are there any questions regarding the recommendation on protections for seniors against physical and financial harm?

Vice President Jordan:

At the beginning of our first meeting, we talked extensively about how we can make a difference in the lives of our seniors by addressing scams, fraud, et cetera. That is exactly what we have worked to do. I would like to reiterate my support in this area.

Mr. Troth:

We need to make a better deterrent; this helps with that. I like that the term "general fraud" is also added in there. Too many of our seniors are being taken advantage of. We

talked about how there are better civil penalties now. Let us go with criminal actions and increase that and try to make this a deterrent, so we can help the people in Nevada from getting ripped off and taken advantage of. Let us put some of them in jail and put them there for a while.

President Almaraz:

Are there any other questions or comments from Members? [There were none.] By show of hands, who is in favor of having the increased protections for seniors against physical and financial harm as our BDR? We have seven hands raised. By show of hands, who is in favor of addressing food insecurity among seniors as our BDR? It looks like our BDR will be Recommendation A, increased protections for seniors against physical and financial harm. I will entertain a motion to approve that recommendation.

DR. MARCHANT MOVED TO REQUEST THE DRAFTING OF A LEGISLATIVE MEASURE RELATED TO INCREASED PROTECTIONS FOR SENIORS AGAINST PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL HARM.

DR. JORDAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Laura Leavitt:

On the one that did not get approved—addressing food insecurity among seniors—can we do a letter of support for that?

Ms. Kalina:

Yes, we can, if that is what the Forum would like to do. We had a similar situation last interim where the option that was not selected as the BDR was changed into a letter of support for that suggestion or proposal.

President Almaraz:

We will take a vote to do a letter of support. Forum Members, are there any questions about sending a letter of recommendation addressing food insecurity among seniors? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to approve the recommendation.

MS. LAURA LEAVITT MADE A MOTION TO SEND A LETTER ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AMONG SENIORS.

MR. TROTH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. PREVENTION OF AGE DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING PROCESS

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation C is to send a letter to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission (NERC), the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, and Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Commerce and Labor expressing the Forum's support for decreasing discrimination against Nevadans 60 years of age and older in the workplace. Specifically, the letter should encourage them to support efforts to remove questions about age or date of birth from employment applications. Additionally, the letter should highlight that at least six other states have enacted legislation in recent years that prevent employers from asking a prospective employee's age or date of birth. This recommendation was made by Forum Members Peggy Leavitt and Rodger Troth. Kara Jenkins with NERC is attending on Zoom and is available to respond to any questions from Forum Members.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions regarding Recommendation C? [There were none.]

DR. MARCHANT MOVED TO SEND A LETTER REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF AGE DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING PROCESSES.

MR. TROTH SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. INCREASED REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR HOME DELIVERED MEALS PROGRAM

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation D was to send a letter to DHHS, the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), and the Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Health and Human Services urging these entities to bolster efforts to increase the reimbursement rate for the Home Delivered Meals Program through Home- and Community-Based Services from a current rate of \$5 per meal to at least \$7 per meal. This week, we received updated information from Kirsten Coulombe, Social Services Chief III with DHCFP. The Division was able to move forward and implement the rate increase for home delivered meals, so the letters of support to increase the rate are no longer needed. However, the Forum President has proposed to send a letter expressing the Forum's support of this action and appreciation for the initiative, and the work of DHCFP to accomplish it. Ms. Coulombe is available on Zoom for any questions from the Forum.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions regarding Recommendation C, increased reimbursement rate for home delivered meals program? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to approve the recommendation.

DR. JORDAN MOVED TO SEND A LETTER EXPRESSING THE FORUM'S SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION FOR THE INITIATIVE AND WORK TO INCREASE THE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR THE HOME DELIVERED MEALS PROGRAM.

MS. DANIELS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. BASIC GERIATRIC TRAINING FOR ALL HEALTH CARE FIELDS

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation E is to send a letter to the Nevada System of Higher Education and the Sanford Center for Aging, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) School of Medicine expressing the Forum's support to include courses in basic geriatric care for all health care training programs in Nevada. The letter should explain there is a growing deficit in geriatricians providing care for older adults, and this deficit will only grow as the population continues to age. This means all clinicians, especially family medicine and general practitioners, will be providing the bulk of care for older adults. This letter will serve as a call to action to improve care for older adults in Nevada and our future selves, ensuring trainees are prepared to care and advocate for this diverse and often vulnerable population. This recommendation was made by Dr. Peter Reed, Director of the Sanford Center of Aging, School of Medicine, and Professor of Public Health at UNR. Unfortunately, Dr. Reed was not able to attend today; however, he expressed he is happy to respond to any questions via email.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions on Recommendation E, basic geriatric training for all health care fields? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to approve the recommendation.

