

**STATE OF NEVADA  
NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

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*March 8, 2010*

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Office of the Attorney General  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202  
Reno, Nevada 89511

**Committee Members Present**

Amy Crowe

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Suzanne Ramos  
Vicki "Vic" Hutchings  
Caryn Sternlicht  
Anya Arechiga  
Toni Downen  
Christina Hernandez

**Committee Members Absent**

Adriana Botello

**Public Present**

Joe Tommasino, Las Vegas Justice Court

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General  
Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the Council

**1. \*Call to order, roll call of members.**

Suzanne Ramos called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

**2. \*Review and approval of minutes from October 5, 2009.**

Ms. Ramos asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes and if there was a motion to approve or amend the minutes. Caryn Sternlicht made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Amy Crowe seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. \*Discussion of survey relating to TPO processing by Joe Tommasino, Staff Attorney, Clark County Courts.**

Ms. Prentice invited Mr. Joe Tommasino, who sits on the Supreme Court Protection Order Ad Hoc Committee, to talk about his survey. Mr. Tommasino stated that he got involved with this project as part of the Supreme Court's Court Management Program and the Court Executive Development Program. His project involves limited jurisdiction protection orders. He reviewed all of the TPOs processed by the Las Vegas Justice Court in 2008 and examined how quickly judges processed the cases; statutory compliance; legal issues; ambiguities, etc. Two other components of the project involved a customer service survey for anyone who filed for a TPO over a 90 day period, and a survey sent to the 10 justice courts in Nevada that process the most non-domestic violence TPOs. Nine of the courts answered the survey and Mr. Tommasino is currently working on compiling the answers. He stated that the purpose of the survey was to see if there were certain issues recurring from court to court, such as the challenges in obtaining and enforcing, protection orders against a minor.

In response to a question from Ms. Ramos, Mr. Tommasino stated that the focus of the survey was not on domestic violence TPOs because, from his perspective, the domestic violence TPOs got most of the scrutiny in national publications and law review articles and so one of his objectives was to find out if the domestic violence TPO construct works in other contexts, or if it is being distorted once it is taken out of the domestic arena.

Ms. Prentice had heard that some people filing for stalking and harassment were being turned away and told to get a domestic violence TPO. Mr. Tommasino said that, yes, it was a state-wide problem. However, he had also heard that some people filing in family court were told to go to justice court where the penalty is more severe. The way he interprets the law is that both TPOs can be in effect at the same time and so people should be able to file in any court, and no one should be turned away.

Ms. Ramos asked if any of the courts surveyed were requiring a police report in order to get a stalking/harassment order. Mr. Tommasino stated that one

court responded that occasionally a judge wanted to see a report, but none of them required a police report to get a TPO.

The Committee asked for the results of several of the questions. The results of the survey will be published on the National Center website and Mr. Tommasino will notify the Committee when it is posted.

**4. \*Discussion and possible action on future plans for Underserved Populations Committee, i.e. TPO intake process, DV program survey, report on bilingual services, etc.**

Because Mr. Tommasino's survey was focused on non-domestic violence TPO's, the Committee discussed the possibility of doing a survey with the family courts, perhaps utilizing some of the questions Mr. Tommasino posed in his survey. Ms. Ramos suggested using questions 44-50 and adding questions about whether there were bilingual services and sign language interpreters available. Ms. Sternlicht stated she had a memo regarding interpreters in Washoe County and will provide it for the Committee. Mr. Tommasino suggested asking if family courts had Informational materials in other languages and if their websites provided a link to information on how to apply for a TPO in Spanish or a video link to information in different languages. Christina Hernandez, Joe Tommasino, Vic Hutchings, Suzanne Ramos, Kareen Prentice, and Caryn Sternlicht volunteered to form a subcommittee to work on the survey. Mr. Tommasino noted some difficulty he had in distributing his survey to the courts. Ms. Ramos stated that once the Committee's survey was drafted she would contact Ron Titus for input on how to distribute the survey. Mr. Tommasino said that the AOC has a program that can tabulate results that have been submitted on-line and would be ideal, if the Committee could arrange to use it. Toni Downen made a motion to establish a subcommittee to work on the TPO survey. Christina Hernandez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Ramos will send Lorraine Webber some possible dates so that she can coordinate a meeting of the subcommittee.

