



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



The Nevada Care Connection resource directory, www.NvElderCare.org now may be officially accessed at www.NevadaCareConnection.org.

DAS Announces New NVCC Project Manager

Carol Sala, Administrator for the Nevada Division for Aging Services has appointed Deputy Administrator Tina Gerber-Winn as Project Manager for both the Nevada Care Connection (NVCC) and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) projects.

Gerber-Winn graduated from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Political Science. She is a 1989 Graduate from Portland State University with a Masters in Social Work and she holds a Certificate in Gerontology from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Gerber-Winn brings 16 years of service in Medicaid/DHCFP as Elder Protective Services Investigator, Supervisor of Program services and finally Chief of Continuum of Care which implemented and operated Medicaid's long-term care programs like Home Health Agency, Personal Care Aide, Hospice, Nevada's four Home and

Community Based Waivers, and Adult Day Care.

She was an initial member of the Strategic Health Plan for People with Disabilities and now serves on the State Accountability Committee. Gerber-Winn is a State Representative on the Nevada State Council for Personal Assistance Services and has also worked for the past three years with First Health Services as Medicaid's Management Information System was devised. According to Marcia Cuccaro, "Tina will bring continuity and expertise to these two important Division-funded projects." Carol Sala agrees, "Tina's management experience with long-term care issues, MMIS, and Medicaid will be an asset to the Division for Aging Services."

Regional Grantee Meeting

Video Conference Between Carson City, Elko, and Las Vegas:

December 7, 2005

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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Editor's Note: The Sanford Center for Aging will publish *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 Marcia Cuccaro, Mel Phillips, Carolyn Gillis, Linda Bond, Barbara Boyd, Janice McIntosh, Dan Clarke, Joanne Lorrey, Janice Brown, Shirley Wright, and Diane Ross who contributed to this edition of *Information Portal*.



With support from the Nevada Division for Aging Services, the Nevada Senior Centers Association (NSCA) was formed earlier this year. The professional organization works to: 1) Strengthen and foster the development of senior centers including the provision of staff training opportunities and technical assistance; 2) Encourage communication and coordination among association members and senior service organizations; 3) Develop programs and services by gathering information and sharing ideas in order to respond to the needs of seniors; 4) Interact with state legislators on issues related to seniors and act as a positive force for the passage of legislative bills for seniors.

The elected board is comprised of senior center directors from across the state: Carolyn Gillis, President (Hawthorne); Janice McIntosh, President-Elect (Carson City); Adell Panning, Secretary (Crescent Valley); and Linda Hendrickson, Treasurer (Fallon). The Nevada Division for Aging Services will hold its first annual

annual *Senior Center Conference* at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, NV on September 27, 28, and 29. Registration will be held from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. on the 27th with the conference beginning promptly after registration. The NSCA will hold its first general meeting at 9:15 a.m. on the 28th when members will vote on by laws and receive the Directors Handbook.

NSCA also has a quarterly newsletter that can be accessed by visiting <http://www.nvaging.net/grants/NSCA/NSCA%20Newsletter.pdf>

If you have any questions concerning the association, the upcoming conference, or would like to become a member, please contact Carolyn Gillis (775-945-5519); Janice McIntosh (775-883-0703); Adell Panning (775-468-0466); or Linda Hendrickson (775-423-7096).

A total of \$15 million dollars in Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) grant funds were recently awarded to 19 states to create a single information source for long-term care services. The Nevada Division for Aging Services announced that it has received a \$750,000 three-year ADRC grant (\$250,000 / year).

The Division will use the funds to create a separate ADRC website, Nevada Long Term Care Connection (NLTCC), and to develop resource centers in Las Vegas, Reno and Elko that serve seniors and people under age 60 with disabilities. The new website will be linked with the Nevada Care Connection website (www.NevadaCare.Connection.org). Mel Phillips, Management Analyst, discussed the ramifications for NVCC during the September 14th videoconference. For the AoA press release and a complete listing of 2005 ADRC awards, please visit: http://www.aoa.gov/press/pr/2005/05_Aug/08_18_05.asp.

Nevada Care Connection Thrives in Mineral County

Mineral County Care & Share has been serving seniors and their caregivers since 1973. Two senior centers in Hawthorne and Mina serve approximately 200 seniors daily. The centers offer a variety of comprehensive supportive services and programs: advocacy, caregiver support, wellness, nutrition (congregate and Meals on Wheels), transportation (medical, local shopping, recreational trips), socialization, and other activities. Linda Bond (Hawthorne) and Barbara Boyd (Mina) serve as the NVCC representatives in Mineral County.

