

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
1000 North Division Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703

Dear Director Whitley:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony related to access to health and social services for seniors in Nevada, particularly Nevada Medicaid's home-delivered meals program.

Testimony indicated approximately 1,400 seniors enrolled in Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Frail Elderly program, in both rural and urban Nevada, may receive home-delivered meals. Initially, the representatives with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy highlighted the need for support of efforts to increase the reimbursement rate per meal with a budget initiative for the 2025 Nevada Legislature. Later during the Interim the Forum was informed that Nevada Medicaid had achieved budget savings, allowing it to move forward and implement the rate increase independently, ensuring the sustainability of the home-delivered meals program.

At its final meeting and work session, the Forum voted to send this letter to various government entities expressing its appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the Frail Elderly waiver program. Members of the Forum acknowledged the State agencies and organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist seniors in Nevada in securing food security for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Their dedication to support older adults is commendable and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for many in our community.

Additionally, the Forum voted to encourage these entities to increase State efforts that aim to reduce food insecurity among low-income seniors who are homebound and not eligible for the Frail Elderly waiver program. As our population ages, many older adults face challenges in

Director Whitley
Page 2
November 7, 2024

accessing healthy food due to mobility issues, health concerns, or social isolation. Home-delivered meals programs provide a lifeline, delivering nutritious meals directly to those unable to prepare food for themselves. This service not only helps combat food insecurity but also promotes better health outcomes, enabling seniors to maintain their independence longer. By investing in home-delivered meal services, we can help ensure our elderly population is cared for and nourished, reducing hospitalizations and the need for more costly interventions down the line.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue for seniors in our State, and your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,



Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231-2

cc: Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS

Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS

Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

Stacie Weeks, J.D., M.P.H.
Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
Department of Health and Human Services
4070 Silver Sage Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Administrator Weeks:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony related to access to health and social services for seniors in Nevada, particularly Nevada Medicaid's home-delivered meals program.

Testimony indicated approximately 1,400 seniors enrolled in Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Frail Elderly program, in both rural and urban Nevada, may receive home-delivered meals. Initially, the representatives with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy highlighted the need for support of efforts to increase the reimbursement rate per meal with a budget initiative for the 2025 Nevada Legislature. Later during the Interim the Forum was informed that Nevada Medicaid had achieved budget savings, allowing it to move forward and implement the rate increase independently, ensuring the sustainability of the home-delivered meals program.

At its final meeting and work session, the Forum voted to send this letter to various government entities expressing its appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the Frail Elderly waiver program. Members of the Forum acknowledged the State agencies and organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist seniors in Nevada in securing food security for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Their dedication to support older adults is commendable and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for many in our community.

Additionally, the Forum voted to encourage these entities to increase State efforts that aim to reduce food insecurity among low-income seniors who are homebound and not eligible for the

November 7, 2024

Frail Elderly waiver program. As our population ages, many older adults face challenges in accessing healthy food due to mobility issues, health concerns, or social isolation. Home-delivered meals programs provide a lifeline, delivering nutritious meals directly to those unable to prepare food for themselves. This service not only helps combat food insecurity but also promotes better health outcomes, enabling seniors to maintain their independence longer. By investing in home-delivered meal services, we can help ensure our elderly population is cared for and nourished, reducing hospitalizations and the need for more costly interventions down the line.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue for seniors in our State, and your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,



Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231-2

cc: Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS

Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS

Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

Dena Schmidt
Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division
Department of Health and Human Services
3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181
Carson City, Nevada 89706-7931

Dear Administrator Schmidt:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony related to access to health and social services for seniors in Nevada, particularly Nevada Medicaid's home-delivered meals program.

Testimony indicated approximately 1,400 seniors enrolled in Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Frail Elderly program, in both rural and urban Nevada, may receive home-delivered meals. Initially, the representatives with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy highlighted the need for support of efforts to increase the reimbursement rate per meal with a budget initiative for the 2025 Nevada Legislature. Later during the Interim the Forum was informed that Nevada Medicaid had achieved budget savings, allowing it to move forward and implement the rate increase independently, ensuring the sustainability of the home-delivered meals program.

At its final meeting and work session, the Forum voted to send this letter to various government entities expressing its appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the Frail Elderly waiver program. Members of the Forum acknowledged the State agencies and organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist seniors in Nevada in securing food security for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Their dedication to support older adults is commendable and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for many in our community.