**5. \*Review, discussion and action on speaker for the next Council meeting.**

This item was tabled until the next meeting at which time the Committee will discuss a guest speaker from the Elko or West Wendover area for the July 14-15 rural road tour meeting.

**6. \*Discussion and possible action regarding rural transportation Issue along I-80 Corridor for victims of domestic Violence.**

This is a goal that was carried over from 2009. The Committee discussed various ideas. A lot of the shelters and programs in the rural communities don't have the vehicles or the staff to transport victims. One option may be private volunteers who can transport victims from the sheriffs office, but liability issues could be a problem. The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a confidential list of people who agree to transport people as private citizens, not as agents of a program or shelter, who will maintain liability insurance on their vehicles.

Ms Crowe asked what problems there were with using Greyhound or Amtrak. Ms. Ramos stated that Greyhound comes through Elko only once a day, in the very early morning, and the Amtrak stops are extremely isolated. Ms. Ramos added that Greyhound won't even make a scheduled stop if the bus is full.

Ms. Ramos stated that the Committee should keep this item as a goal and collaborate with rural victims programs to try and solve the problem. Ms. Hutchings stated that she has talked with the police chief of West Wendover and he said that the majority of victims there are employed and do not want to leave their jobs and lose their livelihood. There is a need for more, bigger, more flexible shelters so that women can stay and keep their jobs in rural communities. Ms. Hutchings stated she was told that the Elko shelter was denying services to victims who are not U.S. citizens. Ms. Prentice said she would look into it and report back to the Committee.

The Committee then discussed some issues surrounding shelter access. Ms. Hernandez stated that there is a problem in the Transgender community when victims with male genitalia are denied admission to shelters.

Ms. Downen asked about legal liability if someone is denied access to a shelter and is subsequently killed by the perpetrator.

Ms. Sternlicht stated that in some states, victims are housed by volunteers in their own homes and this may be another option to consider in rural communities.

**7. \*Discussion and possible action regarding training for hearing masters and how rurals are having TPOs heard statewide.**

This item was referred to the Judicial Training Committee for consideration.

## **8. \*Set Committee Goals for 2010.**

Ms. Ramos reviewed the 2009 goals and thought the Committee should continue to work on three of them:

I-80 Corridor Transportation Issues  
Domestic Violence Survey – protection orders and gaps in service  
Continue to arrange Council meeting speakers

She asked the Committee for input on new goals.

Ms. Hernandez suggested outreach to the LGBT community regarding domestic violence because it is a population that is not targeted for education or prevention. There are not many services available and there are issues regarding intakes not being inclusive of gender or orientation. Ms. Prentice suggested setting this issue as an agenda item and a goal.

Ms. Sternlicht suggested that women leaving prison was an underserved population that may need some attention. This will be a discussion item on the next agenda.

Amy Crowe made a motion to approve the 2010 Committee Goals. Vic Hutchings seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

## **9. \*Schedule future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting was scheduled for May, 10, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda items will include:

- Discussion of survey relating to TPO Processing.
- Discussion and possible action of future plans for Underserved Populations Committee, i.e. TPO Intake Process, DV Program survey, Report on bilingual services, etc.
- Review, discussion and action on speaker for the next Council meeting.

- Discussion and possible action regarding Rural Transportation issues along I-80 Corridor for Victims of Domestic Violence.
- Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to LGBT community.
- Discussion and possible action regarding women who have recently been released from prison.

**9. \*Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**10. \*Adjournment.**

Caryn Sternlicht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Crowe seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

**STATE OF NEVADA  
NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

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*May 10, 2010*

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Office of the Attorney General  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202  
Reno, Nevada 89511

**Committee Members Present**

Amy Crowe  
Suzanne Ramos

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Caryn Sternlicht  
Toni Downen  
Christina Hernandez

**Committee Members Absent**

Vic Hutchings  
Anya Arechiga

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General  
Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the Council

**1. \*Call to order, roll call of members.**

Suzanne Ramos called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A roll call was performed and quorum was established.

**2. \*Review and approval of minutes from March 8, 2010.**

Ms. Ramos asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes and if there was a motion to approve or amend the minutes. Amy Crowe made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Christina Hernandez seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. \*Discussion and possible action on future plans for Underserved Populations Committee, i.e. TPO intake process, DV program survey, report on bilingual services, etc.**

Ms. Ramos stated that at the March 8, 2010 meeting of the Committee, a subcommittee was formed to develop a family court judge survey. She suggested that the Committee work on the project as whole instead. The Committee agreed and discussed setting a meeting to work on it.

