



The Nevada Care Connection *Information Portal* encourages project communication and networking for grantees and project sites, reports on developments, and celebrates success.



Nevada Care Connection Welcomes Central Christian Church

Central Christian Church in Henderson joined NVCC as a new grantee pilot site January 2005. Nevada Care Connection grantees and Project NEON site representatives visited the Church during the second quarterly grantee meeting held May 12th. According to Mike Shelton, director of the senior pilot project, "Central Christian's role under the NVCC grant is to connect seniors with existing resources, inform the community about issues facing seniors, and to mobilize volunteers."

Shelton was recently hired to expand the existing Encouragement and Community Care program by conducting community outreach to identify 12 individuals both young and old who, "have a passion to care for seniors" in the Clark County area. These individuals will work on the senior pilot project. Prior to accepting this position, Shelton was a volunteer pastor at the

Church for 14 years specializing in pre-marital and marriage counseling.

If you are interested in volunteering for the senior assistance program or have additional questions, please contact Mike Shelton at (702) 735-4004 x 295.



Regional Grantee Meeting

Video Conference Between Las Vegas and Carson City:

September 14, 2005
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Editor's Note: The Sanford Center for Aging will publish the *Information Portal* each quarter during FY 2005. We welcome your feedback and ideas for future issues. Please direct questions or comments to Teresa Sacks at sackst@unr.nevada.edu or call 775-784-7557.

Special thanks to Dianna Higgs (EOB Community Action Partnership), Mike Shelton (Central Christian Church), Marietta Bobba and Dan Clarke (Washoe County Senior Services), and Debbie Enos (DAS) who contributed to this edition of *Information Portal*.

EOB Community Action Partnership in Las Vegas

Equal Opportunity Board (EOB) Community Action Partnership in Las Vegas is a private non-profit social service organization that provides services to seniors through its Adult and Senior Services Division. The EOB is now located at the Martin Luther King Senior Center. Dianna Higgs serves as the Administrator for the Nevada Care Connection project.

Gary Pfifer, MS joined EOB Community Action Partnership as the I & R Specialist and Marketing Director. Pfifer brings more than 30 years of counseling and marketing experience to the position. He has been working to identify and develop senior service resources in southern Nevada to expand the NvElderCare.org database, increase face-to-face client base and social marketing efforts, increase project visibility and promote the availability of information and assistance to Clark County seniors and caregivers.

A perfect illustration of their impact involved a request for help from an older widow whose drug-addicted daughter was threatening her. The EOB directed her to Family Court for a restraining order, but

language barriers prevented her from completing the required paperwork. The EOB helped her complete the forms necessary to secure protection and encouraged her to visit the Senior Center for socialization and activities. Staff will follow-up with her on a regular basis. "The Nevada Care Connection keeps people connected to the world around them," said Higgs.



AARP Releases Report: Caregiving in the U. S.

An estimated 257 billion dollars worth of unpaid care is provided by approximately 44.4 million caregivers in the U. S. each year (Pandya, 2005). For more information and a full copy of the report including a fact sheet, please visit www.aarp.org/research/housing-mobility/caregiving/fs111_caregiving.html.

Synergy Training

After an extensive review of vendors, the Nevada Division for Aging Services (DAS) selected Synergy Software Technologies Inc. as its social services software provider. SAMS2000 (Social Assistance and Management System) is a web-based single-point-of-entry application model that Nevada Care Connection (NVCC) project stakeholders will begin using statewide October 2005.

The SAMS2000 suite of applications will help NVCC project partners facilitate case management, assessments and intakes, care coordination and planning, needs analysis, service orders to providers, goal setting and tracking, integration among programs serving the same clients, service tracking, internal and external reporting, outcome measurements, and security. SAMS2000 also includes the NAPIS Reporter which will eliminate quarterly reporting to DAS. According to Debbie Enos, Resource Development Specialist, approximately 120 Title III-B participants attended two June regional trainings held in Carson City and Las Vegas. DAS anticipates providing SAMS2000 training to Title III-E grantees in late fall.

AIRS Information & Referral Training and Education Annual Conference

Congratulations to Trisha Beaupre, Social Worker, Washoe County Senior Services (WCSS) who passed the examination for CIRS-A certification. Beaupre attended the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems (AIRS) annual I & R training and education conference held June 5 – 8 in Tuscon, Arizona.

The conference was an opportunity for grantees to be I & R certified and/or earn the five hours of training consistent with the AIRS guidelines as stipulated under section 5.1 of the NVCC Service Specifications and

Quarterly Reporting Requirements. Many DAS staff and grantee representatives attended the meeting. Marietta Bobba, Director, WCSS found the conference "enlightening, especially the 2-1-1 workshops and materials dealing with natural disasters, working as a community partner, and creative funding." Participants supported a national 2-1-1 initiative.

