

**Governor's Council on Food Security**  
**Minutes**  
**November 15, 2017**

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on November 15, 2017 beginning at approximately 1:04 P.M. at the following locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way Room 303  
Carson City, NV 89706

Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
6161 W. Charleston, Building 1  
East Hall Conference Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

**Board Members Present**

Steve Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)  
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, DWSS  
Jim Barbee, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)  
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square  
Charles (Chuck) Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance  
Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties  
Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, NDA  
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)  
Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Board of Health  
Rob Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel  
Anmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation  
David Weaver, Food Service Industry Consultants  
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

**Board Members Not Present**

Amy Roukie, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
Robert Herdzik, CEO, Bitfocus Inc.  
Yvanna Cancela, Executive Director, Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project  
Dana Serrata, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley  
Amy Hill, Government Relations, Walmart  
Cherie Jamason, CEO, Food Bank of Northern Nevada

**Also Present**

Linda Anderson, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office  
Debi Reynolds, Deputy Administrator, Administration Services, DPBH  
Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), DPBH  
Michelle Walker, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section Manager, CFCW, DPBH

Kristi Robusto, Quality Improvement Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section, CFCW, DPBH  
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Darlene Dougherty, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Nutrition Specialist and SNAP Outreach Coordinator, DWSS  
Gina Gimenez, Administrative Assistant III, WIC, CFCW, DPBH  
Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Sarah Yeats Patrick, Client Service Associate, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI)  
Mary Liveratti, President, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Nevada State Chapter  
Allison Schnitzer, Health Educator II, SNHD

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Announcements**

Steve Fisher, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum of the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) was present.

**2. ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of September 20, 2017 Council Meeting**

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. ROB MEDEIROS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**3. Nutrition Incentive Programs Presentation**

Steven Farley, Noah Fulmer, and Rosalind Brooks provided an overview of national and state nutrition incentive programs, including best practices. The presentations can be found [here](#).

Ms. Brooks stated Nevada is a recipient of the 2017 Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant. Currently, 10 locations are participating between Clark and Lincoln counties. Additional locations will be added throughout Nevada.

Charles (Chuck) Duarte stated the Food Bank of Northern Nevada has a prescription pantry program. He also mentioned state and local WIC offices have been collaborating with SNAP-Ed, nutrition counseling, and farmer's markets to encourage healthy behaviors.

Mr. Fisher asked Ms. Brooks when the FINI grant cycle ends

Ms. Brooks responded the FINI grant is a two (2) year grant ending October 2019.

Mr. Fisher asked about previous FINI projects.

Ms. Brooks responded there was a grant through Wholesome Wave, but it has ended.

Mr. Fisher asked about the sustainability of the program and how it will continue without federal funding.

Mr. Fulmer responded a program in Michigan started with federal funding and program success attracted additional funders.

Mr. Fisher asked the GCFS members if any Nevada agencies are applying for the 2018 FINI grant given applications are due December 13, 2017. Based on the responses, GCFS concludes no other agencies are applying for 2018 FINI funding.

Jodi Tyson provided additional data and information on SNAP restrictions and nutrition incentives. The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 2016 report, *Foods Typically Purchased by SNAP Households*, found consumer behaviors of SNAP participants closely align with those of non-SNAP participants. Ms. Tyson suggested the GCFS take a population approach to reduce consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages, as opposed to restricting SNAP purchases, because SNAP recipients make up only 14% of Nevada's total population. She stated SNAP restrictions stigmatize the program and recipients and may dissuade those eligible from signing up for SNAP, which may contribute to increased healthcare costs among this population.

Mr. Duarte stated geo-mapping conducted by Community Health Alliance showed many SNAP and WIC-eligible low-income families do not live close to supermarkets and have limited access to fresh produce. Transportation is also an issue. In addition, he suggested simple nutrition education messaging, such as 5-2-1-0 [five (5) servings of fruits and vegetables, two (2) hours or less of screen time, one (1) hour or more of physical activity, and zero (0) sugar-sweetened beverages] for encouraging healthy behaviors. Mr. Duarte asked about state initiatives addressing food deserts and programs working to address all aspects of health and nutrition.

Dr. Osgood responded there is an improving diabetes outcomes group which recently received funding for another comprehensive program in a public elementary school.

Aurora Buffington stated there are several SNAP-Ed implementing agencies throughout Nevada offering nutrition education to SNAP-eligible populations. She also mentioned the Extended Food and Nutrition Education Program, offered through UNCE, incorporates all aspects of healthy eating and physical activity. She stated there are many nutrition education programs offered throughout Nevada.