**4. \*Review, discussion and action on speaker for the next Council meeting.**

The Committee discussed inviting Yvette Waters from the CADV program in Elko. Amy Crowe made a motion to invite Ms. Waters as the guest speaker. Caryn Sternlicht seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. \*Discussion and possible action regarding rural transportation Issue along I-80 Corridor for victims of domestic Violence.**

Christina Hernandez asked if there was anything they could start working on to resolve this issue. The Committee discussed the difficulties in getting major corporations like Greyhound and Amtrak involved.

Ms. Sternlicht stated that it might be best to start on a community level and gather the names of people who might be willing to transport victims on a rotating basis. Ms. Ramos suggested discussing the issue with Yvette Waters for possible collaboration on the issue.

Ms. Sternlicht noted that the issue is one that will take a lot of collaboration, reaching out, networking etc. and so unless it is someone's full-time job, it might be best to start with a single community instead of trying to solve the problem on a state-wide basis.

**6. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to the LGBT community.**



The Committee discussed various ways they might reach the LGBT community and the lack of services for them. Ms. Hernandez noted that the problem presents two main issues: educating service providers on how to be more inclusive, and making the community aware of the services that are available to them.

As a first step, the Committee discussed gathering a list of resources around the state. Ms. Hernandez volunteered to assemble a list of resources and services in the south. Ms. Crowe volunteered to do the same for the north and said she would check the PFLAG directory for resources available in the rural areas.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having a table at the August Gay Pride event in the North. Ms. Ramos asked the Committee to send Lorraine Webber information on any other events they may wish to discuss at future meetings. Ms. Crowe stated that she would check to see what the cost of having a table at the Gay Pride event may be.

Ms. Hernandez stated that there was a recent report from the Victims of Crime and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs that talked about the history of the problem and what services can do to be more inclusive. She will send the report to Ms. Webber for distribution to the Committee.

**7. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to women who have recently been released from prison.**

Ms. Sternlicht stated that a large number of women in prison had experienced domestic violence and that she was very interested in this topic. As a starting point, Ms. Prentice suggested inviting Traci Dory, Victim Advocate for the Nevada Department of Corrections, to come to a Committee meeting to give an overview of the services and educational programs available to women in Nevada prisons.

**8. \*Schedule future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

This will be a working meeting to draft the family court judge survey.

There will also be an update on the Gay Pride event so that the Committee can organize having a table there if possible.

**9. \*Public Comment.**

Ms. Prentice stated that the Attorney General had a phone call from Larry Mosley, the Director of the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation regarding the domestic violence homicide of his niece in Las Vegas. She stated that Mr. Mosely suggested an African American summit on Domestic Violence in the North and in the South. Ms. Prentice will be discussing this idea with the Attorney General and will possibly be working on the project and will keep the Committee updated on its status. She said she may reach out to the Committee for help and ideas.

**10. \*Adjournment.**

Amy Crowe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Toni Downen seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**October 4, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.**

Via Teleconference with Public Access Located at:  
Office of the Attorney General  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202, Reno, Nevada 89511

**Committee Members Present**

Amy Crowe

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Anya Arechiga  
Christina Hernandez  
Suzanne Ramos  
Caryn Sternlicht  
Toni Downen

**Committee Members Absent**

None

**Public Present**

Joe Tommasino, Las Vegas Justice Court

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman  
Henna Rasul, Deputy Attorney General  
Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the NCPDV

**1. \*Call to order, roll call of members, establish quorum.**

Suzanne Ramos called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**2. \*Review and approval of minutes from June 14, 2010 meeting.**

Amy Crowe made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2010 meeting as submitted. Caryn Sternlicht seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

### **3. \*Discussion and possible action on family court judge survey.**

Ms. Ramos asked if everyone had had an opportunity to review the draft survey and if there were any suggestions for changes to the format or additions to the survey. Amy Crowe made a motion to approve the revised survey and submit it to the Council for review. Christina Hernandez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Ms. Ramos stated that once the survey is approved by the Council, the Committee will discuss how to distribute it. She would like for it to get to the person who actually works on the protection orders. Ms. Prentice suggested discussing it with Ron Titus during the Council meeting.

