

I. Issues

The Nevada Legislature passed several measures that will impact seniors in the future. They also made it clear that funding in the future will be constrained. One of the major changes that occurred was moving the Office of Disability Services from the Directors Office to the Aging Services Division. This will provide both groups with an excellent opportunity to combine forces for two groups that generally do not receive high priority in the funding arena. While seniors constitute one of the largest voting blocks in the State, its voice has been expressed through program specific advocacy efforts. It will be necessary for seniors and adults with special needs to speak with a single voice through a coordinated effort.

A related measure was the creation of the Standing Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs. This will provide an excellent vehicle for all three groups to address common issues, as well as have a much better means of obtaining bill drafts that will benefit the groups.

There are similar funding and policy challenges at the local level. While many believe these decisions do not impact them, because they are not elderly, poor, or adults with special needs, the programs that will suffer first are those that keep people independent and out of the higher cost services such as nursing homes. The cost shifting will cause a disruption or elimination of these essential services. To avoid pitting one program against another, or overburdening existing programs, a coordinated action plan will provide a mechanism to address the cuts and changes in a comprehensive way.

At the national level, there will be new initiatives and possibly funding. The aging population including adults with special needs and the programs serving them, have an opportunity to benefit from the upcoming budget and legislative efforts to serve the unique needs of the seniors and adults with special needs residing in Nevada. Collective pressure, as well as the continuation of the efforts that each program has underway today, will be necessary to assure Nevada programs are funded at adequate levels.

II. Vision

Nevada Senior Corps Association (NSCA) safeguards services for the aging population, and adults with special needs and works towards development of programs that provide a better quality of life for seniors.

III. Mission

NSCA’s mission through advocacy and education is to be the voice for the aging and adults with special needs populations, their families and the agencies that serve them.

IV. Action Plan

- ✓ Undertake an evaluation of the various senior programs with the goal of providing recommendations from the stakeholders who is best positioned to provide the service, identify gaps in service, and the role that official and ad hoc committees play in the service delivery process.
 - Complete and provide the information to the Legislative Standing Committee on Seniors, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs by September 2010.
- ✓ Conduct meetings statewide with service providers to provide information to seniors about services available in their community.
 - Secure funding for the meetings by March 1, 2010.
 - Complete the tours by October 2010.
- ✓ Pursue funding for the ongoing operations of the Association.
 - Identify potential fund sources by November 2009.
- ✓ Explore why the state keeps sending people out of state for services
 - Prepare a report with recommendations for consideration by the 2011 Legislature by November 2010.