

**Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Governor's Council on Food Security**

**LEAD Subcommittee Meeting May 21, 2014
DRAFT Minutes**

Meeting Locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Room 303, Carson City
Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, 3330 East Flamingo Road, Flamingo Room, Las Vegas
Aging and Disability Services Division, 1020 Ruby Vista Drive #102, Elko

Members Present:

Sarah Adler, NV USDA Rural Director
Dale Erquiaga, NV Superintendent of Public Instruction
Guy Hillyer, Cannery Casino Resorts
First Lady Kathleen Sandoval, Chair

Members Absent:

Kevin Hooks, Las Vegas Urban League

Staff Present:

Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator
Laurie Olson, Chief, Grants Management Unit (GMU)
Amber Joiner, Deputy Director of Programs, DHHS
Gloria Sulhoff, Administrative Assistant, GMU

Members of the Public Present:

Sarah Adler, USDA Rural Development
Judy Andréson, Family Resource Center
Darlene Dougherty, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Jeneane Harter, Sustainable Nevada
Cherie Jamason, Food Bank of Nevada
Joe Peckham, FISH
Jody Tyson, Three Square Food Bank

I. Welcome and Introductions

First Lady Kathleen Sandoval, Chair of the Council on Food Security, welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 8:28 AM. The Department apologized for the delay due to technical difficulties with the videoconferencing equipment.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Election of Subcommittee Chair

- Dale Erquiaga moved to elect Sarah Adler as Chair of the LEAD Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Ken Osgood and carried unopposed.

The meeting proceeded under the direction of Ms. Adler.

IV. Review of Food Security Council Survey Results

Angela Owings, Food Security Coordinator, reported that the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) adopted the priorities outlined in the State's Food Security Strategic Plan during their inaugural meeting on March 27. Subsequently, Council members participated in a survey to prioritize the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan and identify those which could be attained in a relatively short period of time. For the record, Ms. Owings read the first sentence in the introduction of the "GCFS Subcommittee Goals and Membership" document that was compiled as a result of the survey findings: "One in six Nevadans of all ages are food insecure and do not have access to enough food to maintain an active, healthy life." The document included goals for all four subcommittees, LEAD, FEED, GROW, and REACH. Ms. Owings reviewed the LEAD Subcommittee goals as listed in the document. The "priority goals" in the left-hand column listed goals as identified by the survey results. The middle column listed those goals which have already been met. The right-hand column included "other goals" from the State's Strategic Plan. She noted that many of the priorities identified through the survey fell under the LEAD and FEED focus areas.

V. Member Orientation

Ms. Owings deferred the first topic under this agenda item, Federal Assistance Programs, to the full Council meeting scheduled for June 25.

Food Security Goals: LEAD – Discussion Points

- Address "low hanging fruit"; identify underutilized programs; consolidate services.
- Development of a marketing plan; the Legislature approved \$200,000 for FY14 and \$200,000 for FY15 to be used for production costs of PSAs. Unused funds must be approved by the Interim Finance Committee before being rolled over into next fiscal year. It was suggested to use all FY14 funds by June 30, gaining input from the entire Council and all subcommittees. Ms. Olson recommended, for the sake of expediency, to use MSA vendors already approved by the State.
- The USDA has a measure of capture rate for people eligible for various programs which can be used to determine Nevada's gap.
- Look at best practices of other Western States in connecting people to needed/available services.

Action Item: Determine LEAD Goals

Before taking action, the floor was opened up for public comment.

- Jodi Tyson, of Three Square comments on goal number six to establish a multi-agency resource team. She felt that the Council members may have the ability to pursue solutions more efficiently within their own organizations, especially at the local level. She cautioned against stifling the energy of action-oriented members. She also stated that she was asked to search on the REACH Subcommittee's data workgroup; Three Square does a lot of data mapping by zip code in Clark County. In response to Ms. Tyson's comments, Ms. Sandoval stated the necessity for Council members to keep their role of Council member separate from their agencies, and that as a public body, Council members need to maintain compliance with open meeting laws.

- Judy Andréson, of the Family Resource Center of Northeastern Nevada, suggested that the Council utilize public service announcements to maximize any available budget for public awareness campaigns.
- Cherie Jamason, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, shared her concurrence with the Subcommittee's plan to understand the problem before developing strategy, and to develop a baseline to determine progress.
- There being no further comments or discussion, Dale Erquiaga moved to adopt the following goals for action, in order of priority:
 1. Determine baseline status for all goals in the Food Security Plan
 2. Research and develop a menu of model policies/regulation options to promote food security in Nevada
 3. Create an evaluation plan to measure progress on increasing food security in Nevada
 4. Establish a multi-agency resource team to pursue innovative solutions, demonstration projects and funding available through the federal government, foundations, or other sources to increase the number of people fed and close the meal gap.
 5. Develop and implement a campaign to increase the public's awareness of food and nutrition resources, remove the stigma associated with receiving food assistance, and ensure that Nevada policymakers are aware of benefits from available nutrition programs

The motion was seconded by Guy Hillyer and carried unopposed.

Action Steps

The group identified action steps and volunteered to take the lead on the following tasks:

- Sarah Adler and Angela Owings will provide the gap analysis to identify underutilized programs. They will obtain information from existing USDA measurements and calculate the capture rate of people eligible for various programs.
- Sarah Adler will identify best practices of other western region states and compare Nevada's processes.
- Dale Erquiaga will help staff with an evaluation plan.
- Angela Owings will look at consolidating services and creating a multi-agency dashboard.
- Dr. Osmond offered to help with the collection of information and data.
- Laurie Olson will obtain a list of MSA vendors for video production and marketing.
- Guy Hillyer will get proposals at no cost for marketing and social media campaigns.

VI. Public Comment

- Jim Peckham, executive director of FISH, asked the subcommittee if they could, at some point, consider the dilemma people reach when they start to succeed in their jobs and increase their earnings, they become ineligible for SNAP benefits, citing motivation versus disincentives.
- Cherie Jamason, executive director of Food Bank of Northern Nevada, suggested that participants in the Food Summit who have an avid interest be invited to participate.

In response, Ms. Sandoval noted that they are encouraged to attend the public meetings, and suggested their expertise could be utilized in subcommittee workgroups.

VII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. Olson thanked the subcommittee members for their participation. The Department would like to establish a standing meeting date for the subcommittees with the full Council meeting every other month, and the subcommittees meeting in the off months, beginning in July. The members have been polled to determine best dates and time; Ms. Olson is reviewing the responses and will be in touch regarding the consensus. The next full Council meeting is scheduled for June 25 at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City. Members from Southern Nevada will travel north and fly back the same day.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

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