Mr. Tommasino later joined the call. He suggested the adding the question, "What is your Court's record retention policy for protection order case files." He also suggested clarifying questions #9 to read "Does your court collect *from applicants* any fees relating to TPO actions?" Amy Crowe made a motion to strike the previous motion approving the survey in order to incorporate Mr. Tommasino's suggestions. Caryn Sternlicht seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Crowe then made a motion to amend the survey with the changes discussed. Caryn Sternlicht seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Sternlicht suggested adding the question, "If you grant an extended protection order, do you always grant primary custody of minor children to the applicant?" Ms. Sternlicht stated that although this is addressed in Statute, it has been a problem with the Court Masters who sometimes grant joint physical custody. Ms. Ramos suggested placing the question after number 15 in the survey.

Mr. Tommasino asked if the survey was being directed to judges or to people who process the TPOs because some of the questions ask what does the court do, generally, and others ask what do you do? Ms. Ramos stated it may be both because in the rural communities, they don't have court masters, just justices of the peace and their administrative assistants. The committee agreed that the phrasing should be consistent throughout the survey. Because the survey may be going to multiple judges in the same court, Mr. Tommasino suggested the phrasing, what do you do? Ms. Ramos stated that she would review the survey and make the appropriate changes.

Amy Crowe made a motion to further amend the survey as discussed. Caryn Sternlicht seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion was approved. Ms. Ramos stated that they would present the survey at the Council meeting and then follow up with a Committee meeting to finalize the survey.

### **4. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to LGBT community.**

Ms. Crowe stated that at one of the past meetings, she was assigned to obtain a list of various LGBT organizations. She thought it might be more useful to find a brochure that addresses domestic violence in the LGBT community to present to these organizations.

Ms. Hernandez suggested a different approach. Through conversations she has had with during recent training events, she has become aware that many services may not be ready or equipped to help victims in the LGBT community. The best course of action may be to start with the service providers and once they are trained, then do outreach to the community. She suggested having a representative from the LGBT center speak at a Council meeting.

Ms. Hernandez added that it was also important to work with different service providers to make sure that their policies are inclusive and to make the shelters safe and comfortable for everyone. It was suggested that the Committee contact Sue Meuschke to see if the NNADV has been working on this subject and what brochures or resources are already available. Ms. Hernandez will ask Mel Goodwin to speak at the next Council meeting. Ms. Prentice suggested inviting Ms. Goodwin and Ms. Meuschke to attend the next Underserved Populations Committee meeting as well.

**5. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to women who have recently been released from prison.**

Ms. Sternlicht stated she wasn't sure what could be done, but that it was a topic she was concerned about. She thought that maybe there was some information or support that could be provided while they are still in prison, or transitioning back to life outside of prison. Ms. Ramos stated that Deborah Armstrong does outreach at the prison in Carson City. Ms. Prentice stated that the Committee had planned to invite Traci Dory from the Department of Corrections to the next meeting to see what services are offered. Ms. Ramos suggested inviting Deborah Armstrong as well. By finding out what services are available, the Committee can then determine where there are gaps.

**6. \*Discussion and possible action regarding speaker for next Council Meeting.**

Christina Hernandez made a motion to invite Mel Goodwin from the Gay and Lesbian Center in Southern Nevada to speak at the November 16, 2010 meeting. Anya Arechiga seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**7. \*Review, discussion and possible action regarding 2011 Committee Goals.**

Ms Ramos reviewed the Committees current goals and stated that they all seemed to be progressing well. The goals are:

- The family court/justice court judges survey
- Outreach to the LGBT community
- Outreach to women in the prison system
- Provide a guest speaker to talk about underserved populations issues at each Council meeting.

**8. \*Schedule future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 13, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Agenda items will include the family court judges' survey, outreach to the LGBT community and outreach to women in the prison system.

**9. Public comment.**

There was no public comment.

**10. \*Adjournment.**

Caryn Sternlicht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Toni Downen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**December 13, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.**

Via Teleconference with Public Access Located at:  
Office of the Attorney General  
5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202, Reno, Nevada 89511

**Committee Members Present**

Amy Crowe  
Suzanne Ramos

**Committee Members Present Via Teleconference**

Anya Arechiga  
Christina Hernandez  
Toni Downen

**Committee Members Absent**

Caryn Sternlicht

**Public Present**

Mel Goodwin, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada  
Judy Henderson, NNADV  
Deborah Armstrong, Safe Embrace

**NCPDV Members Present**

Traci Dory

**Attorney General's Office Staff Present**

Lorraine Webber, Assistant to the NCPDV

**1. \*Call to order, roll call of members, establish quorum.**

Suzanne Ramos called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A roll call was taken and quorum was established.

