



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE
(*Nevada Revised Statutes 439B.200*)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The seventh meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Health Care was held on March 24, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/Interim. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chair
Senator Maurice E. Washington, Vice Chair
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Assemblywoman Susan I. Gerhardt
Assemblyman Joe Hardy

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT/EXCUSED:

Senator Joseph J. Heck

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Maggie Carlton
Speaker Barbara E. Buckley
Assemblyman Bernie Anderson
Assemblyman Moises (Mo) Denis
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Sarah Lutter, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division
Sara Partida, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division
Rebecca C. Dobert, Senior Administrative Assistant, Research Division
Roxanne Duer, Chief Principal Research Secretary, Research Division
Sally Trotter, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chairwoman, welcomed members, presenters, and the public to the seventh meeting of the Legislative Committee on Health Care. Chairwoman Leslie gave a detailed introduction to the hearing process, the reason for the special hearing, how the Committee would conduct business during the meeting, and how the information and testimony gathered would be used by the Committee.

Statement of Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons

Governor Gibbons introduced Michael J. Willden, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and Andrew Clinger, Director, Department of Administration. Governor Gibbons stated that he has been in constant contact with State officials to resolve the hepatitis C crisis Nevada is currently undergoing. He explained the timeline of the flow of information and the corrective actions taken subsequent to the discovery of unsanitary practices at ambulatory surgical centers in Las Vegas. Governor Gibbons reported on agency hiring processes underway to assist in resolving these issues.

- Chairwoman Leslie invited Dr. Evelyn McKnight of HONORreform to testify.
- Dr. McKnight explained that she is a fellow citizen who has also acquired hepatitis C via a medical facility. She explained her experience of contracting hepatitis C from a medical center while undergoing treatment for breast cancer and the genesis of her work today for the nonprofit Honor Reform. Dr. McKnight stated the goal of Honor Reform is to make health care more responsible.
- Chairwoman Leslie noted that Dr. McKnight will return to testify at the April 21, 2008, meeting of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION CONCERNING HEPATITIS C EXPOSURE AND RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

The following is a list of persons who either testified at the meeting or submitted written testimony after the meeting regarding their concerns with hepatitis C exposure, medical care experiences, and public health matters in general. All written testimony provided is included in the public record as an exhibit.

- James S. Tate, Jr., M.D., Association of Black Physicians, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit B-1](#) and [Exhibit B-2](#).)
- Julia Fuller, private citizen
- Reuel M. Williams, private citizen, Las Vegas (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit C](#).)

- Loretta Conner, private citizen
- Theresa Morrow, private citizen
- Brent Coon, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit D.](#))
- Kenneth G. Allen, private citizen
- Catherine Hamilton, private citizen, Henderson, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit E.](#))
- Michelle Williams, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit F.](#))
- Sylvia Barcus, Citizens for Patient's Dignity
- Biruta Nelson, private citizen
- Earl Fruits, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit G.](#))
- John Stolebarger, Nevada HCV Task Force, Sparks, Nevada
- Darla Leibel, Executive Director, Nevada HVC Task Force, Sparks, Nevada
- Marian Wagner, private citizen
- Tom McGowan, private citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit H.](#))
- Robert Rollerson, private citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided documents from the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada, LLC. See [Exhibit I.](#))
- Joseph F. Fiorentino, private citizen
- Carl F. Rioceri, Jr., private citizen
- Evan Weinper, private citizen
- Linda Heldi, private citizen (Provided comments and newspaper article from the *Reno-Gazette Journal*. See [Exhibit J.](#))
- Karla Hart, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit K.](#))
- Becky M. Wright, R.N., Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit L.](#))

- Gail Pyles, private citizen
- Wes Meece, SEIU Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit M.](#))
- Craig Miche, private citizen
- Rosalind Conway, private citizen
- Barbara Anderson, private citizen
- Evelyn Cannestra, M.S.W., Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 427A.320 through 427A.400), Clark Senate District No. 8 Representative
- Elaine Johnson, private citizen
- Melanie Montalvo, private citizen
- Assemblywoman Gerhardt commented that she empathized with Ms. Montalvo and stated that the DHHS is putting together a public service announcement for patients.
- Gustavo Rodriguez, private citizen
- Nick T. Zavris, Retired, United States Air Force officer
- Melinda Reeve, private citizen
- Michael Reeve, private citizen
- Barry Ptak, private citizen
- Theresa Brushfield, private citizen
- Kevin Child, private citizen
- Sandra Lawson, R.N., private citizen
- Laura Kelso, private citizen
- Eddie Reedom, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit N.](#))
- Douglas Bache, former Assemblyman, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit O.](#))
- Rosemary Florez, private citizen

- Jimmy Pena, private citizen
- John Jarmosco, private citizen
- Richard Depaso, private citizen, Henderson, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit P.](#))
- Gary Broman, Public Policy Chairman for the Ryan White Council; Assistant Director, Nevada AIDS Project (<http://www.nevadaaidsproject.org/>)
- Greg Beale, private citizen
- Gregory White, private citizen
- Susan Avila, private citizen
- Loreta Stasa, R.N., Physician Outreach Liaison, UCLA Medical Center
- Pat Anderson, private citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit Q.](#))
- Wes Southerland, private citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit R.](#))
- Mary Helen Zuniga, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit S.](#))
- Malone, private citizen (Provided written testimony. See [Exhibit T.](#))

Informational handouts were provided at the meeting by the Southern Nevada Health District, Las Vegas, Nevada. (Please see [Exhibit U](#), [Exhibit V](#), [Exhibit W](#), and [Exhibit X](#).)