Eventually, the Nevada Care Connection project will be assimilated into the state's developing 2-1-1 referral system.

Dan Clarke, an IT consultant with WCSS presented, *Web-enabled Information and Referral* during a workshop held on June 8th. Clarke's impression of the overall conference was, "very informative in both the I & R and information technology arenas. There were valuable discussions on voice over internet protocol (VOIP) and in various uses of databases in support of I & R." For more information regarding AIRS, annual meetings, or certification testing locations, please visit their website at www.airs.org.

Stakeholder Announcements

Clark County Senior Advocate Program – The Holiday Fair is scheduled for December 8th at the Paradise Recreation Center.

Senior Leadership Institute – one more is planned this year. For more information on these or future events, please call (702) 455-7051.

Division for Aging Services – Marcia Cuccaro distributed the NVCC informational DVD to grantees at the last quarterly meeting held in May. Carol Sala, Administrator, also mailed the DVD to all Nevada State legislators along with a letter asking for their continued support of Nevada seniors and the NVCC project.

Washoe County Senior Services Teams Up with the City of Reno to Expand Senior Connections Kiosks – WCSS announced that the number of kiosks available to provide resource information to seniors and their caregivers recently increased from four to seven. This was accomplished through a collaboration between Washoe County Senior Services, the City of Reno, and the kiosk vendor Technology Portals, Inc. The arrangement allows consumers to access both **Senior Connections** and City of Reno tourism information from kiosks located at:

- Reno City Hall
- Meadow Wood Mall
- Reno/Tahoe Regional Airport
- Raley's Supermarkets on Rob Drive (NW Reno), Incline Village, and Wedge Parkway (South Reno)
- Rite Aid Drugstore (Sparks)

The **Senior Connections** kiosks received 3,900 hits during the five month period December, 2004-April, 2005. Consumers visited NvElder-Care.org, other websites, accessed and printed maps, and phoned an I & R specialist at the Reno Senior Center.

Washoe County Senior Services – Lisa Jones was recently hired to work on the Nevada Care Connection project part-time as the Information and Referral Specialist. Jones brings many years of I & R and discharge planning experience to WCSS having recently worked at a local area hospital. WCSS's new I & R telephone number is (775) 326-6060.



Sanford Center for Aging / Cooperative Extension Training Update – Through June 30th, 57 participants from nine grantee and Project NEON sites have received NVCC training in communication, interviewing, and crisis management.

Instructor Training Manuals were distributed to DAS personnel and grantees from Lyon County Human Services, Mineral County Care & Share, Home Health Services / Cornerstone Health Services, Clark County Senior Advocate, EOB Community Action Partnership, The Continuum, Tonopah Senior Center, Mina Senior Center, Washoe County Senior Services, the Senior Citizens of Searchlight senior center, Sanford Center for Aging, and the Cooperative Extension. Additional trainings are scheduled as followed:

July 11	Carson City Senior Center
July 18	Tonopah Senior Center
July 19	Beatty Senior Center
July 20	Amargosa Senior Center
August 5	Pahrump Senior Center
August 24	Central Christian Church

For more information regarding the orientation trainings, please contact Teresa Sacks at (775) 784-7557 or email at sackst@unr.nevada.edu.

Nevada Conferences on Aging Update

The Nevada Conferences on Aging were held on Wednesday, July 6th in Las Vegas and Thursday, July 7th in Reno. Approximately 380 people attended including many DAS staff, NVCC grantees and Project NEON site representatives. Keynote and Welcome speakers included U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Governor Kenny Guinn, Attorney General Brian Sandoval, and Carl Eisdorfer, M.D., Ph.D., Director of the Center on Aging, University of Miami, Florida.

Participants discussed solutions-based ideas on aging issues from six key areas: Health and Long-Term Living, Marketplace, Planning Along the LifeSpan, Our Community, Social Engagement, and the Workplace of the Future. At the end of the sessions, participants in both Las Vegas and Reno proposed priority solutions.

The one-day conferences were officially designated as "Solutions Forums" of the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) that will be held in Washington, D.C., December 11 – 14th. The theme for the 2005 WHCoA is "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action." Appointed delegates from across the nation will meet to consider and discuss pressing aging issues that will assist the President and Congress as they set aging policy for the next ten years and beyond.

Congratulations to our appointed Nevada delegates who will represent the State of Nevada at this once-in-a-decade event: Janice Ayres, Marietta Bobba, Socorro Castro, Vivienne Kerns, Mary Liveratti, Herb Perry, Mary Ann Salmon, and Larry Weiss.

These individuals will be meeting over the next few months to develop a unified message that will be carried to Washington, D.C. on behalf of Nevada's seniors. For a complete list of the Nevada Conferences on Aging solutions and speaker presentations please visit the Sanford Center for Aging website at <http://www.unr.edu/sanford/index.htm>.