

Governor's Council on Food Security
[Draft] Minutes
September 20, 2017

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on September 20, 2017, beginning at approximately 12:58 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)
Jim Barbee, Director, Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square Food Bank
Dana Serrata, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Amy Hill, Government Relations, Walmart
Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Board of Health
Robert Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve
David Weaver, Food Service Industry Consultants
Cherie Jamason, CEO, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

Board Members Not Present

Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance
Sarah Adler, Member Representing Community-Based Services (Rural Nevada), Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS)
Robert Herdzik, CEO, Bitfocus Inc.
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, Department of Education (NDE)
Amy Roukie, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

Staff Present

Ellen Crecelius, Deputy Director, DHHS
Kirsten Coulombe, Deputy Administrator, Administration Services, DPBH
Homa Anoshehpour, Administrator, Nutrition Services Unit, NDA
Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), DPBH
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section, CFCW, DPBH
Joe Dibble, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Health Program Specialist II, CFCW, DPBH
Darlene Dougherty, Nutrition Specialist and Outreach Coordinator, DWSS
David Ramirez-Silva, WIC Program Officer 1, CFCW, DPBH

Also Present

Anmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation
Lauren Goder, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Dietetic Intern
Jeremy Will, UNLV Dietetic Intern

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Announcements

Steve Fisher, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:58 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 May 17, 2017 Council Meeting

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2017 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. DAVID WEAVER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. Report changes to Chairperson and appointment of Vice Chair

Kathleen Sandoval, Nevada's First Lady, has stepped down from the Council. Mr. Fisher has been appointed Chair by the Governor. Mr. Fisher expressed his gratitude to the First Lady for her leadership and hard work, and requested the Council send a letter thanking her for her service. Mr. Fisher appointed Christy McGill as Vice Chair.

4. Update regarding the Nutrition Program Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans

Laura Urban stated the senior stakeholder study group has met twice to discuss study methodology and progress. Twenty-one (21) key informant interviews have been conducted and the study is on track for on-time completion. The findings and recommendations will be presented at the November 15, 2017 GCFS meeting.

5. Update regarding subcommittees

Ms. Urban stated the GCFS created two (2) subcommittees to review and update *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*, and to make revision and priority recommendations to the GCFS. Both subcommittees met twice. The Office of Food Security is updating the Plan per subcommittee recommendations. The revised Plan will be presented at the November 15th GCFS meeting for the Council's consideration and approval.

It was confirmed the subcommittees have concluded their work and the revised plan will be presented at the November 15th meeting.

6. ACTION ITEM: Approve 2018 meeting dates

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2018 MEETING DATES: JANUARY 17th, MARCH 21st, MAY 16th, JULY 18th, SEPTEMBER 19th, AND NOVEMBER 21st. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY JODI TYSON. CHERIE JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

7. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations for 2017 Food Security Report

Mr. Fisher recommended including an overview of the LEAD/REACH and GROW/FEED subcommittees and the updates provided, as well as the revised Plan.

Jim Barbee suggested including the 2016 and 2017 Breakfast After the Bell Annual Reports.

It was confirmed the 2017 GCFS Annual Report would include the findings and recommendations of the Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans.

The Council agreed an executive summary of the 2017 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) Plan and SNAP-Ed Needs Assessment should also be included.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2017 GCFS ANNUAL REPORT. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. TYSON. MR. BARBEE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

8. ACTION ITEM: Recommendation of Annmarie Feiler

Annmarie Feiler was recommended to fill the membership “representing a farmer or rancher engaged in food production.”

Dr. Osgood asked if Ms. Feiler’s organization produced food in Nevada.

Ms. Feiler replied, “Yes, Urban Seed Inc. and Urban Seed Foundation have a farm in Nye County and Pahrump. Their main facility is under construction in Clark County.”

Dr. Osgood asked about Ms. Feiler’s educational background.

Ms. Feiler stated she went to Queens College in New York, with a Major in English and Political Science. She has been in Las Vegas since 1995 working in the Food and Beverage Hospitality Industry.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANNMARIE FEILER TO FILL MEMBERSHIP. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY AMY HILL. ROB MEDIEROS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

9. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations to fill membership

Mr. Barbee recommended Homa Anooshehpour fill the membership “representing child nutrition programs.” Ms. Anooshehpour is the new Administrator of the Nutrition Services Unit within NDA. She has fifteen (15) years of experience with NDE working in federal grant programs. Ms. Anooshehpour has a PhD in Sociology and a background working with under-served populations.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF MS. ANOOSHEHPOUR TO FILL MEMBERSHIP. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. BARBEE. DR. OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

10. ACTION ITEM: Recommendations on Council operations and sustainability

Ms. Urban stated at the May 17th meeting, the Council expressed interest in modifying the GCFS’s Executive Order to add an additional Council member. At the May 17th meeting, there

were two (2) nominees for one (1) of the three (3) memberships representing community based-services. The Council wanted to recommend both candidates, but there was only one (1) membership vacancy available.

Mr. Fisher asked Ms. Urban about the process for adding an additional member.

Ms. Urban stated the Executive Order must be revised and signed by the Governor. The two (2) candidates considered were Yvanna Cancela and Stacy Smith. Ultimately, Ms. Cancela was appointed by the Director of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Ms. Tyson asked for clarification on the process of modifying the Executive Order.