Dr. Osgood suggested compiling a list of Nevada nutrition education programs and reviewing their outcomes.

Mr. Fisher agreed and suggested this as an agenda item for the January 2018 meeting.

Naomi Lewis volunteered to bring information on Nevada nutrition education programs to the January meeting. SNAP-Ed has 33 different programs offered by implementing agencies throughout the state.

Christy McGill suggested using the community coalitions as a resource. Coalitions are experts on their local community, its needs, and the resources available. There are 11 community coalitions throughout Nevada.

4. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations regarding farmers' market SNAP redemption**  
Ms. Buffington shared several barriers associated with farmers' market managers accepting SNAP recipient's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, including equipment costs and monthly transaction fees. DWSS offers free wireless equipment and fee waivers, but state EBT processors do not provide this information to farmers' market managers. Under the new FINI grant, there will be an influx of farmers' market managers who will need equipment. She asked to discuss strategies for ensuring this opportunity is communicated so market managers will be more inclined to accept SNAP EBT cards.

Dr. Osgood asked about the cost per transaction.

Ms. Buffington responded the cost is 15 cents per transaction for the first three (3) years. After the first three (3) years there are additional costs including monthly data plan fees. Farmers' market managers must also pay an employee to manage the EBT booth; and expense for which they are not reimbursed.

Mr. Fisher stated he would do more research on this matter and assess the need from a budgeting standpoint.

Ms. Buffington stated if DWSS were to take on the cost of offering additional machines, then the U.S. Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program would reimburse up to 50% of the expense.

Sarah Adler stated if DWSS has limited resources/funding to support this effort for farmers' markets, then those operating in food deserts with a high-density of SNAP recipients should be prioritized.

Mr. Duarte suggested addressing the misconception that farmers' market produce is more expensive.

Ms. Buffington stated the Fair Food Network is providing technical assistance to Ms. Brooks for the FINI grant to help address that misconception. In addition, Ms. Buffington has a staff member collecting price comparison data among local grocery stores and farmers' markets. She will share the findings once completed. She conducted a similar study with SNHD, and they found approximately 50% of produce was cheaper at the farmers' markets. Ms. Buffington proposed asking Northern Nevada UNCE offices to consider doing a similar analysis for Washoe County and Northern Rural areas.

**5. ACTION ITEM: Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans findings and recommendations**

Laura Urban and Sarah Yeats Patrick presented the findings and recommendations of the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*. They clarified the report's financial profile of nutrition programs for older Nevadans outlines current funds available among various nutrition programs statewide. These programs only reach a portion of the current older Nevadan population.

Dr. Osgood suggested clarifying the number of older Nevadans not being reached by nutrition programs, as this data would help legislative efforts in bridging the gap in services.

Mr. Duarte asked if there is a correlation between receipt of home-delivered meals and older Nevadans remaining independent, as opposed to using assisted living; having fewer older Nevadans using assisted living may reduce Medicaid costs.

Ms. Buffington stated Barbara Paulsen, from Nevadans for the Common Good, shared a policy brief on Meals on Wheels. The brief outlined the correlation between the receipt of home-delivered meals and older Nevadans remaining independent.

Ms. Tyson offered to follow-up with Ms. Paulsen. Ms. Tyson also mentioned she has heard the number one reason older individuals enter assisted living is due to their inability to provide nutrition/cook for themselves. She will research the topic further.

Ms. McGill stated it is also important to consider the specific needs of veterans, which she did not see addressed in the report. She stressed the importance of coordinating with the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure all available resources are utilized.

Ms. Adler stated there is a common assumption the average SNAP benefit for older individuals is \$16 per month. She asked if this is a myth.

Ms. Yeats Patrick confirmed it is a myth.

Ms. Adler stated there are many older Nevadans using subsidized housing. Unfortunately, she heard the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will not increase the number of vouchers and may decrease the availability of housing.

Ms. Yeats Patrick stated the analysis did look at housing and found a 2.3% vacancy rate for older Nevadans. A map on housing availability is included in the report on page 35.

Ms. Tyson emphasized the importance of socialization for seniors, specifically for those with transportation issues. There are strategies for incorporating social interaction opportunities among homebound older Nevadans, including coupling home delivered meals with "check-ins" or the Reassurance Program, a phone-based program to decrease social isolation.