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chairwoman Leslie thanked everyone for their comments and stated at least one full meeting, and probably a series of meetings, would be scheduled to develop some of the ideas that were presented.

[Exhibit Y](#) is the written testimony of Grace E. Stanley, dated March 29, 2008.

[Exhibit Z](#) is the written testimony of Nichole (Nicki) Clark, dated March 27, 2008.

[Exhibit AA](#) is a letter from John Phillips (jpcp2000@sbcglobal.net) to Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, dated Thursday, March 27, 2008.

[Exhibit BB](#) is the written testimony of Steven M. Sertich, CRNA, MAE, JD, President-Elect, Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

[Exhibit CC](#) is the written testimony of Merilyn Peterson Grosshans, dated March 24, 2008.

[Exhibit DD](#) is the written testimony of Clo Banks.

[Exhibit EE](#) is the written testimony of Mark Wallace.

[Exhibit FF](#) is the written testimony of David Bond.

[Exhibit GG](#) is the written testimony of Diane DeSilva, RN, BSN, MBA, dated March 24, 2008.

[Exhibit HH](#) is the written testimony of Linda K. Manzana.

[Exhibit II](#) is the written testimony of Marie Metier.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Trotter
Senior Research Secretary

Marsheilah D. Lyons
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Marsheilah D. Lyons, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division.

[Exhibit B-1](#) is the written testimony of James S. Tate, Jr., M.D., Association of Black Physicians, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit B-2](#) is a document provided by the Association of Black Physicians, Las Vegas, Nevada, titled “Press Statement.”

[Exhibit C](#) is the written testimony of Reuel M. Williams.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document titled “Patients’ Call to Action,” provided by Brent Coon.

[Exhibit E](#) is the written testimony of Catherine Hamilton.

[Exhibit F](#) is the written testimony of Michelle Williams.

[Exhibit G](#) is the written testimony of Earl W. Fruits.

[Exhibit H](#) is the written text of public comment provided by Tom McGowan.

[Exhibit I](#) is information provided by Robert Rollerson from the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada, L.L.C., that includes a “Patient Satisfaction Questionnaire”; a copy of a letter to Mr. Rollerson from Katie Maley, R.N., Director of Nursing, Southern Nevada Endoscopy Center dated January 11, 2007; and a courtesy letter to Mr. Rollerson from the Southern Nevada Endoscopy Center dated January 3, 2007; a letter from the Southern Nevada Health District dated February 27, 2008; and a “Consent for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Antibody Testing” from the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit J](#) is a document consisting of comments and a copy of a photograph from the *Reno-Gazette Journal* (www.rgj.com) provided by Linda Heldi.

[Exhibit K](#) is the written testimony of Karla Hart.

[Exhibit L](#) is the written testimony of Becky Wright, R.N., UHS Valley Hospital, representing Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Nevada.

[Exhibit M](#) is the written testimony of Wes Meese, Technician, San Martin Hospital, Las Vegas, representing the health care workers of SEIU Nevada.

[Exhibit N](#) is the written testimony of Eddie Ray Reedom.

[Exhibit O](#) is the written testimony of Douglas Bache.

[Exhibit P](#) is the written testimony of Richard Depaso.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a letter to the Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Health Care, dated March 2008, from Pat Andrews.

[Exhibit R](#) is the written testimony of Wes Southerland.

[Exhibit S](#) is a letter to the Legislative Committee on Health Care dated April 4, 2008, from Mary Helen Zuniga.

[Exhibit T](#) is the written testimony of Malone.

[Exhibit U](#) is a Fact Sheet provided by the Southern Nevada Health District, Las Vegas, Nevada, titled “Hep C Patient Resources in Clark County,” dated March 4, 2008.

[Exhibit V](#) is a press release provided by the Nevada Health Centers, Inc., titled “Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Nevada Health Centers, Inc. Acts to Support Las Vegas Impacted by Endoscopy Center Practices,” dated March 10, 2008.

[Exhibit W](#) is a document titled “Hepatitis C Questions? We have answers,” provided by the California Pacific Medical Center, Sandra Hart, R.N., Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit X](#) is a document provided by the Southern Nevada Health District, titled “Unsafe Injection Practices and Disease Transmission,” which includes an information transmittal on the hepatitis C Investigation.

[Exhibit Y](#) is the written testimony of Grace E. Stanley, dated March 29, 2008.

[Exhibit Z](#) is the written testimony of Nichole (Nicki) Clark, dated March 27, 2008.

[Exhibit AA](#) is a letter from John Phillips (jpcp2000@sbcglobal.net) to Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, dated Thursday, March 27, 2008.

[Exhibit BB](#) is the written testimony of Steven M. Sertich, C.R.N.A., M.A.E., J.D., President-Elect, Nevada Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

[Exhibit CC](#) is the written testimony of Marilyn Peterson Grosshans, Las Vegas, Nevada, dated March 24, 2008.

[Exhibit DD](#) is the written testimony of Clo Banks.

[Exhibit EE](#) is the written testimony of Mark Wallace.

[Exhibit FF](#) is the written testimony of David Bond.

[Exhibit GG](#) is the written testimony of Diane DeSilva, R.N., B.S.N., M.B.A., Las Vegas, Nevada, provided via fax to Marsheilah Lyons, Principal Research Analyst, dated March 24, 2008.

[Exhibit HH](#) is the written testimony of Linda K. Manzana.

[Exhibit II](#) is the written testimony of Marie Metier.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.