

SPENDING AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (SAGE) COMMISSION

Thursday, September 24, 2009
Building A, Room 104, Neil J. Redfield Campus, UNR
18600 Wedge Parkway, Reno, Nevada
10:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Bruce James, Don Ahern, Barbara Campbell, Robert Feldman, David Goldwater, Steven Hill, Howard Putnam, Jerome Snyder, Jim Thornton

Absent: Robert Forbuss, Randy Garcia, Stephen Greathouse, Jan Jones, Carole Vilardo

Also present: Frank Partlow (Executive Director), Perry Comeaux (Deputy Director), Suzanne Kilgore (General Manager), Bob Bayer, Senior Advisor, Nevada Department of Corrections

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Chairman Bruce James called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. A quorum of Commissioners was present at 10:10 am.

The Chairman noted that Agenda Item 3 would be addressed next.

III. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT PROPOSAL A AND DRAFT PROPOSAL B AS POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE IN THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.

Deputy Director Partlow introduced Bob Bayer, former Director and currently Senior Advisor to the Nevada Department of Corrections (DOC). Mr. Bayer has been working with the Task Force on various proposals. Mr. Bayer discussed in detail with the Commission various aspects of Proposal A – restructure of the Department of Corrections to include the Board of Parole Commissioners and the Department of Public Safety's Division of Parole and Probation -- and Proposal B – privatization of medical and mental health care and pharmaceuticals in prisons – based on his experience as head of DOC and his work with prison systems in other states.

It was determined that Proposals A and B would be amended and brought before the October 23, 2009 meeting of the Commission.

At 12:15 pm Chairman James called a lunch recess. The meeting resumed at 12:55 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 27, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING. CHAIRMAN. (ACTION)

Commissioner Feldman moved that the Minutes of the August 27, 2009 Commission Meeting be approved as presented. Commissioner Goldwater seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DRAFT PROPOSALS AS POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE IN THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR.

a) DRAFT PROPOSAL C - DOIT EXEMPTIONS

Commissioner Hill moved that Proposal C be adopted as presented. Commissioner Putnam seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as SAGE Recommendation #34.

B) Draft Proposal D - VoIP Communications Platform

Commissioner Putnam moved that Proposal D be adopted as presented. Commissioner Goldwater seconded the Motion. The motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as SAGE Recommendation #35.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF COMMISSIONERS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF A “SAGE LEGACY LETTER” AND/OR “NOTES FOR THE GOVERNOR” TO SUGGEST IDEAS AND CONCEPTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF NEVADA STATE GOVERNMENT WHICH THE COMMISSION WAS NOT ABLE TO FULLY EVALUATE.

The consensus of the Commission was that this document should be based on principles that are applicable for the state over the long term. Included would be emphasis on Recommendations that are worthy of additional action and additional issues the state should address that the Commission is not equipped to review. Commissioner Goldwater will begin the process by preparing a draft and circulating it to Commissioner electronically.

VI. COMMISSIONER PUTNAM REPORT ON THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES MEETING.

Commissioner Putnam reported on his participation as a speaker at the recent Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) meeting. County representatives will be meeting in Las Vegas in October to discuss possible opportunities for consolidation of services. He suggested to the county executives that they look for even a single issue to work on together. He recommended that the Commission get input from counties as part of creating the document discussed under the previous Agenda item.

VII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AND COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING UPCOMING WORK PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SAGE COMMISSION.

Executive Director Partlow listed the following issues as currently under review for Proposals to be brought before the Commission at upcoming meetings: Creation of a central grants office/process; suggestions for amendment of the state’s budgeting process; pharmaceutical management; cross training; and aspects of NDOT construction and maintenance definitions and facilities.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION. Time limit, three 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.

Ray Bacon, Nevada Association of Manufacturers, encouraged the Commission to pursue the ideas suggested in discussion of a legacy document and suggested it also address defining the relationship between local, state, and federal governments. He suggested the Interim Legislative Study process be employed to consider issues such as amendments to the budget process. He suggested a briefing on SAGE Recommendations might be scheduled in coordination with the Nevada Taxpayers Association briefing.

Jeanette Belz, who represents the Nevada Associated General Contractors and other interests, suggested items for future consideration cited in the legacy document might include public access to information and an overall review of IT and how well it is employed by various state government entities.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

At 2:25 p.m., Commissioner Hill moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Snyder seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.