

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

**Seventy-Fourth Session
April 18, 2007**

The Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair Sheila Leslie at 2:33 p.m., on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 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/. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (email: 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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblywoman RoseMary Womack (excused)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah J. Lutter, Committee Policy Analyst
Katrina Zach, Committee Secretary
Olivia Lloyd, Committee Assistant



OTHERS PRESENT:

Carol Sala, Administrator, Aging Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services

Todd Butterworth, Bureau Chief, Office of Disability Services, Department of Health and Human Services

Chair Leslie:

This meeting will come to order. [Roll.] We will open the hearing on Senate Bill 150.

Senate Bill 150: Expands the jurisdiction of advocates for residents of facilities for long-term care. (BDR 38-596)

Carol Sala, Administrator, Aging Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services:

[Read ([Exhibit C](#)).]

Chair Leslie:

It sounds like a good idea. Have there been many complaints?

Carol Sala:

We get complaints from the Homes for Individual Residential Care. We deal with them even though they are not covered by the definition in the statute. They are currently licensed by the Health Division, and the Health Division collaborates with them on complaints. The language is cleanup language.

Chair Leslie:

They have been investigating?

Carol Sala:

Yes.

Chair Leslie:

Are there questions from the Committee? [There was no response.] I do not think we will move this bill forward today because we are missing some members and we do not want to add a burden to the floor, unless there is a rush. We will hold it for now and deal with it next week. Thank you.

Is there anyone who would like to testify on Senate Bill 150? [There was no response.] We will close the bill on Senate Bill 150 and open the hearing on Senate Bill 220.

Senate Bill 220: Revises provisions relating to programs and services for persons with disabilities. (BDR 38-594)

Todd Butterworth, Bureau Chief, Office of Disability Services, Department of Health and Human Services:

Senate Bill 220 is an agency bill, and it has three major provisions.

The first provision consolidates some of our reports. We are mandated to write five different reports. Each report is narrowly focused, and does not give the reader a good picture of how the particular issue fits into the overall picture of disability services. We are proposing to combine these reports into a single, comprehensive biennium report that looks at all the salient issues.

The second provision is related to sign language interpreters. Currently, the Rehabilitation Division is required to maintain a list of sign language interpreters, and make them available to anyone who is interested. Because our agency is home to all of Nevada's various deaf services, we think it makes sense for our agency to maintain those lists. The Rehabilitation Division and the Office of the Disability Services support this transfer of responsibility.

The third provision of the bill changes the definition of severe functional disability in the personal assistance services program. If you recall, Madam Chair, we had a discussion about providing services to people with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). During the interim, we clarified our regulations to provide services to those people, and we are beginning to serve them now. When we do our case load projections, however, the statute only allows us to focus on individuals who have a severe functional disability. The definition excludes people with TBI because most of them do not need help with bathing, toileting, and eating. We want to clarify the definition so it enables our agency to properly serve those people.

Assemblywoman Weber:

Regarding the maintenance of the list of interpreters, is that for both the schools and the courts? Is that for another purpose?

Todd Butterworth:

Essentially, it is a generic list of qualified interpreters. Some of you are probably aware that Senate Bill 473 will create a comprehensive web-based registry of interpreters. If Senate Bill 473 passes, it will make this legislation move. The interpreters may or may not be educational interpreters.

Assemblyman Stewart:

If I understand this correctly, you are making a list and checking it once instead twice, thereby reducing the number of statutes?

Todd Butterworth:

[Mr. Butterworth indicated yes.]

Chair Leslie:

Can you tell us how the TBI program is working? How does this legislation relate to that?

Todd Butterworth:

We have a post-acute TBI rehabilitation program in our agency. They help people to relearn how to walk, talk, and so on. That program is doing well, and we have a decision unit that provides additional support. The home care program is being impacted, which also provides services to people with TBI. We are serving a handful of people now. We had limited slots available this year because they filled up with other people who were institutionalized and had severe functional needs. In the new fiscal year, there will be more people with TBI that we may need to serve. The program works great. We only provide a few hours of service each day for most of the people. It makes it possible for them to live in the community, and it makes a big difference.

Chair Leslie:

By adding this provision, we will not create a longer waiting list?

Todd Butterworth:

Exactly. We are proposing that individuals with TBI be included with our caseload data. Right now, they are excluded because they do not need help with bathing, toileting, and eating.

Chair Leslie:

That is a good idea. Are there other questions? [There was no response.]

Todd Butterworth:

Thank you for all the work you do for people with disabilities. We appreciate it.

Chair Leslie:

We appreciate being thanked. Is there anyone else who would like to testify? [There was no response.] We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 220 and hold the bill for next week. This meeting is adjourned. [2:43 p.m.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Katrina Zach
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

Committee Name: Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: April 18, 2007

Time of Meeting: 1:30 p.m.

Bill	Exhibit	Witness / Agency	Description
	A	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	Agenda
	B	Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services	Attendance Roster
S.B. 150	C	Carol Sala, Department of Health and Human Services	Prepared Testimony

