

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Steve H. Fisher
Administrator

NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF WELFARE & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PUBLIC HEARING to Consider a proposal to amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) State Plan and Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation State Plan to allow the DWSS Administrator to approve supplemental payments for all or some of the eligible households when funds are available; and the New Employees of Nevada of Nevada (NEON) Work Verification Plan to modify the definition, supervision and verification requirements for the Vocational Training activity.

The public hearing to adopt the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance and Conservation and approve the Work Verification Plan was brought to order by Elisa Cafferata, Deputy Administrator for Field Operations Support of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services at 1:00p.m. on Tuesday April 21, 2020.

This hearing was originally scheduled to be video conferenced between the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Professional Development Center, 701 N. Rancho Drive, Training Room 5, Las Vegas, Nevada. and the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Central Office, 1470 College Parkway, Room 149, Carson City, Nevada. However, *due to Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 (COVID-19), no physical locations were made available, but the public was encouraged to participate by phone and earlier provided the appropriate contact information.*

Staff Calling in from the North:

Elisa Cafferata, Deputy Administrator Field Operations Support, DWSS
Maria Wortman-Meshberger, Chief Employment & Support Services, DWSS
Betsy Ransdell, Social Services Program Specialist, DWSS
Eric Hennessey, Social Services Program Specialist, DWSS
Tonya Stevenson, Social Services Program Specialist, DWSS
Kelly O'Meara, Executive Assistant

Staff South:

None

Legal Representation:

Ryan Sunga, DAG

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jessica Mahon, Community Services Agency
Irene Dunlap, Eligibility Specialist, Nye County

Deputy Administrator Cafferata opened the public hearing at 1:00p.m., explaining the hearing process and that this public hearing had been noticed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and posted on the Division's website.

Deputy Administrator Cafferata invited Maria Wortman-Meshberger (Social Services Chief, Employment and Supportive Services) to present items on the agenda.

The proposed changes to the FY 2020 state plan and policy changes for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) program

Maria:

- *Under Section 2 Other Definitions, add – 2.40* “Supplemental payment” means during the SFY, if it is determined additional funds will be available, the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Administrator has the authority to approve a supplemental payment for all or some of the eligible households.
- *Under Section 10 Program Benefits, add – 10.1.2.1* During the SFY, if it is determined additional funds will be available, the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Administrator has the authority to approve a supplemental payment for all or some of the eligible households.

The proposed changes to the FY2020 state plan and policy changes for the Nevada Fund for Energy Assistance.

Maria:

- *Under Section 2.6 add –* During the SFY if it is determined additional funds will be available, the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services Administrator has the authority to approve a supplemental payment for all or some of the eligible households.

The proposed changes to the TANF Work Verification Plan

Maria:

- Throughout the document, minor corrections, clarifications and formatting changes were made.
- In response to guidance provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) TANF Program Policy Questions and Answers dated May 2014, the Work Verification Plan will be modified to simplify and reduce the administrative burden of supervising/verifying hours of participation in educational activities.
The Division will report educational hours of participation if the case managers document hours of participation, demonstrates ongoing contact with the work-eligible individual and there exists adequate evidence the individual is making satisfactory progress.

Elisa Cafferata:

Are there any comments about the proposed changes?

Since there are there are no comments, I will adopt these state plans on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective today April 21, 2020.

I will accept the changes to the Work Verification Plan on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Are there any public comments on items not on the agenda?

Since there were no comments, Deputy Administrator Cafferata thanked those on the call for their participation in the Public Hearing today and pronounced the hearing closed.