

**Department of Health and Human Services
Governor's Council on Food Security
Approved Meeting Minutes**

March 27, 2014

Meeting Location: Eastside Cannery Casino Hotel, 5255 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas NV

Council Members Present:

First Lady Kathleen Sandoval, Chair	Kevin Hooks
Sarah Adler	Cherie Jamason
Jim Barbee	Adam Kramer
Wendy Baroli	Anne Lindsay, representing Mark Walker
Donnell Barton	Christy McGill
Maria Dent, representing Mary Liveratti	Mike McMahan
Amy Hill	Kenneth Osgood
Steve Hill	Jodi Tyson
Guy Hillyer	David Weaver
Mark Hinson, representing Dale Erquiaga	Richard Whitley

Council Members Absent: Mike Wurm

Others Present:

Governor Brian Sandoval
Mike Willden, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Amber Joiner, Deputy Director of Programs, DHHS
Laurie Olson, Chief, Grants Management Unit (GMU), Director's Office, DHHS
Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator, Office of Food Security, GMU, DHHS
Gloria Sulhoff, Administrative Assistant III, GMU, DHHS
Mark Winne, Mark Winne Associates

I. Welcome and Introductions

Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator with the Grants Management Unit and lead staff for the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS), welcomed the assembly and introduced Governor Sandoval for opening remarks at 9:45 AM. The Governor personally thanked the members of the committee for their commitment and service to Nevadans, stating that food security is a big part of his goal to get Nevada working and healthy again. The Council has been formed to include experts from across the State to work together to put an end to hunger across the State, and he predicted that the Council would become a best-practice example for the rest of the country.

Kathleen Sandoval, Governor-appointed Chair of the Council, thanked the members serving on the Council and for their commitment to make a difference in the State. She led introductions of the members, who shared information about their positions and experience in the area of food security.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Council Member Orientation

Nevada's Food System, Executive Order, Strategic Plan and Other Guiding Documents.

Ms. Sandoval introduced Mike Willden, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, who shared the history of the formation of the Food Security Council by Executive Order of the Governor and the development of the Food Security Strategic Plan. The strategic planning process identified four core issues: leadership, feeding people, growth, and outreach. The Office of Food Security was created to coordinate efforts to achieve the goals in the strategic plan. Mr. Willden closed by stating that hunger is a symptom of poverty and directly affects health and health costs. He thanked the members for their commitment to effect change.

Member and Organizational Values.

Ms. Sandoval introduced Mark Winne, an independent consultant on food policy and senior advisor at the Johns Hopkins School of Health. Mr. Winne was present as a facilitator to help the group achieve an understanding of their role in the Council and gain an understanding of the state's food system and how each agency operates. The goals for the meeting included crafting a mission and vision, gaining a clear sense of purpose, and determining next steps. The group spent time sharing their perspectives on the strengths and weaknesses of the food system in Nevada. Comments included improving communication, innovation, problems with regulation, risk management, system improvements, progress measurement and evaluation, capacity building, self-supporting systems, and collaboration.

National Models.

Ms. Owings reviewed each of the goals outlined in the Food Security Strategic Plan document and the progress towards each that had been made to date. Mr. Winne gave a slide presentation detailing what is happening around the country and what has worked and what hasn't. Johns Hopkins is developing a Center for Food Policy and developing a database on food policies and food policy councils. They have determined that about 25 of the councils in the US are state councils. One-fourth are governor-appointed advisory bodies that make recommendations to the state. In some states, nonprofits are the lead agencies. An important role of councils is to influence public policy, which necessitates taking a big picture view in favor of focusing on program projects. Appropriate activities might include developing a food charter to provide guidance, testifying before the legislature, engaging with community and stakeholders, and providing public education.

Following a brief discussion period, the group recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:00 PM.

IV. Council Governance and Policy

Food Plans and Charters.

Mr. Winne stated that the key to effectiveness is creating a strong vision that embodies the Council members' passion and enthusiasm while maintaining a good working relationship between public and private sectors. Adequate representation from different sectors of the food system is important for success.

The group discussed ways in which they envisioned themselves doing the work. Mr. Winne reviewed a slide that included different models, and suggested they focus on things within their jurisdiction that could be accomplished in a shorter period of time with the information currently available. Cherie Jamason of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada distributed a copy of current USDA data identifying gaps in Nevada.

Formulation of a Vision.

Each member shared their values and personal or professional passions, which yielded key phrases and concepts to be reflected in a vision statement. Mr. Winne reviewed the comments, which included careful use of messaging and language choices, be inspirational, phrase statements in in the positive, and do not use jargon that is not well understood. He will have a writing team craft some draft statements to present to the Council at their next meeting.

Establishment of Workgroups or Subcommittees.

Laurie Olson, Chief of the Grants Management Unit, explained the difference between workgroups and subcommittees in terms of Nevada's open meeting laws and the Department's limitations in managing multiple compliance issues. Any recommendations, whether from workgroups or subcommittees, would be subject to review by the full Council.

After discussion, the group favored a subcommittee structure over that of workgroups. In the interest of time, Ms. Sandoval suggested an online survey to determine the members' subcommittee priorities.

- Ms. Jamason motioned to approve the recommendation to conduct an online survey as described. The motion was seconded by Amy Hill and carried unanimously.

V. Public Comment

Aurora Buffington, a registered dietician and nutritionist with the Nevada Dietetic Association, informed the group of the Southern Nevada Food Council. Formed a little over a year ago, this group includes representatives from different parts of the food system in Las Vegas. She encouraged the Council to reach out to them as an available resource. She also represents the Nevada Diabetic Association, whose mission is to optimize the health of all Nevadans through food and nutrition, and extended their resources as well.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. Sandoval indicated that the survey will include a question to determine the best date for the next meeting, which will be held in the Nevada Room at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. At that time a regular meeting schedule will be decided upon. She thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 2:28 PM.