

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Seventy-Fourth Session  
March 19, 2007**

The Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair Sheila Leslie at 1:33 p.m., on Monday, March 19, 2007, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)), the Attendance Roster ([Exhibit B](#)), and other substantive exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/committees/). In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775-684-6835).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chair  
Assemblywoman Susan I. Gerhardt, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman Bob L. Beers  
Assemblyman Joseph P. (Joe) Hardy  
Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto  
Assemblywoman Kathy McClain  
Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell  
Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce  
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart  
Assemblywoman Valerie E. Weber  
Assemblywoman RoseMary Womack

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sarah J. Lutter, Committee Policy Analyst  
Bonnie Borda Hoeffcker, Committee Manager  
Patricia Evans, Committee Secretary  
Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant



**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Bernie Anderson, Washoe County District No. 31

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kevin Quint, Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), Reno  
Genia Williams, Chairman, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nevada  
Mark Snyder, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration,  
United States Department of Justice, Reno, Nevada  
Richard Rosky, Coordinator, NMCI Southwest Meth Initiative, Phoenix, Arizona  
Liz MacMenamin, Director of Government Affairs, Retail Association of Nevada  
(RAIN), Carson City, Nevada  
Rebecca Gold, State Government Relations Counsel, Consumer Healthcare  
Products Association (CHPA), Washington, DC  
Christopher Mason, Ph.D., Section Chief, Registration and Laboratory Services,  
Division of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture  
Harold Willard, Executive Director, Douglas County Sheriff's Advisory Council,  
Minden, Nevada  
Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General, Carson City, Nevada  
Conrad Hafen, Chief, Criminal Justice Division, Nevada Department of Justice,  
Office of the Attorney General, Las Vegas, Nevada  
Tim Griffin, Chairman, Secret Witness, Reno, Nevada  
Michael Reynolds, Global Studio, Reno, Nevada  
Katherine Loudon, Program Coordinator, Substance Abuse/Violence/SHARE,  
Washoe County School District, Reno, Nevada  
Christy McGill, Executive Director, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and  
Storey Counties, Dayton, Nevada  
Maria Canfield, M.S., CHP, Agency Director, Division of Mental and  
Developmental Services, Department of Health and Human Services  
Mary Walker, National Association of Counties (NACo), representing Carson  
City, Douglas County, and Lyon Counties, Minden, Nevada  
Scott Shick, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department,  
Douglas County, Stateline, Nevada  
Larry D. Struve, Advocate, Religious Alliance In Nevada (RAIN), Reno, Nevada

**Chair Sheila Leslie:**

[Meeting called to order. Roll called.] We have three bills, all relating to  
methamphetamine abuse. Hearing will open on Assembly Bill 150.

**Assembly Bill 150: Makes various changes pertaining to methamphetamine and  
other controlled substances. (BDR 40-667)**

**Assemblyman Bernie Anderson:**

[Read from prepared script ([Exhibit C](#)).] [PowerPoint video ([Exhibit D](#)).] I will answer questions on the practicality of the Bill itself.

**Chair Leslie:**

Why should someone, who does not abuse methamphetamine (meth), have to get a prescription for Sudafed?

**Assemblyman Anderson:**

People can save money with a prescribed medication. As a prescribed medication, if they have insurance, they now have only a co-pay. The people we are concerned about are people who do not have insurance. There is some language which we can suggest, which would solve that problem.

**Chair Leslie:**

Any comment from other Committee members?

**Assemblywoman Gerhardt:**

How many cold medicines, which could not be converted to meth, remain on the shelves?

**Assemblyman Anderson:**

I do not know the actual number. Many of the pharmaceutical companies are introducing alternatives. There are supplements that can be put in some of the ingredients, preventing the break-down of pseudomethamphetamines.

**Assemblywoman Gerhardt:**

There are cold medicines that will remain on the shelf even though this legislation is passed?

**Assemblyman Anderson:**

Yes, there are new ones being developed. Almost 80 percent of materials come from out of the country or out of state. That makes this legislation more important, because when sources dry up, supply will revert to the home-made variety.

**Chair Leslie:**

Have you seen any preliminary data on the Oregon law which passed two years ago? Has it had the desired decrease?