Jim Barbee asked if there were any overarching takeaways from the Stakeholder Study Group. Ms. Urban stated the large takeaways are encompassed within the recommendations. The first three (3) recommendations of each topic area were identified as the priorities.

Mary Liveratti reminded GCFS members this is a program gap analysis, not a strategic plan. This analysis is intended to be used to develop specific recommendations and strategies. She stated one of her major takeaways was the discussion around how it is more difficult for food banks to raise funding for older individuals, as opposed to children.

Ms. Urban stated the next component of the presentation will allow GCFS members to discuss next steps. Implementation of these recommendations will be at the discretion of GCFS.

Ms. Yeats Patrick stated one recommendation is to support partnerships and capacity building to help build efficiencies.

David Weaver recommended collaborating with the Nevada Department of Corrections. Their facilities have kitchens and large warehouses and are conveniently located in areas with an increasingly older population, including Carson City, Southern Nevada, and Elko.

Ms. Adler recommended continuing this discussion at the next meeting, including consideration of the recommendations and next steps. She suggested forming a subcommittee to delve deeper into these recommendations and suggested engaging the Governor's Commission on Aging.

Mr. Fisher stated they could not establish a subcommittee at this meeting, because it must be placed on a future agenda as an action item. He agreed the discussion around next steps should be tabled until the January 2018 meeting, to give members the opportunity to review the report. He suggested members also consider priorities to include in the revised *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*.

Dr. Osgood suggested including a data summary in the beginning of the report.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THIS ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING UPON FURTHER REVIEW OF THE REPORT. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. BARBEE. DR. OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**6. ACTION ITEM: Make Recommendations for Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action**

Ms. Urban presented two (2) documents: *Food Security Updates and Recommendations* and the *Revised Food Security Plan Draft*. *Food Security Updates and Recommendations* is a comprehensive summary of each activity within the Food Security Plan as originally written, per the findings of the GROW/FEED and LEAD/REACH Subcommittees. The Subcommittees found progress has been made on many activities, and many have either been completed or the

work is on-going. The *Revised Food Security Plan Draft* is comprised of themes identified as important to the Subcommittees and which align with the original Food Security Plan. The *Revised Food Security Plan Draft* was designed to foster more direct progress on stated goals and objectives. Ms. Urban noted the "REACH" section was eliminated, as three (3) of the five (5) activities were identified as completed. The remaining two (2) activities aligned with other sections of the Plan, so they were consolidated. Finally, a data section was added.

Mr. Fisher asked about next steps.

Ms. Urban stated she will take recommendations and questions today. Approval and next steps will be at the discretion of the GCFS.

Mr. Barbee suggested tabling the discussion until the January 2018 meeting, to give members an opportunity to review the changes and make informed recommendations.

Dr. Osgood and Ms. Adler agreed.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO POSTPONE RECOMMENDATIONS UNTIL THE JANUARY 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. ADLER. MR. DUARTE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**7. ACTION ITEM: Creation of a policy subcommittee**

Mr. Fisher stated the purpose of the subcommittee is to research, develop, and recommend a menu of policy options to support food security in Nevada. Mr. Fisher welcomed member volunteers or nominees.

Mr. Duarte, Ms. Tyson, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Anoshehpour, and Ms. Buffington volunteered to participate in the subcommittee.

Mr. Fisher reserved the right to add additional members upon his discretion.

**8. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations regarding letter supporting additional Governor's Council on Food Security membership**

Mr. Duarte asked if there was a plan to place the GCFS in statute.

Mr. Fisher stated yes, but this letter requests changes to the Executive Order to add an additional member.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. DUARTE. DR. OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**9. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations for future agenda items**

Mr. Fisher stated there were several agenda items already recommended. No additional agenda items were brought forth.

**10. Public Comment**

Ms. Tyson stated new member, Yvanna Cancela, has not been able to participate in any meetings due to her schedule. She asked if the 2018 meeting schedule could be reconsidered to accommodate Ms. Cancela.

Mr. Fisher asked if the 2018 meeting dates were already approved.

Ms. Urban confirmed the 2018 meeting dates were approved at the September 20 meeting. She offered to reassess the meeting dates through an online poll to members.

Elika Nematian, with UNCE, coordinates the Nutrition and Health Program for Older Adults and offered to provide resources on next steps identified for the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*.

**11. Adjournment**

Mr. Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:55 P.M.