

## **Purpose**

The last Session of the Nevada Legislature created a standing committee to address issues facing seniors, veterans, and adults with special needs. The Legislative Committee is to study these populations with the goal of improving services to these groups.

This action plan is designed to provide that Committee with recommendations from senior service providers:

- to improve the service delivery system
- identify gaps in service
- and identify duplicative/overlapping services.

This is a policy level study, and is not intended to duplicate the various funding agency grant review process, or program evaluations they conduct.

## **Issues**

The State of Nevada has seen its senior population increase dramatically, and this is expected to continue into the future. Concurrent with the population increase, State and local governments, the University System, the private sector and the non-profit community has responded by putting into place programs that provide service to seniors, undertaken research projects focused on this population, and created a regulatory network that addresses various aspects of the senior population, notably in transportation, living conditions, and health care.

As is the case with any system that has grown over time, areas of overlap, duplication, and gaps have crept into the system. Mandates placed on the funding may or may not have led to some of the overlap, duplication, and gaps.

The funding for these programs has become tighter, resulting in more competition for limited funding. It is clear that as the senior population increases, there will be more demands on the programs to deliver either more or new services to the seniors.

## **Opportunities**

The Nevada Legislature created the *Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs*. Assembly Bill No. 9 which created the Committee is attached. Sec. 5(d) speaks to the need to develop "...methods to enhance such programs to ensure that services are provided in

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the most appropriate setting;” This section speaks in part to the issues identified for this study.

To most effectively address this language, the existing system must be clearly defined, the stakeholders identified.

## Approach

It is proposed to look at the various services with a Committee composed of the various providers. The Committee will develop recommendations on how the service can best be delivered in the most cost effective and from a service perspective, efficient means. The Committee will be composed of representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Aging and Disability Services Division, the University System, local government representatives, private sector providers, non-profit providers, and citizens with a broad knowledge of the issues and services being provided. The Committee should not exceed 15 members. Staffing for the Committee will be provided by the Nevada Senior Corps Association.

The results will be presented to the *Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs*.

## Parameters

The first step in the process will be to inventory the services, and through a follow-up survey, obtain more specific information about the clients served, the service area, specific activities, and identify overlap or gaps in the services.

- The Committee and staff will rely on existing inventories and a questionnaire to identified senior providers, funders, and regulators to gather base information for the services being provided where possible.
- The report is intended to provide a policy level evaluation of the services. It will not be an in depth analysis of the programs - this is the role and responsibility of the funding agencies, be they public or private.

Suggested policies, which may change once the inventory phase of the study is completed are:

- There must be a clear tie between the program and the mission of the service provider. Interviews with key personnel will be used to identify the link between the program and the mission of the agency.

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- In the case of overlapping or gaps in programs, the Committee will base its recommendation on which provider is best qualified to deliver the service.
- The focus of the Committee will be on senior programs, recognizing that some programs offer services to other groups. The Committee may eliminate from further consideration such programs.

## **Timeline**

The following timeline is to provide direction to the Committee.

- By October 1, 2009, complete appointment of stakeholders to the Committee.
- By the end of September hold the first meeting to develop a specific scope of work within the parameters identified above.
- The Committee recommendations will be provided to the Legislative Committee no later than May 1, 2010.

## **ATTACHEMENT**

Committee Members  
AB9

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## Committee Members

Sandra Borrelli  
Vice-President  
Nevada Senior Corps Association  
(775) 829-0870  
[sandrab@nevadaseniors.org](mailto:sandrab@nevadaseniors.org)

Grady Tarbutton  
Director  
Washoe County Senior Services  
(775) 328-6141  
[gtarbutton@washoecounty.us](mailto:gtarbutton@washoecounty.us)

Mary Liveratti  
Deputy Director  
Department of Health and Human Services  
(775) 684-4000  
[mliveratti@dhhs.nv.gov](mailto:mliveratti@dhhs.nv.gov)

Carol Sala  
Administrator  
Aging and Disability Services Division  
(775) 687-4210  
[csala@aging.nv.gov](mailto:csala@aging.nv.gov)

Keith Tierney  
U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee  
(775) 453-2611  
[Barke50@charter.net](mailto:Barke50@charter.net)

Angie Pratt  
Director  
Northern Nevada Alzheimer's Association  
(775) 786-8061  
[angie.Pratt@alznonev.org](mailto:angie.Pratt@alznonev.org)

Claudia Collins  
Associate Professor  
UNR Extension Service – Las Vegas  
(702) 257-5331  
[collinsc@unce.unr.edu](mailto:collinsc@unce.unr.edu)

Debbie Dauenhauer  
Executive Director  
Southern Nevada Transit Coalition  
(702) 298-4435  
[sntced@cmaaccess.com](mailto:sntced@cmaaccess.com)

Dr. Ann McDonough  
Dean, Academic  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
(702) 895-1517  
[amcdonough@nevada.edu](mailto:amcdonough@nevada.edu)

Sherri Rice  
Executive Director  
Access to Healthcare Network  
(775) 770-6035  
[sherri@accesstohealthcare.org](mailto:sherri@accesstohealthcare.org)

Assembly Bill No. 9—Committee on Elections,  
Procedures, Ethics, and Constitutional Amendments

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to legislative affairs; creating the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs; prescribing the powers and duties of the Committee; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

**Section 3** of this bill creates the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs as a statutory committee and provides for its membership. **Section 4** of this bill provides for the meetings of the Committee, prescribes the manner in which meetings must be conducted and provides for the compensation of the members of the Committee. **Section 5** of this bill authorizes the Committee to study and comment upon issues relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs and authorizes the Committee to conduct investigations and hold hearings.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 218 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act.