Mr. Barbee stated the Council must make a recommendation to the Director of DHHS, who would take the recommendation to the Governor's Office. Mr. Barbee suggested having Ms. Urban draft language supporting the new membership for the Council's review.

Ms. Hill suggested specifying the additional member's role to strengthen the proposal.

Ms. Urban stated the Council suggested adding a southern rural membership.

Ms. Tyson confirmed that, at the May 17th meeting, Dr. Osgood proposed recommending both candidates, one to represent urban Las Vegas and the other to represent rural Southern Nevada.

Mr. Fisher recommended developing a policy subcommittee to review any legislative statutory changes the Council may want to pursue in the 2019 legislative session, as well as make policy recommendations to the GCFS.

Mr. Fisher recommended placing an action item creating a policy subcommittee on the next agenda. He also recommended an action item to follow-up on the process of revising the GCFS Executive Order.

11. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations based on SNAP and Medicaid data

Ellen Crecelius presented a SNAP and Medicaid data analysis. The goal of the analysis was to better understand the health of public assistance clients. Currently, there are 438,000 clients on SNAP and 652,000 clients on Medicaid. The data shows 90% of SNAP clients are also on Medicaid. The goal of this research was to determine the link between diet and health outcomes. The analysis looked at clients on SNAP, Medicaid, and those within the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) system. The DMV database helped assess clients' Body Mass Indexes (BMIs). Ms. Crecelius referred to the handout for the results of the study.

Ms. Crecelius stated DHHS is looking to identify strategies to support clients' health, specifically strategies to encourage and incentivize healthy nutrition among SNAP and Medicaid clients. A study released in 2016 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), *Foods Typically Purchased by SNAP Households*, showed soft drinks as the number one purchase among SNAP recipients, accounting for about 5% of SNAP purchases.

On behalf of Director Richard Whitley, Ms. Crecelius requested the Council write a letter to Nevada's congressional delegation requesting (1) access to Nevada SNAP transactional data and (2) waiver authority to limit SNAP clients' purchase of soft drinks and juices.

Ms. Tyson shared her concerns about the waiver request to limit SNAP purchases. Several states have put forward similar requests, and to her knowledge, USDA has not approved any. Ms. Tyson and SNAP outreach agencies would like to protect the program instead of restricting it. She suggested improving healthy choices through incentives. She mentioned Southern Nevada received its first Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant, an incentive program encouraging the purchase of fruits and vegetables. Implementing restrictions could increase the stigma of receiving SNAP benefits. Ms. Tyson did not support restricting SNAP purchases.

Mr. Fisher stated DHHS is focused on health and early intervention strategies to prevent diseases such as diabetes. Transactional data would help with the development and implementation of these strategies. Soft drinks and other sugary beverages contribute to the prevalence of diabetes. Satisfying these requests would help move DHHS forward in the effort to increase healthy behaviors.

Ms. Tyson stated she supports requesting Nevada SNAP transactional data.

Ms. Jamason stated there is a great deal of evidence supporting use of incentive strategies and behavioral economics to encourage healthy choices, in contrast to restricting purchases. She suggested sharing this information with the Council to help inform their decision.

Aurora Buffington stated a strategy for addressing consumption of sugary drinks as a public health issue would be to implement a population-based strategy through taxing sugary beverages. This strategy may be more equitable than restricting purchases among SNAP participants only.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR WHITLEY IN THE FORM OF A LETTER REQUESTING (1) ACCESS TO SNAP TRANSACTIONAL DATA AND (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY TO LIMIT SNAP PURCHASES OF HIGH SUGARY DRINKS. THE LETTER WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES IN ADDITION TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES CURRENTLY HEARING THE FARM BILL. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. BARBEE, MR. FISHER, MR. BARBEE, MR. WEAVER, MR. MEDIEROS, AND MS. HILL APPROVED. MS. TYSON, DANA SERRATA, MS. JAMASON, DR. OSGOOD, AND MS. BUFFINGTON OPPOSED. THE MOTION DID NOT CARRY.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF DIRECTOR WHITLEY IN THE FORM OF A LETTER REQUESTING (1) ACCESS TO SNAP TRANSACTIONAL DATA. THE LETTER WILL BE SENT TO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES IN ADDITION TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES CURRENTLY HEARING THE FARM BILL. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. TYSON, DR. OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

12. **Public Comment**

Ms. Buffington requested an agenda item on SNAP redemptions at farmers' markets be added to the November 15th agenda. Currently, Nevada does not have a free Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) option for SNAP-authorized farmers' markets. In Nevada, there are 17 SNAP-authorized farmers' markets. There are over 34 Nevada farmers' markets affiliated with the new FINI grant; she expects this number to grow. Farmers need wireless, point-of-sale equipment to process the EBT transactions. The FINI grant will expand throughout Nevada and all SNAP-authorized farmers' markets will have the option of participating. She would like to see a free EBT machine option for farmers' market managers. She has a white paper on the issue and is happy to share.

Ms. Tyson requested a presentation on nutrition incentive programs to encourage healthy choices for the November 15th agenda.

13. **Adjournment**

Mr. Fisher adjourned the meeting at 2:19 P.M.