

SPENDING AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
(SAGE Commission)
Thursday, September 25, 2008 – 10:00 a.m.
Grant Sawyer Building, Governor’s Conference Room, Suite 5100
555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Bruce James (Chairperson), Don Ahern, Barbara Campbell, Robert Feldman, Robert Forbuss, David Goldwater, Stephen Greathouse, Steven Hill, Howard Putnam, Jerome Snyder, Jim Thornton, Carole Vilardo, Jan Jones

Absent: Randy Garcia

Also present: Frank Partlow (Executive Director), Perry Comeaux (Deputy Director), Suzanne Kilgore (General Manager)

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairperson James called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Roll call was heard and a quorum was determined. At 11:45 a.m., Jan Jones arrived at the meeting. Chairperson James reported Randy Garcia had called prior to the meeting and stated he would not be in attendance at today’s meeting due to illness.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 19, 2008

The following correction was noted: (a) on page 7, second paragraph from the top, the word “methods” should be changed to metrics.

Carole Vilardo moved to approve the August 19, 2008 meeting minutes as amended. Howard Putnam seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN FIRST 90-DAY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Chairperson James requested Frank Partlow and Perry Comeaux review proposed recommendations (Proposals A through L) to be voted on by the Commission as a whole unless it was suggested to vote on a recommendation separately. There were no objections. At this time, Executive Director Partlow and Deputy Director Comeaux reviewed Proposals A through L with Commission discussion/concerns heard.

During this time, Jan Jones arrived at the meeting.

IV. WORKING LUNCH

At 12:10 p.m., Chairperson James called for a lunch break. At 12:30 p.m., the meeting resumed with Executive Director Partlow reviewing Proposal K.

Upon conclusion of review of Proposals A through L and Commission discussion, the Commission decided on the following: to vote on Proposal B separately and to postpone Proposal D regarding increased staffing in the Surveillance Utilization Review program until the December Report to the Governor in order to allow Mike Willden to present more information on the proposal during the October meeting. Discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of implementing a four-day work week for non-critical Nevada State Employees (Proposal L).

Jan Jones moved to adopt Proposals A through L with the exception of Proposals B and D. Robert Forbuss seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Robert Forbuss moved to adopt Proposal B. Carole Vilardo seconded the Motion. Discussion followed.

Commission member Goldwater stated he would vote against the motion because, in his opinion, the Proposal to review staffing ratios in state-operated psychiatric facilities was not within the mission of the SAGE Commission and because there was not enough information provided to determine how it would be a cost savings to the State. Commission member Jones agreed. Commission member Greathouse agreed and stated performance criteria was missing. Deputy Director Comeaux explained Proposal B was only to evaluate reducing staffing ratios as a possible means for a cost savings rather than reducing services.

Concerns were raised regarding including estimates of staffing ratio decreases when an evaluation of staffing ratios was the recommendation. The Commission discussed and decided to remove the last two paragraphs and the cost estimates from the proposal.

Commission member Forbuss withdrew his previous motion.

Barbara Campbell moved to adopt Proposal B with the following changes: 1) that the one-year and five-year estimates be changed to read "To Be Determined"; and 2) that the last two paragraphs of the Explanation be deleted. James Thornton seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Jan Jones left the meeting and Chairperson James called for a five-minute break.

V. REVIEW AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING POSSIBLE ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SECOND 90-DAY REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR TO BE APPROVED AT THE DECEMBER 4TH COMMISSION MEETING AND SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR ON DECEMBER 12TH

Chairperson James explained the November and December meetings were combined into a joint meeting on December 4th therefore the October meeting would be the last meeting to discuss possible items to be prepared for review at the December 4th SAGE Commission Meeting for possible inclusion in the 90-day Report to be submitted to the Governor by the end of December

Commission member Hill provided an update on the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) study and the Public Employee Benefit Program (PEBP) study, each published by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. He reviewed the projected budget deficit in thirty years if there were no changes to the current PERS and PEBP systems. Commission member Vilardo added bond ratings would suffer if nothing was done to fund these current trusts.

Commission member Snyder asked if projected numbers were based on the number of current employees or the number of possible employees hired over the thirty-year period. Commission member Hill stated it was an actuarial projection created by PEBP. Discussion followed about the SAGE Commission's role in reviewing these issues. It was discussed and decided to obtain more information during the October meeting.

Executive Director Partlow confirmed the SAGE Commission was requesting staff continue to review proposals for possible adoption in December and that individuals identified would still be willing to work with staff to prepare proposals to be presented to the Commission. He explained proposals would be tracked until made into recommendations. He reviewed items 1 through 24.

Commission member Campbell reported item 15 regarding possible leasing of cars for state use should be changed to possible creation of a vehicle management system due to the fact she had learned there were over 8,000 vehicles owned by the State.

It was discussed and decided that Commission member Goldwater and Commission member Campbell would work on item 21 regarding possible creation of a Sunset Commission.

Chairperson James requested an item 25 regarding a study of user fees and requested that more information be provided at the December meeting. It was also requested that item 26 be a study of real estate inventory.

VI. REVIEW OF TASK FORCE WORK TABLES AND CALENDAR OF 90-DAY REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR, INCLUDING COMMISSIONER LIAISON AND STAFF ASSIGNMENTS. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Executive Director Partlow noted that Commissioners had received printed reports on Task Forces and a calendar of 90 Day Reports to the Governor. He stated that Task Force work would begin in earnest after the December Report was completed.

VII. UPDATES BY INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS ON POSSIBLE AREAS FOR SAGE REVIEW

There were no updates presented.

VIII. REPORT ON STATUS OF SURVEY OF STATE EMPLOYEES. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Executive Director Partlow reported surveys may be distributed next week. Screen prints would be issued to Commission members. A cover letter from Chairperson James is also included with the survey. A contest would also be held for completion of the survey.

Chairperson James reported the Nevada “Piglet Book” regarding citizens against government waste was out.

It was announced the October meeting would be held on Friday, October 24, 2008.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION: Time limit: three (3) minutes per person. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item on which action will be taken.

There were no public comment requests.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Steven Greathouse moved to adjourn the meeting. Robert Feldman seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.