

**NEVADA STATE DIVISION OF WELFARE & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM'S EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (SNAPET) PROGRAM and NEW  
EMPLOYEES OF NEVADA (NEON) PROGRAM WORK VERIFICATION PLAN  
(WVP) STATE PLAN AND POLICY MANUAL AMENDMENTS**

The public hearing to obtain comment and input from interested persons on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's Employment and Training (SNAPET) Program and New Employees of Nevada (NEON) Program Work Verification Plan (WVP) State Plan and Policy Manual Amendments was brought to order by Miki Allard, Staff Specialist, on behalf of the Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. This meeting was video-conferenced between the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Professional Development Center, 701 N. Rancho Drive, Training Room 5, Las Vegas, Nevada and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Central Office, 1470 College Parkway, Room 149, Carson City, Nevada.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Miki Allard, Staff Specialist

Maria Wortman-Meshberger, Program Specialist, Employment and Support Services

Marybeth Burroughs, Social Services Program Specialist, Employment and Support Services

Lori Wilson, Chief, Employment and Support Services

Gail Bolander, Social Services Program Specialist, Program Review and Evaluation

Stephanie Lee, Administrative Assistant IV

**STAFF PRESENT IN THE SOUTH**

Sonja Whitton, QC Specialist, Program Review and Evaluation

Patricia Martin, Family Services Supervisor, Employment Services Unit

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**North**

Paula Berkley, Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Ann Silver, Executive Director, JOIN

**South**

There were no guests present in the south.

**Ms. Allard** opened the public hearing at 1:30 p.m. and explained how the hearing will proceed. She explained this public hearing was noticed in accordance with the Open Meeting Law and posted on the Division's web-site. She asked everyone to please sign in and include e-mail addresses to be included on the Division's mailing list.

**\*I. SNAPET**

**Ms. Wortman-Meshberger** described the proposed section changes as follows:

## **NEED AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSED STATE PLAN:**

The Division of Welfare & Supportive Services is required to operate an Employment and Training Program for SNAP participants who are determined to be mandatory Employment and Training participants and to submit a SNAPET State Plan. Proposed update to the State Plan during the Plan year to add a pilot project in Washoe County. The intent of the pilot project is to provide the participants with the skills needed to obtain self-sustaining employment and reduce or eliminate reliance on SNAP assistance through enhanced services such as job skill attainment, educational opportunities, and employment placement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Contingent on approval

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The SNAPET State Plan serves as an application for Federal funds to operate the SNAPET program. The Division receives 100% Federal funding for administration operational costs.

Funding for participant support services, such as, transportation, clothing, work tools, etc. requires a 50/50 state match.

Funding for the pilot project would be reimbursed at a 50 percent rate for allowable expenses.

## **IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

There is no financial impact upon local government.

## **PROPOSED UPDATE FY 2015 STATE PLAN:**

A SNAPET State Plan draft with the proposed updates is available for review on the Division's website at <http://dwss.nv.gov> 2015. The following is a summary of the proposed updates:

Additional program components will be added and the associated sections will be updated.

The applicable tables and attachments will be updated with the pilot information.

**Ms. Allard** asked if there was any public comment in the south.

There were no comments

**Ms. Allard** asked if there was any public comment in the north.

**Ann Silver** said hello to Patricia Martin and stated her support for the changes.

**Paula Berkley** stated that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada supports the proposed changes.

**Ms. Allard** asked if there were any additional comments from the north or south.

Hearing no additional comments, **Ms. Allard** adopted the regulations and plan changes on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective upon federal approval of the state plan.

## **\*II. NEON Program WVP**

**Marybeth Burroughs** described the proposed section changes as follows:

### **NEED AND PURPOSE OF PROPOSED UPDATES:**

The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) proposes to modify the TANF Work Verification State Plan to address the definition, supervision and verification requirements for the Vocational Training Category.

The Division proposes to make modifications to the E&P Manual to ensure policy is consistent with the proposed changes to the Work Verification Plan and to clarify the policy regarding the definition of a self-employed individual and verification requirements for reported participation hours in the Employment Category for self-employed individuals.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon federal approval of the amended TANF Work Verification Plan

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** Cost of printing policy manuals where needed.

### **IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT:**

There is no financial impact upon local government.

### **PROPOSED UPDATE FY 2015 WORK VERIFICATION PLAN:**

**Action:** The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services is proposing the following changes to the TANF Work Verification Plan.

1. Vocational Training Activities will not be counted toward meeting work requirements if a work-eligible individual already possess the education, skills, experience and training necessary for gainful, sustainable employment in their geographical region. This includes any participant seeking to further a currently obtained degree with a higher level program (ie. Masters and/or Ph.D.), individuals who are pursuing a second degree and individuals who have attained one or more vocational certifications in a career field for which jobs are readily available in their geographical location.
2. 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.

A draft of the Work Verification Plan text changes will be made available on the Division's web site approximately one week before the hearing.

**Ms. Allard** asked if there was any public comment in the south.

There were no comments.

**Ms. Allard** asked if there was any public comment in the north.

**Paula Berkley** commented that FBNN likes the "simplify and reduce" concept.

**Ms. Allard** asked if there were any additional comments from the north or south.

Hearing no additional comments, **Ms. Allard** adopted the regulations and plan changes on behalf of the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, effective upon federal approval of the state plan.

**\*III GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ms. Allard** asked if there were any other comments in the north or south on items not mentioned at this hearing.

There were no comments.

**Ms. Allard** thanked those in attendance for their participation in this public hearing. She closed the public hearing at 1:39 p.m.