

**January 6, 2011**  
**Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Committee Members Present:** Susan Boswell, Patrick Smith, Senator Maggie Carlton, Dr. Carl Heard (by phone), Taurus Duncan, Dean Ishman, Sherri Lemond

**Acting Chair:** Susan Boswell

**Clark County Staff Attending:** Nancy McLane, Timothy Burch, and Carol Whitman

**I. The meeting was called to order at 11:50a.m**

**II. Approval of November 4, 2010 Meeting Summary - Mtg Summary approved**

**III. Announcements from Members/Social Service Staff**

- **Susan Boswell** – Senior Providers Task Force Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2011, UNLV, Paradise Campus, Room 133, hosted by Kathy McClain, as well as the UNLV Gerontology Program and the Cannon Center.
- The Nathan Adelson Multicultural Luncheon event takes place on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Susan has information for those who would like to attend. The event will have speakers, information and resources. CEU's will be available for attendees.
- **Dr. Heard** – Update on efforts to get a home for the electronic application process. He has approached Access to Healthcare as a logical home because of their central role in dealing with referrals/resources. Contact was made with the Medicaid office which stated that the health insurance exchange effort would be technologically and practically capable of spearheading that electronic application, but at this time there is no money for it. The natural caution is that with the State, (1) Getting benevolent distributors to give money to the State in addition to what they are already paying in taxes is sometimes difficult and, (2) Transparency and access and a variety of other considerations are clearly additional thoughts. The State may not be able to this.
- **Senator Maggie Carlton:** In numerous special sessions the cost of outsourcing programs has been discussed. The need to have in-house programs that are not so costly is the way to go. Senator Carlton suggested that she and Dr. Heard get together at a later date to talk about a home for the electronic application.
- **Nancy:** The initial budget presentations for the Nevada Dept of Health and Human Services, will be on January 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- A Public Hearing for our revised Policy Manual is scheduled for January 18 at the Board of County Commissioner's Meeting. Public hearings begins at 10am. A Business Impact Statement was necessary. The proposed manual includes a

change in eligibility from 180% of the 2005 federal poverty level to 118% of current federal poverty level. The change would affect about 9½% of our medical clients and the changes are necessary because of a budget shortfall in the current fiscal year in our medical fund. We sent out a great deal of written notification and had an informational meeting here for our providers and stakeholders.

#### **IV. Update on Budget**

- Financial situation is dire. Our agency is more than 90% funded by property taxes. This funding formula has always served us very well, but right now it is not doing so great. We have already had two rounds of budget cuts. We have already eliminated about 25% of our staffing and have drastically cut our financial assistance program and carved away every extra dollar in every program while still meeting the needs of our clients. We now have to reduce our eligibility. This would eliminate clients who are being served because we do not have the funds to serve them. We will work closely with non-profit providers to hopefully have a good transition if the changes are approved. Two years ago we had about 68 million in our medical budget; we now have 55 million and next year probably 44 million. We have been told that we need to do another 20% budget cut for our next fiscal year, starting July 1. The net budget cuts after the next round are expected to be 35% in our medical fund and about 47% in our non medical fund. There will be changes to programs and possible office closures. Also, we do not know what legislative actions will occur during the session that could increase costs.
- Because of changes in financial programs people are coming fewer times to get assistance. We do not provide ongoing assistance to anyone anymore. Also we have gone to an appointment based system so to reduce the duplicated traffic. We had a huge surge early in 2010 when UIB was exhausted. Congress acted and extended UIB, but the people who have come off UIB at 99 weeks, are coming to CCSS in numbers.
- Residents roll off unemployment benefits every month. Unless they have a barrier to employment other than there are no jobs or disability, we will only see them one time and then refer them out to other community programs.

#### **V. Step Up Program**

- Randy Reinoso went over the Step Up Program which is a program that helps youths that have aged out of Foster Care. The youth must be aged out of foster care in Nevada. They are eligible for a \$1,000 stipend which is released to them in sums of \$250.00 and can be used for whatever they need, i.e., clothes. If they are working, volunteering, looking for work or going to school, they can receive rental stipends every month for as long as they are in the program. In addition, when a youth graduates from high school they receive another stipend of

\$1,000.00. This program provides bus passes and gift cards. If they need food, there are vouchers to grocery stores. Case Management and Case Coordination is offered to guide these youths to establish and keep goals. This program is about empowerment and accountability to achieve self-sufficiency.

We were able to secure some part-time jobs in the DA office for these youths. We identified 5 or 6 youth and worked with them to improve their interviewing skills.

- There have been word of mouth referrals to the Step Up Program. We did a study with DFS and discovered that over a 2 year period we had 2700 shared clients. We had 55 or so foster youths that were coming to get \$400 a month for rent instead of using the Step Up Program to receive a richer array of benefits. In terms of Federal reporting, those 2700 shared clients cost this agency \$7½ million dollars over two years in medical care and housing assistance, and there is no credit given to Clark County for maintenance of effort money.
- The source of funding is recording fees.
- The fund has gone from 1.2 million to \$700,000. This is due to the popularity of this program. Enrollment has increased and now we need to have some conversations about how to maintain this program so everyone can get what they are eligible for.
- 100% of the youth in the program are now on Medicaid.
- **Susan Boswell** – noted that NV Energy has a scholarship program for high school youth. Need a GPA of 3.0 and community service. You can go online to [nvenergy.com/scholarship](http://nvenergy.com/scholarship).
- We now have developed a way that if youth come in for \$400, we can refer them to the Step Up Program, so they do not fall between the cracks. We are now in partnership with organizations and providers in the community so that everyone is aware of the Step Up program. We have made great strides in letting everyone know about our program.
- **Comment:** Terms of members – Board of County Commissioners appoints CAC members. Several members indicated interest in another term. The CAC has 3 vacancies. Commissioners will be notified about members who wish to renew and their input will be requested for the 3 vacant seats based on criteria related to membership.

## Meeting Adjourned

Summary prepared by:  
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**Meetings for 2011**

**March 3, 2011**

**May 5, 2011**

**July 7, 2011**

**September 1, 2011**

**November 3, 2011**