**Assemblyman Anderson:**

As of 1995, the street use had begun to drop.

**Chair Leslie:**

Mr. Bovett, in prior testimony, suggested that as western states begin implementing stricter meth laws, Nevada could attract more meth production.

**Kevin Quint, Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN),  
Reno, Nevada:**

[Read from prepared text ([Exhibit E](#)).]

**Genia Williams, Chairman, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, Nevada:**

It is an epidemic. Work needs to be done in a cooperative manner, including the Tribe and small communities. It impacts all our lives.

**Mark Snyder, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration,  
United States Department of Justice, Reno, Nevada:**

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and our law enforcement partners are committed to combating the scourge of meth abuse. Along with treatment and prevention, we are working to develop meaningful law enforcement strategy to address this problem through identification and targeting of drug-trafficking organizations. The strategy includes the operation of intelligence programs and intelligence sharing. A significant part of DEA and law enforcement efforts to combat the meth problem is precursor control. If addressed at the local, national, and international levels, precursor control is a vital part of dealing with the meth problem and reducing domestic meth production. In 2005, the federal legislation, known as the Combat Methamphetamine Act, placed numerous restrictions on the sales of meth precursors. The highlights of that legislation include: placing pseudoephedrine and like products behind the counter, maintaining a log book of sales, and placing limits on the amount of pseudoephedrine and other precursors. The legislation would also provide for civil and criminal penalties for individuals who violate those provisions, and civil penalties for businesses who do not comply with the statutes. In addition, it gives law enforcement the tools to target and prosecute king-pins who run the drug trafficking organizations, and increase the penalties for persons manufacturing meth in the presence of children or where children may live. Internationally, DEA works to enact precursor control to reduce the diversion of pseudoephedrine and like products which find their way into meth laboratories. Recently, Mexican authorities have enacted legislation to clamp down on their exportation of this product. Statistics show a reduction of almost 80 metric tons per year of pseudoephedrine being shipped into Mexico. Another achievement for Mexican law enforcement happened last Friday, when \$206 million in drug-related currency was taken from a residence in Mexico City. This was directly related to a company whose sole purpose was to import pseudoephedrine from India. It is an example of how our efforts have had an effect on reducing and attacking the meth problem. DEA is partnering with

India, China, and Germany to address regional problems and to increase the identification of suspect shipments. Nationally and locally, precursor control has played a significant role in reducing meth production. Seizures of small toxic and super laboratories are down. Washoe County Health Department statistics show a six-fold reduction in laboratory seizures in the last five years. Partnerships with organizations such as the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force have led to reducing meth production. DEA has established the National Clandestine Laboratory Register on its web site. This web site allows individuals to query if a laboratory was seized at a specific location. This is done in an effort to keep innocent third parties from being involved in that production. DEA supports state precursor control for several reasons: It gives the tools to law enforcement to combat meth at its roots and allows policy makers to adopt legislation to meet special needs identified in the area. Recent efforts in Washoe County, through **Crystal Darkness** and **Break Free—Live Free** campaigns, is a symbol of what law enforcement treatment and prevention are doing to combat the meth problem. One area of concern involves the ability of persons to travel from place to place, making purchases of Sudafed-based products. This practice is known as "smurfing." It often involves drug-trafficking organizations who employ several persons to buy legal-limit quantities at multiple locations. In some jurisdictions, law enforcement uses the log books as required under The Combat Methamphetamine Act or electronic sales receipts to identify persons involved in smurfing. There are options on how information is maintained. Along with decreased purity in seized meth and average street cost values, the situation may present itself where drug-trafficking organizations choose to return to domestic manufacturing rather than face the uncertainty abroad. The degree to which precursor controls need to be placed on the sale of pseudoephedrine and other precursor chemicals, will be up to the policy-makers and the people of Nevada.

**Richard Rosky, Regional Coordinator for The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, Southwest Methamphetamine Initiative, Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico:**

In Arizona we failed, for the third time, to pass state legislation to control and monitor pseudoephedrine products at the retail levels. This has resulted in cities passing their own ordinances to control pseudoephedrine. A uniform state law would make it much easier on everyone. Pfizer pharmaceuticals came out with an alternative Sudafed-based product. There are many alternative products which address decongestant nasal problems. One of the biggest problems with sales logs is tracking violations of the statute. There is electronic software available that would assist the State in tracking the sales at the retail level. Many of the major corporations have electronic capabilities to track sales and signatures.