**Sec. 2.** *As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Committee" means the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs.*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *The Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs, consisting of six members, is hereby created. The membership of the Committee consists of:*

*(a) Three members of the Senate appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party; and*

*(b) Three members of the Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, at least one of whom must be a member of the minority political party.*

*2. The Legislative Commission shall select the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee from among the members of the Committee. After the initial selection of those officers, each of those officers holds the position for a term of 2 years commencing on July 1 of each odd-numbered year. The chairmanship of the*



*Committee must alternate each biennium between the houses of the Legislature. If a vacancy occurs in the chairmanship or vice chairmanship, the vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original selection for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

*3. A member of the Committee who is not a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection continues to serve until the convening of the next regular session of the Legislature.*

*4. A vacancy on the Committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

**Sec. 4.** *1. The members of the Committee shall meet at the times and places specified by a call of the Chairman or by a majority of the Committee.*

*2. The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau or his designee shall act as the nonvoting recording Secretary of the Committee.*

*3. Four members of the Committee constitute a quorum, and a quorum may exercise all the power and authority conferred on the Committee.*

*4. Except during a regular or special session of the Legislature, for each day or portion of a day during which a member of the Committee attends a meeting of the Committee or is otherwise engaged in the work of the Committee, the member is entitled to receive the:*

*(a) Compensation provided for a majority of the members of the Legislature during the first 60 days of the preceding regular session;*

*(b) Per diem allowance provided for state officers and employees generally; and*

*(c) Travel expenses provided pursuant to NRS 218.2207.*

*↳ The compensation, per diem allowances and travel expenses of the members of the Committee must be paid from the Legislative Fund.*

**Sec. 5.** *1. The Committee may review, study and comment upon issues relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs, including, without limitation:*

*(a) Initiatives to ensure the financial and physical wellness of senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;*

*(b) The abuse, neglect, isolation and exploitation of senior citizens and adults with special needs;*

*(c) Public outreach and advocacy;*

*(d) Programs for the provision of services to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs in this State and methods to*



*enhance such programs to ensure that services are provided in the most appropriate setting;*

*(e) Programs that provide services and care in the home which allow senior citizens to remain at home and live independently instead of in institutional care;*

*(f) The availability of useful information and data as needed for the State of Nevada to effectively make decisions, plan budgets and monitor costs and outcomes of services provided to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;*

*(g) Laws relating to the appointment of a guardian and the improvement of laws for the protection of senior citizens and adults with special needs who have been appointed a guardian, including, without limitation, the improvement of investigations relating to guardianships and systems for monitoring guardianships; and*

*(h) The improvement of facilities for long-term care in this State, including, without limitation:*

*(1) Reducing the number of persons placed in facilities for long-term care located outside this State;*

*(2) Creating units for acute care and long-term care to treat persons suffering from dementia who exhibit behavioral problems;*

*(3) Developing alternatives to placement in facilities for long-term care, including, without limitation, units for long-term care located in other types of facilities, and ensuring that such alternatives are available throughout this State for the treatment of persons with psychological needs; and*

*(4) Creating a program to provide follow-up care and to track the ongoing progress of residents of facilities for long-term care.*

*2. The Committee may:*

*(a) Review, study and comment upon matters relating to senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs;*

*(b) Conduct investigations and hold hearings in connection with its duties pursuant to this section;*

*(c) Request that the Legislative Counsel Bureau assist in the research, investigations, hearings and studies of the Committee; and*

*(d) Make recommendations to the Legislature concerning senior citizens, veterans and adults with special needs.*

*3. The Committee shall, on or before January 15 of each odd-numbered year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the next regular session of the*



*Legislature a report concerning the study conducted pursuant to subsection 1.*

*4. As used in this section, "facility for long-term care" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 427A.028.*

**Sec. 6. 1.** *If the Committee conducts investigations or holds hearings pursuant to section 5 of this act:*

*(a) The Secretary of the Committee or, in his absence, a member designated by the Committee may administer oaths.*

*(b) The Chairman of the Committee may cause the deposition of witnesses, residing within or outside this State, to be taken in the manner prescribed by rule of court for taking depositions in civil actions in the district courts.*

*(c) The Chairman of the Committee may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers.*

*2. If a witness refuses to attend or testify or produce books or papers as required by the subpoena, the Chairman of the Committee may report to the district court by a petition which sets forth that:*

*(a) Due notice has been given of the time and place of attendance of the witness or the production of the books or papers;*

*(b) The witness has been subpoenaed by the Committee pursuant to this section; and*

*(c) The witness has failed or refused to attend or produce the books or papers required by the subpoena before the Committee that is named in the subpoena, or has refused to answer questions propounded to him.*

*↳ The petition may request an order of the court compelling the witness to attend and testify or produce the books and papers before the Committee.*

*3. Upon such a petition, the court shall enter an order directing the witness to appear before the court at a time and place to be fixed by the court in its order, the time to be not more than 10 days after the date of the order, and to show cause why he has not attended or testified or produced the books or papers before the Committee. A certified copy of the order must be served upon the witness.*

*4. If it appears to the court that the subpoena was regularly issued by the Committee, the court shall enter an order that the witness appear before the Committee at the time and place fixed in the order and testify or produce the required books or papers. Failure to obey the order constitutes contempt of court.*



**Sec. 7.** *Each witness who appears before the Committee by its order, except a state officer or employee, is entitled to receive for his attendance the fees and mileage provided for witnesses in civil cases in the courts of record in this State. The fees and mileage must be audited and paid upon the presentation of proper claims sworn to by the witness and approved by the Secretary and Chairman of the Committee.*

**Sec. 8.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

