

State Plan Task Force

▶ Legislative Committee on Health Care

▶ Alzheimer's Association,

Northern California and Northern Nevada and Desert Southwest Chapters

On May 23, 2011, Assemblywoman Debbie Smith entered a resolution to create a State Plan for Alzheimer's in Nevada.

As the plan worked its way through the legislative process, the Alzheimer's Association provided testimony to the work, and helped gather volunteers to speak to legislators.

On June 21, 2011, with the help of many legislators and especially Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, it passed through the Senate Legislative Operations and Elections unanimously and was soon after passed into law.

In July, we worked in partnership with HHS, lobbyists, staff from the Alzheimer's Association in northern and southern Nevada and volunteers to shape the make up of a Task Force, possible sub-committees and the recommendations for potential work areas. These were made knowing we would attempt to generate funding for the project.

EXHIBIT I – HEALTH CARE
Document consists of 11 pages.
Entire exhibit provided.
Meeting Date: 04-10-12

Current Reality

- ▶ Our recommendations at that time were based on applying for and receiving funding to hire a project director and allow for broad community input.
- ▶ However, funding was not received.
- Several States have developed a State Plan in the absence of funding; Kentucky, Arizona and Alabama are currently in process.



Task Force Development

It is with great appreciation of Assemblywoman Debbie Smith, the Support of the Nevada State Legislature and this Committee that we make formal recommendations to begin the State of Nevada Alzheimer's Plan.

We believe that a capable, working Task Force will be the first step and will need to be ready to begin meeting nearly immediately in order to accomplish the directives of ACR-10.

Recommendations –

Provided is a list of our formal recommendations. It is our hope that a member of this Committee will Chair the Task force. We hope this will allow us to access space and teleconference capabilities to enhance meeting options.

- ▶ We are considering that the work of the Clark County Alzheimer's Action Network (CCAAN) will provide critical information to enhance the Task Force's preparations.
- ▶ CCAAN continues to meet, has a core committee, and two members of our proposed task force serve on CCAAN.

Structure

Work groups (as designated) for the Task Force should be headed by one Task Force member, who may draw in community members for specialty expertise.

- These meetings can be held by phone in between the regular Task Force meetings so as to provide input for the Task Force meeting agenda.

Preliminary discussions are underway to identify a graduate student who might work to provide administrative support, produce the documents and recommendations that come from the Task Force.

Process

- ▶ The skeleton outline should be available by summer – July or August– for review of the Legislative Committee on Health Care.
- ▶ It would be beneficial if the Task Force could continue its work during this time and through 2012.
- ▶ This will make it possible to develop the more comprehensive, formal recommendations for the next legislative session of 2013.

With appreciation

- ▶ We believe it is possible to meet the demands of ACR-10 without funding.
- ▶ It is with sincere appreciation that we recommend moving forward without direct funds, but with the support of you, the Legislative Committee on Health Care and the recommended working Task Force.



**Northern California and
Northern Nevada Chapter &
Desert Southwest Chapter**

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and the opportunity to make a
difference in the fight against
Alzheimer's disease.

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Recommendations of Members to the Task Force to Develop a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease Pursuant to Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 10

Senator Shirley Breeden We recommend that Senator Breeden be the committee Chair of the Task Force, but due to urgent family circumstances we were unable to confirm her participation. We would appreciate her consideration or another Legislative member to Chair the Task Force.

Wendy Simons is Chief of the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, the health facility regulatory agency for the Nevada State Health Division. A native Nevadan, her career in the health care industry spans 38 years. She has operated assisted living facilities, founded national industry boards, served on elder abuse committees, Governor appointed boards and commissions, as an expert witness in several court cases in two jurisdictions on elder issues, and filled a role of compliance consultant for the state prior to becoming Bureau Chief.