**Chair Leslie:**

Does New Mexico have any legislation?

**Richard Rosky:**

They are in the same boat as Arizona. Some cities are passing their own city ordinances.

**Chair Leslie:**

What does a city ordinance do?

**Richard Rosky:**

They have the same elements of the statute that you have in Nevada. It is left to local law enforcement to track and monitor it. It is easier in small cities and rural areas.

**Chair Leslie:**

It sounds like you support the prescription schedule three; but the next step would be electronic monitoring?

**Richard Rosky:**

You need one or the other.

**Chair Leslie:**

Do you feel we need a state-wide approach?

**Richard Rosky:**

Yes, I do. Otherwise, cities develop their own ordinances which may differ from one city to another. State law would allow law enforcement to prosecute at state level, and would be consistent in the elements of the statute.

**Assemblyman Hardy:**

This is a question for counsel.

**Chair Leslie:**

We do not have legal counsel here. We have a lawyer, but she is not legal counsel. Let us hear from people who would like to amend the bill.

**Liz MacMenamin, Director of Government Affairs, Retail Association of Nevada, Carson City:**

We have concerns about this Body making prescriptions out of commonly used allergy medications. This limitation of the product will increase the cost of health care not only to the uninsured, but the elderly, state, and local

governments, the insured, and Medicaid recipients. We are willing to work with the sponsor of this bill and the Committee. ([Exhibit F](#))

**Chair Leslie:**

What about the electronic monitoring that has been suggested?

**Liz MacMenamin:**

Some small retailers do not have electronic equipment. Some major retailers are using electronics. Our concern is mandatory electronic reporting. Is there some way to work with smaller retailers who are keeping the log books and have not broken the law? As Federal law mandates, if retailers break the law, they lose their right to dispense prescriptions.

**Chair Leslie:**

The meth users could quickly find out who was complying and who was not.

**Rebecca Gold, State Government Relations Counsel, Consumer Healthcare Products Association, Washington, D.C.:**

[Read from prepared text ([Exhibit G](#)).]

**Assemblyman Lynn Stewart:**

Do you have suggestions on how to change the bill?

**Liz MacMenamin:**

I have not come to the table with any amendments. There is some federal language which could be implemented and inserted. Taking it behind the counter has made a huge impact.

**Chair Leslie:**

I will direct you to Assemblyman Anderson and we will give you some time to make specific suggestions. Madam Attorney General, is there a position you would like to address on this A.B. 150?

**Christopher Mason, Ph.D., Department of Agriculture, Reno, Nevada:**

I do not have specific testimony. We have been specifically mentioned in this bill. I am here to answer questions.

**Chair Leslie:**

Can you point us to that section? Is this The Advisory Committee for the Ammonia Additive? Is this something on which you are neutral?

**Christopher Mason:**

Yes, we are neutral. We are happy to assist you on the aim of A.B. 150.

**Assemblywoman Peggy Pierce:**

What does line 22, Section 23 mean?

**Dr. Mason:**

It is a legal description of a molecule.

**Harold Willard, representing Douglas County Sheriff's Advisory Council, and  
Drug Use Is Life Abuse:**

If there is a void of a product, it will not take very long to fill that void. Although electronic monitoring has been presented as being easy to implement, the monitoring by the police departments and the State, would be horrendously expensive.

**Chair Leslie:**

The hearing on A.B. 150 closed. The hearing on Assembly Bill 148 is open. Would the Attorney General like to present the bill?

