Nevada Lifespan Respite Coalition

Start-Up Process
• The mission of the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition is to support caregivers in our community by promoting awareness and access to, as well as coordination and advocacy for, respite services in Nevada throughout the lifespan. Organizers felt the purpose of the Coalition should embody the philosophy of serving the needs of the underserved population.
• A Corporate Charter for the organization was established on November 13, 2007. Annual and regular meetings of the board and members have been held since then.
• Start-up funds and support for meetings and activities of the Coalition came from individual members and their organizations.

Structure
• The Coalition is an incorporated nonprofit in Nevada. An application for an IRS 501(c) (3) determination is in development, but has been placed on hold until the organization has a stronger need for tax-exempt status.
• The organization is led by a Board of Directors, with membership from state agencies, nonprofits, service providers, and professional and family caregivers interested in respite issues.
• A committee on Advocacy has been formed to monitor legislative activity. Committees for Education/Training & Outreach, Interfaith Outreach, Town Hall Meetings, Advocacy, New Models of Care, and Fundraising Opportunities were formed.
• The Coalition is a statewide organization, serving urban, rural, and frontier areas in Nevada.

Staff
• There are no paid staff members of the organization; all officers, directors, and general members serve in a volunteer capacity.
• Paid staff under the ACL-funded Lifespan Respite Care Program grant awarded to the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division assist the State Respite Coalition in accomplishing shared goals. The Lifespan Respite Care Program Coordinator employed by the state’s Lifespan Respite Program, works closely with Coalition members as key partners in grant activities.

Funding
• Members of the Coalition have donated time and resources to incorporate and support meetings and other activities.
• The Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition receives no funding from the state Lifespan Respite Program grant, but the grant was designed to help further some of the Coalition’s goals.

Membership
• Membership is open to all who are interested. Currently there are 45 individuals listed on the organizational roster.
• Membership has been weighted heavily in aging services so recruitment efforts are targeted toward representatives of respite services for children and adults with disabilities.
• Family caregivers are also welcome as Coalition members, but current membership primarily represents public and private agencies.
• The organization does not currently collect membership fees.
Meetings and Communication

• The Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition holds 9-11 meetings during the year. These meetings are held by videoconference to link members in Las Vegas, Reno, and Elko.
• Agendas and minutes of meetings are distributed primarily through email communication. Copies are available at all meeting sites.
• Newsletters, notices and other announcements from the membership are also disseminated through the Coalition, to increase awareness and participation in respite-related activities around the state.

Major Activities

• Projects of the Coalition include a 2008 survey and a 2009 Town Hall Meeting and participant survey, to gather information on Nevada respite services and the needs of caregivers in Nevada.*
• In 2009, the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition was a key partner in the application for the Administration on Aging Lifespan Respite Program grant, administered by the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division.*
• In July 2010, the Lifespan Respite Care Coordinator was hired to work on grant activities. Coalition members have made themselves and their resources available to assist the coordinator in reaching grant objectives.*
• In June 2012, the Lifespan Respite Care Coalition coordinated the Nevada Lifespan Respite Summit. The Summit was an opportunity to discuss respite supports and services in Nevada and discuss what collective goals the Nevada Respite Coalition would like to accomplish. This statewide gathering included representatives from families engaged in caregiving, stakeholder groups (respite providers, human resources, social services, developmental disabilities, public health, mental health, maternal and child health, and aging services) and others who were interested in the future of respite and respite services in Nevada. National speakers from the Administration on Aging (AoA) and ARCH attended and presented. Goals were developed and implementation is an ongoing process. *

Documents/Resources Available

• The Coalition does not yet have a website or brochure, but a Facebook page has been established at http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nevada-Lifespan-Respite-Care-Coalition/128046090602195. Bylaws for the Coalition are available upon request.
• A survey was conducted in 2008 to gather information about respite services in Nevada. A PowerPoint presentation of the results was created. The survey instrument and results are available upon request. *
• A Town Hall Meeting was held in April 2009. A summary of the meeting and the ideas generated were compiled into a report that is available upon request. A survey of attendees was also conducted to assess the impact on caregivers and respite utilization by families. Professional respite providers were surveyed to assess respite benefits and barriers to their clients. The survey results are included in the Town Hall Meeting summary.*

State Contact Information

• Key contacts for the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition are:
  • Cory Lutz, President, 2320 Paseo Del Prado, B204, Las Vegas, NV 89102
  • Korine Viehweg, Vice President, PO Box 2072, Sparks, NV 89432
  • Courtney Knapp, Treasurer, 605 S. 21st., Reno, NV 89431
  • Jamillah Ali-Rahman, Recording & Corresponding Secretary, 2400 N. Tenaya Way, Las Vegas, NV 89128

• Key Contacts for the Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Program grant are:
  • Jeff Duncan, Chief Supportive Services, Aging & Disability Services Division, 1860 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104, 702-486-3558, jsduncan@adsd.nv.gov
  • Cheyenne Pasquale, Lifespan Respite Care Program Coordinator, 1860 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104, 702-486-3831, cpasquale@adsd.nv.gov

* Joint venture or coordination between the Nevada Lifespan Respite coalition and Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division