Additionally, the Forum voted to encourage these entities to increase State efforts that aim to reduce food insecurity among low-income seniors who are homebound and not eligible for the

Administrator Schmidt

Page 2

November 7, 2024

Frail Elderly waiver program. As our population ages, many older adults face challenges in accessing healthy food due to mobility issues, health concerns, or social isolation. Home-delivered meals programs provide a lifeline, delivering nutritious meals directly to those unable to prepare food for themselves. This service not only helps combat food insecurity but also promotes better health outcomes, enabling seniors to maintain their independence longer. By investing in home-delivered meal services, we can help ensure our elderly population is cared for and nourished, reducing hospitalizations and the need for more costly interventions down the line.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue for seniors in our State, and your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,



Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231-2

cc: Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS

Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS

Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

Incoming Chair

Nevada State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Incoming Chair:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony related to access to health and social services for seniors in Nevada, particularly Nevada Medicaid's home-delivered meals program.

Testimony indicated approximately 1,400 seniors enrolled in Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Frail Elderly program, in both rural and urban Nevada, may receive home-delivered meals. Initially, the representatives with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy highlighted the need for support of efforts to increase the reimbursement rate per meal with a budget initiative for the 2025 Nevada Legislature. Later during the Interim the Forum was informed that Nevada Medicaid had achieved budget savings, allowing it to move forward and implement the rate increase independently, ensuring the sustainability of the home-delivered meals program.

At its final meeting and work session, the Forum voted to send this letter to various government entities expressing its appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the Frail Elderly waiver program. Members of the Forum acknowledged the State agencies and organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist seniors in Nevada in securing food security for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Their dedication to support older adults is commendable and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for many in our community.

Additionally, the Forum voted to encourage these entities to increase State efforts that aim to reduce food insecurity among low-income seniors who are homebound and not eligible for the Frail Elderly waiver program. As our population ages, many older adults face challenges in

Incoming Chair
Page 2
November 7, 2024

accessing healthy food due to mobility issues, health concerns, or social isolation. Home-delivered meals programs provide a lifeline, delivering nutritious meals directly to those unable to prepare food for themselves. This service not only helps combat food insecurity but also promotes better health outcomes, enabling seniors to maintain their independence longer. By investing in home-delivered meal services, we can help ensure our elderly population is cared for and nourished, reducing hospitalizations and the need for more costly interventions down the line.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue for seniors in our State, and your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,



Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231-2

cc: Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS
Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS
Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

Incoming Chair

Nevada State Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Incoming Chair:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony related to access to health and social services for seniors in Nevada, particularly Nevada Medicaid's home-delivered meals program.

Testimony indicated approximately 1,400 seniors enrolled in Medicaid's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for the Frail Elderly program, in both rural and urban Nevada, may receive home-delivered meals. Initially, the representatives with the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy highlighted the need for support of efforts to increase the reimbursement rate per meal with a budget initiative for the 2025 Nevada Legislature. Later during the Interim the Forum was informed that Nevada Medicaid had achieved budget savings, allowing it to move forward and implement the rate increase independently, ensuring the sustainability of the home-delivered meals program.

At its final meeting and work session, the Forum voted to send this letter to various government entities expressing its appreciation and support of the recent implementation of a reimbursement rate increase for the Frail Elderly waiver program. Members of the Forum acknowledged the State agencies and organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist seniors in Nevada in securing food security for one of the most vulnerable populations in our society. Their dedication to support older adults is commendable and plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for many in our community.

Additionally, the Forum voted to encourage these entities to increase State efforts that aim to reduce food insecurity among low-income seniors who are homebound and not eligible for the Frail Elderly waiver program. As our population ages, many older adults face challenges in

Incoming Chair
Page 2
November 7, 2024

accessing healthy food due to mobility issues, health concerns, or social isolation. Home-delivered meals programs provide a lifeline, delivering nutritious meals directly to those unable to prepare food for themselves. This service not only helps combat food insecurity but also promotes better health outcomes, enabling seniors to maintain their independence longer. By investing in home-delivered meal services, we can help ensure our elderly population is cared for and nourished, reducing hospitalizations and the need for more costly interventions down the line.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue for seniors in our State, and your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,



Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231-2

cc: Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHHS
Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division, DHHS
Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services