**Assembly Bill 148: Enacts provisions governing the sale of products containing materials that are used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and other controlled substances. (BDR 40-512)**

**Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General, Carson City:**

To my left is Chief Deputy Attorney General Conrad Hafen, who runs our Criminal Division. I am here on behalf of A.B. 148. This bill mirrors the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act passed by the federal government last year. The bill places restrictions on the sale and/or purchase of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. These are the main precursor ingredients for manufacturing meth. This bill requires the seller of products containing these ingredients to place the product in a locked case or cabinet or behind a store counter. The bill limits the amount of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine or other precursors that can be purchased by any one person to 3.6 grams within a 24 hour period. It addresses the purchase of more than 9 grams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine or other precursors during any 30 day period. The bill also requires the seller to maintain a log book. The log book is used to maintain the name of the product sold, the quantity sold, the name and address of the person purchasing the product, and the date and time of the sale. The purchaser is required to present photo identification that has been issued by the United States Government or the State of Nevada. The log book must contain a notice to the purchaser that entry of false information will subject the person to criminal penalties. Each entry must be retained by the retail distributor for two years. The distributor cannot share information from the log book unless it is shared to ensure compliance with the statute. If law enforcement requests the log book information, the distributor must disclose it. A retail distributor is also subject



to civil and criminal penalties for violating any of the provisions relating to storage of the product, quantity sold, or maintenance of the log book. For a first offense, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor and obligated to pay a fine of \$25,000. A second offense constitutes a gross misdemeanor and a \$25,000 fine. A third or subsequent offense is a Category D felony and a \$25,000 fine. Any person who violates the provisions relating to the purchase amount is subject to a civil and criminal penalty. If a person enters false information into the log book, that act constitutes a Category D felony, and is subject to a \$25,000 fine. Methamphetamine, otherwise known as meth, ice, crank, or crystal does not discriminate. It touches every aspect of our society. Meth destroys families. It is a drain on our work force, increases the cost of health care, and impacts our school drop-out rate. One out of every ten adults has a serious problem with drugs, alcohol, or both. A minimum of one-in-twenty births in the United States has been severely impacted by the presence of drugs in the family, or the father, at the time of conception, gestation, or delivery. Ninety five percent of those who try meth just once get hooked for life. Law enforcement sees a direct correlation between meth and identity theft. Nevada is second in the nation in identity thefts. Those individuals who have fallen prey to meth addiction are the same individuals who steal mail from your trash can or mail box. Their addiction allows them to stay up all night, piecing together the mail you thought was adequately shredded, in order to obtain a social security number or other personal information. Once they obtain this information, they will either sell it in exchange for meth or use the money from your bank account to purchase it on the street. Meth is a popular drug because it is easy to make, and extremely addictive. Some of the most common chemicals found in meth can be purchased at your local hardware store. These chemicals are paint thinner, acetone, iodine crystals, and red phosphorus. The main ingredient for making meth is either pure ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. The latter is extracted from cold tablets, and once the meth is produced it, can be smoked, injected, snorted, or created in a pill form and taken orally. Assembly Bill 148 is just one battle in the war against the manufacture and use of meth in Nevada. It is an important step because it places restrictions at the beginning of the manufacturing process. If we can make it harder for individuals to purchase the products used to make meth, we will undoubtedly see a reduction of meth being manufactured in our State and sold on the street. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is attributing a drop in meth laboratories to the federal legislation that our bill is based on. Bringing Nevada's State laws up to par with the federal regulation will not only strengthen this relationship, but it will give our local and state law enforcement prosecutors more authority to crack down on the sale of precursor drugs for use in manufacturing methamphetamine.

**Chair Leslie:**

Does "retail distributor" include convenience stores? Will they be covered under A.B. 148?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

Assembly Bill 148, Section 5, defines retail distributor.

**Chair Leslie:**

Does the federal law currently cover that?

**Conrad Hafen, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Division,  
Las Vegas, Nevada:**

The Combat Meth Act does not, specifically, give a definition of retail distributor; however, I believe they would fall under that definition.

**Chair Leslie:**

Assembly Bill 148 covers anywhere it is sold for personal use.

**Assemblywoman Womack:**

Other than Sudafed, are there restrictions on other ingredients used in meth? Are there restrictions on the amount that may be purchased, and is there a signature required on large quantities?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

Our bill does not address any other precursor drugs besides pseudoephedrine and ephedrine.

**Assemblywoman Womack:**

Is there a restriction, through State legislation or city ordinance, that restricts iodine or some of the other ingredients?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

Not that I am aware of, no.