**2. \*Review and approval of minutes from June 14, 2010 meeting.**

Christina Hernandez made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Toni Downen seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved as submitted.

**3. \*Discussion and possible action on family court judge survey.**

Ms. Ramos stated that the survey had been given to Council members at the November 16, 2010 meeting for their review. No comments or suggestions for changes had been sent to Ms. Webber. Ms. Ramos asked Committee members if they had any changes. There were none from the Committee. Ms. Ramos stated she had talked to Ron Titus when she was leaving the Council meeting in November. He said that he could use the AOC server to send out the survey to the judges. Ms. Crowe stated that since there had been no feedback from the Council members, she would make a motion to send out the questionnaire via Ron Titus. Christina Hernandez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Ramos will contact Kareen Prentice and Ron Titus to determine the best way to send it out through the AOC.

**4. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to LGBT community.**

Ms. Henderson stated that as part of her position as Education Outreach Manager for NNADV, she oversees the resource center and told the Committee what was available and had been distributed in 2010. Currently the NNADV has 16 books, six manuals, and five videos or DVDs available on domestic violence and LGBT community outreach. There is also an information packet available. It is primarily for advocates but is available to anyone who would like the information. The packet includes statistics, myths and facts relating to the LGBT community and domestic violence; types of abuse; power and control wheels; prevention and intervention strategies and how to reduce barriers for people seeking services; a list of statewide and national resources, and technical assistance materials. The Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Queer, Domestic and Intimate Violence in the United States Report, 2009 is available electronically. Ms. Henderson stated that for distribution purposes, one of the NNADV's main contacts has been Ricky Moyer, the chair of the domestic violence project for the NLAI. He has received over 8877 pieces of material for his organization's outreach efforts. Ms. Henderson added that for Gay and Lesbian Pride Awareness Month in June, the NNADV contacted organizations and sent out 600 brochures as requested by the organizations. Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Henderson to send her an information packet and to send the resource list to Ms. Webber.

Ms. Hernandez asked if the NNADV had any requests from shelters or other service agencies for training on how to be inclusive of the LGBT community. Ms. Henderson stated that that would be a better question for the training and technical assistance division of the NNADV. Since Deborah Armstrong, the executive director of Safe Embrace was on the conference call, Ms. Henderson asked her to address the question. Ms. Armstrong stated that although they do not have a specific policy in place, they do provide services to all victims and noted that the shelter did recently assist a transgender woman.



Ms. Hernandez asked where the information on the NNADV's brochure came from. Ms. Henderson stated she was not certain as she did not have a hand in creating the brochure. Ms. Hernandez stated that the Committee had been discussing looking at resources that had been created by the community for the community versus changing pronouns in an existing brochure so that it refers to same sex couples, for example. Ms. Henderson stated that the NNADV would be updating its brochures in 2011 and would encourage the Committee's assistance and feedback in updating them. Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Henderson to send the brochures to Ms. Webber for distribution to the Committee. Ms. Henderson thought there may be information from the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Queer, Domestic and Intimate Violence in the United States Report, 2009 study that could be extracted and used in updating the brochures.

Ms. Crowe suggested that it might be helpful to talk to Ricky Moyer to see how much interest there has been in the materials he has been distributing and to determine where there may be gaps.

Mel Goodwin stated she wanted to share her concerns about the LGBT community, particularly those who are transgender, getting the services that they need. She is concerned that people are being asked questions about their genitals when they seek help. She stated that providers don't necessarily think about these issues until something comes up and then there is no time for training and a decision has to be made right away. Organizations can do outreach, but if service providers are not equipped to deal with transgender clients, it creates a different kind of problem.

Another problem Ms. Goodwin has identified is the difference in information provided by front-line staff for providers versus the directors or managers. Occasionally, someone in need of shelter is offered a motel room but Ms. Goodwin believes it is important to ensure those people have access to the same services as they would if they were at the shelter.