Several anecdotes illustrate how NVCC has improved the lives of seniors: Mrs. T. cares for her brother Tom who is in poor

health. She contacted Linda Bond to determine what services were available for him locally. Due to her own health concerns, Mrs. T. was unable to care for her brother any longer. Tom is unable to walk distances and needs assistance with some activities of daily living. After assessing Tom's needs, Care & Share was able to provide Mrs. T. with a donated walker for her brother and other information on Mineral County Care & Share's programs and services. Tom now receives Meals on Wheels, weekly transportation service to the post office and grocery store, as well as, other assistance through a referral to the on-site Senior Advocate, Jackie Wallis.

More recently, Barbara Boyd has been assisting an 83-year-old evacuee from Biloxi, Mississippi who arrived in Mina to join her daughter. Due to her desire to relocate to Fallon, Nevada, Boyd was able to connect her with Churchill County Social Services using the NVCC website. According to her 63-year-old daughter, a long time Mineral County Care & Share client, her mother registered with FEMA prior to evacuation so her relocation to Fallon will be administered by the federal government. In the meantime, she will stay in Mina with her daughter. Mina Care & Share will continue to assist her with services as needs arise and follow-up with Churchill County Social Services to make her transition to Fallon as seamless as

NVCC in Mineral County

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possible.

Mineral County Care & Share's assistance has extended beyond Nevada's borders by helping aging relatives of a Walker Lake, Nevada couple connect with services in their hometown of Harrison, Arkansas.

For more information on Mineral County Care & Share, please call (775) 945-5519 (Hawthorne) or (775) 573-2344 (Mina).

Stakeholder Announcements

Clark County Senior Advocate – Joanne Lorrey, Senior Recreation Program Administrator for Clark County Parks and Recreation, is temporarily overseeing the Clark County Senior Advocate program during the search for a new Recreation Manager. The position was vacated by Tyrone Thompson who moved to Clark County Social Services.

For more information about the position, please visit Clark County's website: <http://www.accessclarkcounty.com> to download the application.

Clark County Senior Advocate announces upcoming Senior Fairs on October 14th (Boulder City) and October 25th (Mt. Crest Community Center).

Division for Aging Services – Carol Sala, Administrator, was selected by the WHCoA Policy Committee to be an "at-large" delegate to the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) in Washington, D.C. December 11 – 14, 2005. Sala joins six other "at-large" delegates, bringing the number of Nevada delegates to 17.

Lyon County Human Services – Shirley Wright is conducting presentations throughout Lyon County on the new Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage and helping low income seniors complete applications to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Please contact Shirley Wright at (775) 577-5009 ext. 11 if you have any questions regarding the Medicare Part D presentations or application to the SSI program.

Sanford Center for Aging / Cooperative Extension (University of Nevada, Reno) Training Update – As of September 6th, 129 participants from 16 grantee organizations and Project NEON sites have completed NVCC training in communication, interviewing, and crisis management.

The Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers has approved the *Instructor Training Manual* curriculum for 2.75 hours of continuing education units (CEUs). Certificates will be issued to all the social workers who have attended the training orientations.

The curriculum has been submitted to the Nevada Nurses Association and the Nevada Board of Examiners for Long Term Care Administrators for CEU consideration.

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

The Continuum – The resource directory, NvElderCare.org, is now officially NevadaCareConnection.org. In addition, the website has received an updated look, improvements to the search engine, and protocol revisions for submitting resources. The resource directory will also incorporate the AIRS categorization system for eventual compatibility with the State of Nevada's developing 2-1-1 system.

The Continuum reports that caregiver helpline calls have increased in recent months. Many of the calls are

from family caregivers wondering if they can receive financial assistance (pay) for providing care to their older family member. If you or someone at your agency has fielded similar requests, please call Diane Ross at (775) 829-4700.

Washoe County Senior Services – Senior Connections kiosk hits continue to increase. Through July, WCSS reported over 4,700 hits including 159 through the recent collaboration with the City of Reno's tourism kiosks.

Carole Allison, LSW has been added to the staff at Social Services. Allison brings many years of social service experience to WCSS having previously worked for HOPE Clinic, Senior Dimensions, Haven of Hope; and Casa de Vita.

Blanca Leon has also been added to the WCSS staff as a bilingual Human Services Specialist. Leon will coordinate the nutrition program including commodities, pantry bags, and Meals on Wheels program.

Other News

Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) – *Nevada's Health in the New Millennium* conference will be held October 13-14, 2005 at Cal-Neva Resort in Crystal Bay, Nevada. For more information on membership to NPHA or to print a registration form, please visit: <http://www.nphaonline.org> or call Jennifer at (775) 784-3538.

Nevada Geriatric Education Center (NGEC) – The Nevada Geriatric Education Center (NGEC) has announced the offering of three new provider certificates specializing in aging: *Communicating with the Elderly*; *Psychology of Aging*; and *Sociology of Aging*. The cost for each of these self-study courses is \$40 and includes either a VHS or DVD, written materials, and the examination for continuing education units (CEUs).

For more information, please contact the NGEC at (702) 671-2381.