**Conrad Hafen:**

I spent ten years as the Chief Deputy District Attorney of Humboldt County. Other precursors were addressed by going to the local hardware stores and asking the managers to give us a heads-up if individuals bought large quantities of those types of products. It was a cooperative effort between local law enforcement and retailers.

**Chair Leslie:**

How would law enforcement know when to request a log book?

**Conrad Hafen:**

From a practical standpoint, a local retailer would inform law enforcement of any suspicious patterns. Law enforcement would check the log books periodically.

**Chair Leslie:**

What about electronic monitoring?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

As Chairwoman of the Governor's methamphetamine working group, electronic monitoring is a must when we have a log book. Louis Ling, attorney for the Pharmacy Board, approached the working group about having a computerized system. It would be low cost to the State, and we would work with the retailers. You need to have a database to track.

**Chair Leslie:**

Smurfers invest the time in gathering their product.

**Assemblywoman Valerie Weber:**

Does any language in the Bill cover open-air markets?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

In our definition, Section five, an individual is a distributor.

**Chair Leslie:**

Are there other questions for the Attorney General?

**Ms. Womack:**

How much Sudafed does it take to manufacture meth?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

I do not have that information.

**Assemblyman Hardy:**

Under A.B. 148, could a retailer call law enforcement?

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

It is not in the bill, but we would hope so.

**Chair Leslie:**

We will now hear the proponents of the bill.

**Kevin Quint, Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), Reno:**  
We support anything that would keep meth off the streets.

**Mark Snyder, Resident Agent In Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice, Reno, Nevada:**

I would like the lawmakers of Nevada to consider precursor control. There is federal legislation under the Methamphetamine Trafficking Act, which places civil thresholds on various stage two chemicals, which predominantly have to do with single sale amounts. Regarding how much Sudafed is needed to manufacture methamphetamine: 10 grams of pseudoephedrine manufactures, approximately, 6 grams to 7.5 grams of meth, depending on other factors.

**Chair Leslie:**

How effective, for law enforcement, is a log book without electronic monitoring.

**Mark Snyder:**

It is quite a daunting hit-or-miss task. Reviewing every log book in every establishment is impossible. A tool such as electronic reporting would allow law enforcement to better focus their efforts.

**Chief Leslie:**

Do you agree that we will see more home-grown laboratories?

**Mark Snyder:**

Criminals are weighing risks. At some point they may decide the risk to manufacture domestically. This is because they can control the price and purity and not have to worry about unknowns in other parts of the world.

**Chair Leslie:**

Anyone else who is in support of the A.B. 148?

**Rebecca Gold, State Government Relations Counsel, Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA), Washington, DC:**

We applaud Nevada's efforts to control precursor sales in the ways listed in this bill. It is a good approach to the meth problem. It does not penalize legitimate uses of these products.

**Liz MacMenamin, Director of Government Affairs, Retail Association of Nevada (RAIN), Carson City, Nevada:**

I have spoken with Attorney General Cortez Masto on her bill. We support the concept of the bill, until Section 9, subsections 1 and 2. These penalties stipulate that on a first offense, if the retail distributor violates this act, he is subject to a civil penalty as well as a gross misdemeanor. In the second

offense, noting the first offense can happen in any other venue, the retail distributor is then subject to a civil penalty and is guilty of a Category D felony. The Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 did not take this to that degree with the retailer. The federal government focused on the person purchasing the drug. At that time, training for retailers was mandated, and funds were allocated for that purpose.

**Chair Leslie:**

I would imagine that language is inserted to make sure retailers take it seriously. Is there anyone else who would like to testify in favor or against A.B. 148? The hearing is closed on A.B. 148. The final bill is A.B. 149. This is my bill, but I will introduce it from here, and allow others to present their testimony. We will show the Committee a short clip from the program that was presented during the first week of the Session.

**Assembly Bill 149: Makes an appropriation to the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services in the Department of Health and Human Services for the prevention of the abuse of methamphetamine. (BDR S-1038)**

**Tim Griffin, Chairman, Secret Witness, Reno, Nevada:**

We are a volunteer group called Secret Witness. About 80 percent to 90 percent of violent crime is meth related. We are moving toward prevention through education.