Ms. Hernandez asked Ms. Goodwin to talk about the issue of batterers treatment in the LGBT community. Ms. Goodwin stated that batterers treatment classes are geared towards heterosexual relationships and that those in the LGBT community were not being given the safe space required to be successful in those classes. Ms. Ramos asked if there was anyone working within the state to address the issue, or if anyone knew of another state that had and whether their efforts could be duplicated here. Ms. Ramos suggested contacting the Committee on Domestic Violence to address the issue. Ms. Crowe thought that there must be same sex batterers treatment programs in California but that Nevada's population might not support those groups. An alternative to group treatment might be necessary. She suggested looking at what other states with similar populations may be doing.

Ms. Hernandez stated that another issue for services is deciding who the victim is and who the batterer is. For example, a shelter may provide services for one person and then a few days later, that person's partner calls and presents themselves as a

victim in need of services from the same provider. This could potentially place the first victim danger. She suggested that policies need to be developed and put in place to protect the clients from harm, and the service providers from liability issues. Ms. Hernandez asked Ms. Henderson if the NNADV offered technical assistance on policy-making. Ms. Henderson stated that they did. She described the intake procedure they recommend and noted that it was an issue that was complex. There are policies and procedures for all of the shelters associated with the NNADV. The shelters provide services to everyone, however they may not specifically address transgender or gay and lesbian relationships.

Ms. Henderson suggested having a meeting with all programs that provide direct services and with all who have concerns in order to identify and address the issues that have been raised. Ms. Henderson stated she could provide a list of all the programs. Ms. Ramos stated that this item should remain on the agenda in order to discuss having such a meeting.

**5. \*Discussion and possible action regarding outreach to women who have recently been released from prison.**

Traci Dory from the Nevada Department of Corrections said she had spoken to the Acting Board of the female prison to see what services are available to women in prison. At this time, there are two classes offered within the prison that would assist a female inmate who is incarcerated for murder, attempted murder, battery, or some type of crime against her abuser. These classes are the domestic violence classes and the conflict resolution classes. The classes are offered in blocks of 12 sessions each and an inmate must take all twelve sections to get credit for the class. At intake, the inmate is not asked if she was involved in domestic violence, however if she volunteers the information, or if a caseworker determines that the inmate was involved, she may be referred to the classes.

Ms. Armstrong talked about what is available for women in the Washoe County Detention Center. There is a program conducted by ACCS, a batterers treatment provider. They have a program for both men and women who have been arrested on a domestic violence charge. Safe Embrace also provides a self esteem class which teaches coping mechanisms. The majority of women, who may attend the classes on a voluntary basis, identify themselves as victims of domestic violence. These women may be incarcerated for a variety of crimes. Ms. Ramos asked how big the groups are. Ms. Armstrong said that the class is limited to 20 people, although a typical size is 5-6 women. The class is offered at the same time that the substance abuse classes are offered. Because the women may be court ordered to attend the substance abuse classes, attendance at the self esteem class is affected.

Ms. Dory noted that when women were released from prison, the type of information given to them depends on whether they are discharged or being paroled. Women who are paroled are given information by their parole officer and may include classes as a condition of their parole. Ms. Ramos asked what services Ridge House

provides. Ms. Dory stated that they provide transitional housing. Ms. Ramos stated she would contact Ridge House to see if they provided any other services and then report back to the Committee.

Ms. Dory said that if anyone had any further questions about what is provided by NDOC, they should feel free to contact her.

**6. \*Discussion and possible action regarding speaker for next Council Meeting.**

Ms. Ramos asked if any one had suggestions for speakers. Ms. Crowe suggested having someone from the disability community speak to the Council. Ms. Armstrong stated she knew of someone who came from either Safe House or Safe Nest and teaches independent living in Reno and Sparks. Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Armstrong to send Ms. Webber the contact information.

Ms. Ramos stated that another option for a future meeting would be to have someone to talk about elder abuse.

**7. \*Review, discussion and possible action regarding 2011 Committee Goals.**

Ms. Ramos stated she thought the current goals are on track.

**8. \*Schedule future meetings and agenda items.**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 7, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda items will be the same with an added bullet point under item #4 regarding a possible meeting with service providers. The Committee would also like to invite Elizabeth Stoffel from the NNADV to talk about training and technical assistance. Ms. Hernandez asked if she should be working on anything for the next meeting. Ms. Ramos asked her to see if any other states with similar populations have batterers treatment programs that accommodate the LGBT community. Ms. Ramos will also update the Committee with what she learns about Ridge House.

**9. Public comment.**

There was no public comment.

**10.\*Adjournment.**

Amy Crowe made a motion to adjourn the motion. Christina Hernandez seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.