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Dr. Charles Bernick has been involved in the field of Alzheimer's disease research and treatment for over 25 years, beginning as the attending neurologist for the University of California, Davis Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Dr. Bernick moved to Las Vegas in 1994 to join the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Since that time, he has directed the development of a statewide network of Alzheimer's disease care, with clinics in Las Vegas, Reno and Elko. In 2009, Dr. Bernick joined the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health as Associate Director. In addition to co-authoring numerous scientific articles, Dr. Bernick has participated in studies of virtually every medication now available for Alzheimer's disease. He has served as a grant reviewer and committee member for the national Alzheimer's Association and is currently part of the Alzheimer's Association's Desert Southwest's Medical and Scientific Committee.

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Albert Chavez is the current Regional Director for the Alzheimer's Association, Southern Nevada Region, Desert Southwest Chapter and a member of the Clark County Alzheimer's Action Network, which focuses on community care networks and coordination of sectors and agencies. Albert is a United States Army Veteran who served in South Korea as well as various posts in the United States. Albert received his EdS in

Educational Leadership from Liberty University. He received his Master of Education degree in Counseling from Grand Canyon University. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies from Southwestern College and his Associates of Arts from Phoenix First Pastors College in Ministerial Studies. Albert is currently a licensed counselor in the state of Nevada as well as a certified counselor in the state of Arizona. He is a certified Clinical Liaison and a Certified Family Life Educator. Albert is currently in the process of completing his Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership and in the licensure process of obtaining his LDAC, Licensed Drug Alcohol Counselor in the State of Nevada. Albert has taught at the university level and has worked within the realms of social services for the past thirteen plus years serving at differing levels of leadership, proving programs and services for a diverse population.

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Virginia (Gini) L. Cunningham is a retired public educator who worked in public education in rural Nevada for the State of Nevada for 31 years. She is a former family caregiver who currently volunteers for Humboldt County Hospice and the Alzheimer's Association in Northern Nevada as a Support Group Facilitator. Gini has a Master's of Education from the University of Nevada, Reno and is a contracted employee at Great Basin College. In 2010 Gini wrote and published Love, Dignity and Alzheimer's—A Journey of Lessons and Learning, a book based on experiences with her mom and sister, both victims of Alzheimer's disease.

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Ruth Gay is the Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada. She is a member of the Clark County Alzheimer's Action Network which focuses on community care networks and coordination across sectors and agencies. She has a Master's degree in Community Health and Gerontology and has worked with the Alzheimer's Association for 15 years, both in direct work with families and in policy and government relations. In her current work, Ruth focuses on legislation at the local, state and national levels and issues of equity and access that affect persons with Alzheimer's and Dementia. Ruth has been involved with the California State Alzheimer's Task Force. Prior to her employment with the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, Ruth spent eight years at the UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center - coordinating clinical drug trials and working with family caregivers and people with Alzheimer's disease.

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Dr. Sandra Owens is a tenured associate professor in the University Of Nevada Las Vegas School of Social Work, and she is a nationally recognized Hartford Faculty Scholar of Gerontological Social Work. She has administered over \$500,000 in grants and contracts to improve the well being of vulnerable senior citizens and foster children living in Nevada. She has provided training to hundreds of social workers at the local, state, national and international levels. She has published journal and encyclopedia articles, book chapters, and newsletter articles on elder caregiving, respite care for parents of special needs children in the foster care system, and coping behaviors of minority female elder caregivers. Dr. Sandra Owens is actively involved in leadership roles in a variety of community organizations, and she recently served (2/2010 – 6/2011) as President's Fellow in the cabinet of UNLV President Neal Smatresk. Dr. Owens provides educational, political and social insights to improve university policy and programs, she assists faculty, staff and students with resolving campus related conflicts, and she fosters collaborations between the university and the Clark County community. Dr. Owens is a volunteer and a Board member of the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Dr. Owens earned the Bachelor of Art (1988) and Master of Social Work (1990) from UNLV, and a Social Welfare doctoral degree (2000) from the University of California, Berkeley.

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