DR. MARCHANT MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BASIC GERIATRIC TRAINING FOR ALL HEALTH CARE FIELDS.

MS. DANIELS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. IMPROVED ACCESS TO SECURE AND STABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS IN NEVADA

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation F is to send a letter to the Governor, Nevada's Housing Division, DWSS, and [the Nevada Association of Counties] expressing the Forum's support of greater coordination of State agencies and consolidated efforts to address the growing need for safe, secure, and stable housing for Nevada seniors. The letter will also include a recommendation to establish a multiyear Rent Stabilization Fund. This recommendation was made by President Almaraz. We have Michele Fuller-Hallauer, who presented information on

this topic at the Forum's April 9, 2024, meeting, participating via Zoom. She is available for any questions from the Forum.

President Almaraz:

Are there any questions from the Forum regarding Recommendation F, improved access to secure and stable housing for seniors in Nevada? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion to approve the recommendation.

DR. JORDAN MOVED TO SEND A LETTER REGARDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO SECURE AND STABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS IN NEVADA.

MS. PEGGY LEAVITT SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. SUPPORT FOR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS

Ms. Kalina:

Recommendation G is to send a letter to ADSD, DPBH, and Nevada's Division of Outdoor Recreation within the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources expressing the Forum's support for greater collaboration in creating recreational programs for seniors, especially those with neurodegenerative disorders. The letter should highlight that older adults reap many rewards from physical activity, including the ability to live independently longer, have a better quality of life, and require less medical care. The letter will also include a recommendation for efforts to create a resource listing of entities that offer such recreational programs for seniors. This recommendation was proposed by Forum Member Frank B. Slaughter. Dr. Peter Reed can answer any questions about this topic via email.

President Almaraz:

Forum Members, are there any questions regarding Recommendation G, support for recreational programs for seniors?

Mr. Slaughter:

I would like to thank you for including neurological degenerative diseases in our State. There are people that do not have the ability—financially or even transportation-wise—to access some of these programs. Let us step up to support this. It will be greatly appreciated.

President Almaraz:

I will entertain a motion to approve the recommendation.

MS. ADIN MOVED TO SEND A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS.

MR. SLAUGHTER SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AGENDA ITEM V—PUBLIC COMMENT

[President Almaraz called for public comment; however, there was none.]

President Almaraz:

Are there any comments from Members before we adjourn? This will be our last meeting until after the 2025 Session. Our next meeting will be during the 2025–2026 Interim.

Dr. Marchant:

Apparently, this is my swan song. As an appointee from Senate District 12, I would like to thank the staff and the Members of the Forum for the cordial reception of myself and everybody who made presentations here. Thank you for your commitment.

Vice President Jordan:

On behalf of the Forum, I would like to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to our President for her leadership and direction during this interim, and to all the Members who have taken time from their busy schedules to make a difference in the lives of our senior citizens.

President Almaraz:

I would like to say thank you to everyone on the Forum for your dedication and support for all the meetings we have had and your due diligence to get to this point where we have a BDR. Our BDR will be sent to Legal to get written. We will get a date of when it is going to be presented at the Legislature. I am hoping some of you will testify, so we can get this passed in the different committees it has to go through. I am sure Ms. King will send an email to let everyone know where you can give your testimony when the time comes. Those of you in the north—I thank Ms. Adin because she came when we did our last bill, which is helpful. When you come before the Legislature and you tell stories about why this bill is so important, it helps get it passed. I am hoping some of you will help with that.

AGENDA ITEM VI—ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Forum, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne King
Assistant Manager of Research Policy
Assistants

Patrick B. Ashton
Principal Policy Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Fran Almaraz, President

Date: _____

MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
Agenda Item IV	Ashlee Kalina, Constituent Services Analyst/Program Facilitator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau	Work Session Document

The Minutes are supplied as an informational service. All meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. For copies, contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Library/About/Contact/feedbackmail.cfm>.