**Michael Reynolds, Global Studio, Reno, Nevada:**

Meth is a community-wide problem. What is unique here is the collaboration between government and the community. Representatives from law enforcement, recovery experts, education, and the business community were involved. Secret Witness was providing the glue between these agencies. The focus is on the next generation of meth addicts. We need to get a message of truth out to young people because there are those who want to introduce the next generation of consumers to this drug. The Crystal Darkness campaign consisted of a 30 minute documentary that was aired on all stations in northern Nevada. Generous donations by our local stations enabled us to air this video. Because it was aired in a "roadblock", it was not just another program. The result was a major news event. There was a lot of coverage that happened before and after the showing. Our next steps are a Spanish version that is being developed. Northern Nevada Spanish stations have agreed to air it in a roadblock in May. We are also working very hard to get southern Nevada to agree to a full roadblock, which would be across all English stations and all Spanish stations. We are hoping that will be in May, as well.

**Katherine Loudon, Program Coordinator, Substance Abuse/Violence/SHARE  
Washoe County School District, Reno:**

I am here to testify on how this campaign impacted the Washoe County School District and in support of what has happened in our community.

**Chair Leslie:**

We will run the video then answer questions. (Video)

**Chair Leslie:**

Thank you, Secret Witness and Global Studio, for preparing that clip. I heard a lot of dialogue after the airing of Crystal Darkness. Some people stated it did not go far enough, or went too far. Some addicts in drug court said it was not realistic enough. Even though there were some negative comments, it opened the conversation. Some parents planned their evening, with their children, around the show.

**Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell:**

Crystal Darkness was on all the channels. Everyone came together, wanting to be a part of it. We have had a lot of action going on in Carson City for a long time.

**Katherine Loudon:**

Washoe County School District has worked with Secret Witness and Meth Alliance on meth issues. Through the effort that is Crystal Darkness, it was possible to show another movie about meth called Break Free/Live Free, in every classroom in Washoe County. Prevention is a priority in the school district.

**Chair Leslie:**

The Task Force on Meth met last week. Governor Gibbons signed an Executive Order requesting the Task Force report back to the Legislature by April 1, 2007, on the recommendations for this budget cycle.

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

A report will be submitted to the Legislature, as well as the Governor, by April 1, 2007. For education/prevention, there were a total of \$17 million allocated. There are two million dollars for education, and \$2 million for A.B. 148. The Meth Working Group heard testimony, and with respect to the funds in the Governor's Budget, the Working Group voted to recommend the funds be spent in the manner that it is being recommended through the Health and Human Services Department. It would then be allocated according to a plan set forth not only by our working group, but the public as well. The Task Force would support the Committee on how education funds should be spent. There is grant funding available for education, which would be added to the

monies for meth. The Task Force will make further recommendations for the final report on December 31, 2007. These recommendations would be on how the money should be spent on education. Communities and legislators would be included in the process.

**Chair Leslie:**

I concur with the recommendations of the Task Force in bringing together 13 local community coalitions currently working on meth prevention. The State has a structure set up through the Substance Abuse and Prevention Treatment segment, Division of Mental Health, through the Department of Health and Human Services. The money would flow through that Department and Division to the local groups like the Meth Alliance and Partnership Carson City.

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

Of the \$17 million, \$5.3 million was allocated to continue funding the 13 coalitions, and continuation of funds for the purpose of education/prevention/treatment. One of the recommendations of the Task Force was to have an existing structure for distribution of these funds. Health and Human Services would be the Division the funds would flow through to these 13 coalitions.

**Assemblywoman Parnell:**

Is there a state-wide hot-line number or clearing house where suspicious activity could be reported? If not, some of the funds be could be allocated to develop one.

**Chair Leslie:**

Carson City has a direct number that goes to the Sheriff's office, and is directed to one person. Is a state-wide number better, or could the local coalitions implement a local line directly to the law enforcement agencies?

**Assemblywoman Parnell:**

Training of the people responding to the phone calls would be a priority.

**Catherine Cortez Masto:**

The Task Force will be looking at two things. One is setting up a statewide structure where the Task Force can fill in the gaps or make recommendations. Number two is to take best practices from around the State, and share them with other communities who can utilize them.

