



Information Portal

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



The Resource Directory

is available at

www.NevadaCareConnection.org

2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA)

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) occurs once every 10 years with the most recent conference and the fifth ever, held December 11—14, 2005 in Washington, D.C. 17 delegates and members-at-large from Nevada were scheduled to attend. The conference theme, *The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action* illustrated the need for legislators and policy-makers to address the critical impacts roughly 77 million baby boomers will have on all aspects of society, particularly health and human service systems.

The WHCoA Policy Committee received public input from 130,000 individuals across the nation who attended official WHCoA events such as the Nevada Conferences on Aging *Solutions Forums*.

Delegates ranked the top 50 resolutions (from a proposed list of 73). Four resolutions most relevant to NVCC were in the top 25:

- # 10: Improve State and Local Based Integrated Delivery Systems;
- #13: Develop a National Strategy for Supporting Informal Caregivers to Seniors of Seniors;
- #19: Promote the Integration of Health and Aging Services to Improve Access and Quality of Care;
- #23: Improve Access to Care for Older Adults Living in Rural Areas.

For more information concerning the 2005 WHCoA, resolutions and recommendations, please visit <http://www.whcoa.gov/>.

Regional Grantee Meeting

March 9, 2006

Cambridge Community Rec Center
3930 Cambridge Center, Room A,
Las Vegas, (9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

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Editor's Note: The Sanford Center for Aging / Cooperative Extension will publish *Information Portal* each quarter during FY 2006. 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 Dan Clarke, Mindy Gonzalez, Dianna Higgs, Janice McIntosh, Linsay Oakden, Bob Pettit and Stephanie Rogerson who contributed to this edition of Information Portal.

2005 Nevada Conferences on Aging Priority Solutions

The 2005 Nevada Conferences on Aging were held July 6 in Las Vegas and July 7 in Reno. The conferences were officially designated as *Solutions Forums* for the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). In October 2005, the priority solutions report was finalized and submitted to the WHCoA held December 14—19, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

The top four solutions from each conference follow. These solutions represent Nevada's priorities as a state with one of the fastest growing senior populations in the country. These solutions were identified during breakout sessions by conference participants comprised of government officials and policy makers, academics, senior service

providers, aging professionals, seniors, caregivers, and others.



Southern Nevada Forum

1. Shift to community-based system of care.
2. Education of healthcare professionals and the public.
3. Improved transportation.
4. Affordable drugs and medical care.

Northern Nevada Forum

1. Medicare reform.
2. Save Social Security.
3. Senior Centers of the future.
4. Develop a comprehensive long-term care policy that enhances other programs such as Medicare.

For a complete list of conference partners, Nevada delegates, full description of the priority solutions, or a copy of the *Nevada Delegates White House Conferences on Aging Report*, please visit the Sanford Center for Aging website, <http://www.unr.edu/sanford/calenda r/events/whcoa/whcoa.htm>.

Additional questions or comments can be directed to Lawrence Weiss, Ph.D., Director, SCA, (775) 784-4774.

Office of Geriatric Medicine's Geriatric Resource Team (GRT)

Helping to maintain the independence of Nevada seniors, the Office of Geriatric Medicine, Chronic Illness and Disability Management (OGM) provides resources, referrals and educational programs to seniors and caregivers in the surrounding community. Fostering self reliance, OGM facilitates the Geriatric Resource Team (GRT), providing free, in-home health assessments to qualifying disabled seniors. Striving to keep the older population independent, safe and educated, the GRT offers individualized recommendations and referrals that encourage

prolonged mental, social and physical well being.

The GRT has been funded by the Task Force for a Healthy Nevada since 2001. With support from the Sanford Center for Aging, the Office of Geriatric Medicine works closely with clients and caregivers to develop a medical action plan that can address such issues as chronic illness, medication and mobility.

To utilize GRT services, simply contact the office by phone, fax, email or mail indicating interest in the program. Referrals can be

made for yourself, a loved one, or an associate. First, a screening survey (VES-13) is completed for or by the client. Once processed, a member of the Geriatric Resource Team will contact the client and / or his or her caregivers to coordinate a more in-depth assessment and follow up.

During FY 2005, 208 assessments were conducted across the State of Nevada. To receive a copy of the VES-13 form or more information, please contact Liz Gadsden, OGM (775)327-2283, email: ogm@unr.edu; or visit the website: <http://www.unr.edu/ogm>.

Baby Boomers Begin Turning 60

Effective January 1, 2006 some of our nation's oldest baby boomers will turn 60 years old (7,918 per day; 330 per hour). Boomers are defined as those individuals born during the post WWII fertility explosion (1946—1964). In a recent article written by Kelly Greene for The Wall Street Journal, Greene paints an interesting portrayal of what the future may hold from new technologies to replacing the traditional funeral with celebrations of life or digital cemeteries.

Greene's article is a compilation of interviews conducted with numerous professionals (e.g., gerontologists, academics, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists). The findings are intriguing. The following table is an excerpt from the author's statistics, Boomers by the Numbers. A copy of the full article, *When We're All 64* is available on-line at http://esd.edu/HeadLine/coughlin_wsj_article_092605.pdf.