**Assemblywoman Kathy McClain:**

One of the great phone resources is 211 which ties right in to the crisis call center for people who need help. 311 is the non-emergency number for your local police.

**Chair Leslie:**

Local coalitions were called to testify.

**Kevin Quint, Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), Reno:**

[Read from prepared text ([Exhibit H](#)).] The membership of the coalitions includes the sheriff, school district, teachers, and youth. The youth component put together a forum, which brought Lyon and Storey Counties Sheriffs, treatment prevention providers, and recovering addicts, to answer the questions youth had after watching the documentary.

**Christy McGill, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties and Nevada Statewide Partnership of Coalitions:**

All the coalitions strive to collaborate and move forward on prevention. These are complex social issues which we cannot fight on our own. Representation includes the 13 prevention coalitions, and the membership behind them. These members include law enforcement, school departments, teachers, and youth. Our youth is an amazing component, and we stress the importance of youth leadership.

**Chair Leslie:**

I have a handout, which we did not distribute to the Committee, regarding the 13 coalitions and their locations.

**Christy McGill:**

Yes, just about all counties are covered. There is a Nevada Statewide Native American Coalition that is looking at broader issues the tribes have. The collaboration between the tribes and the coalition partners is essential. Also essential is the Nevada Hispanic Coalition.

**Chair Leslie:**

The handout would be made available to all of the Committee members.

**Maria Canfield, Agency Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, Carson City, Nevada:**

[Read from prepared text ([Exhibit I](#)).]



**Chair Leslie:**

Even though you fund the infrastructure of the coalition, do you have separate funding allocated specifically for the education and prevention of meth abuse?

**Maria Canfield:**

No, we do not.

**Chair Leslie:**

How is the money distributed?

**Maria Canfield:**

We would issue a request for applications and solicit ideas from the local communities. We would ask for needs data, and discussion of current planning activity. For those that do not have current plans, we would request planned strategies identified to see if they meet the needs of their community.

**Assemblyman Hardy:**

What caused the drop in methamphetamine labs?

**Chair Leslie:**

It was an intensive law enforcement effort combined with the importation of the product from Mexico, which replaced the need to produce it. It was not because of a massive statewide prevention program.

**Assemblyman Hardy:**

Meth labs decreased as much in Oregon as they did in Nevada.

**Chair Leslie:**

Harsher laws for meth are not reflected in the numbers provided to the Committee. Across the country the numbers have dropped significantly as people became aware of how dangerous these labs were.

**Mary Walker, National Association of Counties (NACo), representing Carson City, Douglas County, and Lyon Counties:**

These counties are in support of the bill.

**Chair Leslie:**

The National Association of Counties has made meth prevention a top priority.

**Scott J. Schick, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Juvenile Probation Department, Douglas County, Nevada:**

We support the bill, the coalitions, and meth prevention programs in Nevada.

**Larry Struve, (RAIN) Advocate for the Religious Alliance of Nevada, Reno, Nevada:**

We represent five denominations in Nevada. Many of these denominations have twelve-step groups and are involved throughout the State. These groups and their local congregations deal with people with addiction to meth. We support the efforts in A.B. 149, especially prevention which we see as being the most important issue. The faith communities are grateful for the strong prevention effort, focusing on the love of neighbor. This bill shows that Nevada will treat addicts like human beings who are deserving of the same support given others who are in need. Prevention is just as important as trying to protect the public through the criminal justice system.

**Chair Leslie:**

[Closed hearing on A.B. 149. Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Patricia Evans  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBITS**

**Committee Name:** Committee on Health and Human Services

**Date:** March 19, 2007

**Time of Meeting:** 1:30 p.m.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit</b>	<b>Witness / Agency</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	*****	Agenda
	B	*****	Sign-In Sheet
AB 150	C	Assemblyman Bernie Anderson	Remarks on <u>A.B. 150</u>
AB 150	D	Assemblyman Bernie Anderson	Video
AB 150	E	Kevin Quint	Testimony
AB 150	F	Liz MacMenamin	Testimony
AB 150	G	Rebecca Gold	Testimony
AB 149	H	Kevin Quint	Testimony
AB 149	I	Maria Canfield	Testimony