Estimated U.S. Baby Boomers	76.9 million
% Total U.S. Population	26.8
% Women	51
% Men	49
% Minorities	16.9
Number already age 50	32 million
% Divorced	14.2
% Never Married	12.6
% Completed High School	88.8
% with Bachelors Degree or Higher	28.5

Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging / American Society on Aging

The 2006 Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging / American Society on Aging will be held March 16—19 in Anaheim, CA. NVCC stakeholders will lead the discussion of national experts who have been working on web-based systems for integrating senior services. Workshop topics will address the impact of the baby boomers, new technologies, kiosks,

system implementation, health literacy, and the training of intake staff and community volunteers. Lawrence Weiss, Ph.D., Claudia Collins, Ph.D., Marietta Bobba, Dan Clarke and Teresa Sacks are panel presenters.

For conference information or registration, please visit <http://www.asaging.org/conference>

National Institute on Aging Guide for Seniors

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has released a new guide for seniors outlining communication strategies for getting the most out of the patient / provider experience. The guide, *Talking With Your Doctor*, is available on-line at <http://www.niapublications.org/pubs/talking/index.asp>.

80% of Seniors Experience Prescription Drug Interactions

The Medication Management Pilot Program, funded by the Division for Aging Services, provides reviews of multiple medications taken by seniors. A certified geriatric pharmacist reviews medications, over-the-counter drugs (OTC), herbal supplements, and vitamins and reports possible drug interactions, duplications or inappropriate

drug use. An analysis of 120 medication reviews for seniors who participated in the study found alarming results: 80% of the reviews showed a possible interaction between two prescription drugs; 41% of the reviews indicated the senior was prescribed an inappropriate medication; 31% of seniors were warned of an interaction between a medication and

an OTC; 16% were taking duplicative prescription drugs. This program is available to all Nevada seniors taking five medications or more. If you have any questions or would like additional information on the results of the study, please contact Stephanie Rogerson at (775) 784-1801; rogerson@unr.edu.

Project Partner Announcements

Carson City Senior Center — Share the Day Adult Day Center opened for business at the senior center on January 3, 2006. Tammy Sisson is the owner and Jody Stella has been appointed manager.

Carson City Senior Center is also pleased to announce that the first affordable housing apartments, **Autumn Village**, will open February 2006. The project will house 46 seniors age 55 and over. **Autumn Village II**, a 42-unit affordable senior housing apartment project, will begin construction in February 2006. Both of these units are located directly behind the senior center.

Carson City also has a new bus service, Jump Around Carson (JAC). Senior Center clients, residents of the Autumn Village, and others can ride JAC easily due to the conveniently located bus stop near the Senior Center.



Clark County Department of Social Service (CCSS) — Patricia Pate has been appointed Director of Clark County Department of Social Service. Pate assumed the position effective January 17, 2006. She has replaced Nancy McLane, the current Acting Director who will resume new responsibilities in February, 2006 within the Clark County Department of Family Services.

CCSS is also pleased to report that in December 2005, the Board of County Commissioners approved the new CCSS Policy Manual. The new manual was designed to streamline the eligibility process and tie all service programs to current federal poverty guidelines. Final modifications to the department's computer database are also being completed and the new policy criteria should be implemented January 2006.

EOB Community Action Partnership — Dr. J. Lester Murray was appointed as the new Executive Director of EOB Community Action Partnership. Dr. Murray accepted the appointment effective January 3, 2006. Prior to the EOB, Dr. Murray worked for the State of Nevada Department of Rehabilitation, and previous to that the State of Texas. Please join the EOB in welcoming Dr. Murray. He can be reached via email at murrayjl@eobcap.org or by telephone at (702) 647-2010.

The EOB is also pleased to announce they have relocated to 2753 N. Highland, Las Vegas.

Sanford Center for Aging / Cooperative Extension (University of Nevada, Reno) — NVCC *Instructor Training Manual* orientations for FY 2006 have been scheduled as follows:

Washoe County Senior Services (January 19), DAS Reno (January 23), DAS Carson City (January 24), DAS Elko (February 1), Home Health Services—HHS Carson City (February 7), HHS Reno (February 9), HHS Fernley (February 15), HHS Yerington (February 16), HHS Lovelock and Winnemucca (February 21), HHS Elko (March 6), HHS Battle Mountain (March 7), HHS Ely (March 7), HHS Las Vegas (March 15), HHS Pahrump (March 16).



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

On the horizon: A readership survey will be distributed to all NVCC grantees, contracted Project NEON site representatives, and DAS staff to ascertain value of the newsletter and solicit recommendations for continued improvement.

Washoe County Senior Services — Total Senior Connections kiosk visits (June through December, 2005): 5,722. Total kiosk visits through the collaboration with the City of Reno tourism kiosks: 1,040. This brings total kiosk hits to 6,762.

Mindy Gonzalez has been hired as Program Assistant for WCSS. Her many duties include kiosk maintenance, hiring and training kiosk docent volunteers and marketing the kiosks to foster their continued use. Gonzalez brings over 20 years of experience to the position having worked for both SBC Yellow Pages and The National Judicial College.