

**GROW/FEED SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY
Draft Minutes
August 23, 2017**

The Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) held a public meeting on August 23, 2017, beginning at 1:12 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, East Hall
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Board Members Present

Sarah Adler, Proxy Chair, GCFS member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada)
Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation
Dorian Stonebarger, Program Director, Three Square Food Bank
Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)
Diane Hogan, MS, RDN, LD, Nutrition Programs Professional, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

Board Members Not Present

Kathleen Sandoval, Nevada First Lady
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

Also Present

Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Darlene Dougherty, Nutrition Specialist and Outreach Coordinator, DWSS
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH
David Ramirez-Silva, Program Officer 1, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, CFCW, DPBH
Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH
Robert Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel
Milena Difiore, Intern, Urban Seed Inc.
Chad Wilson, Intern, Urban Seed Inc.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Sarah Adler, proxy chair, called the meeting to order at 1:12 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the GROW/FEED subcommittee for the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) was present.

2. Approve minutes from the June 29, 2017 Subcommittee meeting.

Annmarie Feiler stated her name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes.

SHANE PICCININI MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTION. MS. FEILER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Overview of subcommittee goal.**

At the May 19th GCFS meeting, the Council motioned to create the LEAD/REACH and GROW/FEED Subcommittees. The Subcommittees are tasked with reviewing and updating the document, *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*, and to make revision and priority recommendations to the GCFS.

Laura Urban explained the updates from the first GROW/FEED Subcommittee meeting were included into a revised work plan template. The data in the performance measures column will serve as baseline data to inform strategy and output redevelopment.

4. **Provide updates on FEED goals and strategies and make recommendations for *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*.**

FEED Goal #1: Maximize participation in each federal nutrition program available to the state.

1.1: Feed more children through increased participation in in-school meal programs and establish accountability measures.

Ms. Adler reviewed the activity and the updates provided. She asked the Subcommittee for comments and/or additional information.

Diane Hogan presented revisions for the update, as requested by Catrina Peters. Currently, the update reflects only free and reduced meal program participation. She suggested including total participation data instead.

Ms. Adler asked if there is enough dialogue between the NDA and school districts about the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) option.

Ms. Hogan stated the NDA works with school districts on CEP. Only schools with 40% free and reduced meal program student participation can participate in CEP. Some districts do not participate due to Title I restrictions.

Ms. Adler commented on the importance of engaging teachers for feedback on the success and barriers of Breakfast After the Bell (BAB).

Ms. Hogan believes the NDA has a report with BAB feedback from teachers.

Ms. Feiler requested Ms. Hogan share this information with Ms. Urban.

Ms. Urban asked the Council their vision for "maximizing goals for each program in the state."

Dorian Stonebarger stated Share Our Strength has a gold standard for breakfast programs.

Ms. Urban asked if this sort of benchmark existed for other programs as well.

Ms. Adler stated national hunger organizations have information on best practices. She suggested looking at other states comparable to Nevada, such as Oregon, for food security strategies and benchmarks.

Ms. Hogan stated the NDA works with other state agencies. They have statewide data and gather national data for comparison.

Ms. Stonebarger stated Three Square Food Bank and FBNN are both in the Feeding America Network, and are compared to similar food banks nationwide.

1.2: Expand partnerships between regional food banks and commodities programs to effectively utilize and deliver all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodity programs along with fresh produce.

Ms. Adler was happy to see The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was moving to a pantry model. She stated this may be a more cost-effective approach than their current model.

Ms. Hogan stated in the 2017 federal fiscal year, to date, 1.5 million pounds of fresh produce has been distributed through TEFAP.

Ms. Adler discussed the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). She suggested convening Nevada FDPIR sponsors to ensure awareness of additional food security programs and resources.

1.3: Create a strategic partnership between Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to maximize caseloads.

Ms. Adler summarized the LEAD/REACH discussion around this activity, specifically the new DWSS database. This database will allow each program participant to have a "single identifier" and allow for data sharing across social service programs. Because there are fundamental differences between the WIC and SNAP Programs, this database is the first step to enhancing collaboration.

Karissa Loper provided an update on behalf of Michelle Walker, WIC Section Manager, on collaboration efforts between WIC and SNAP. Currently, the Programs are collaborating on a data analysis project to determine participation across both programs. This analysis will conclude with a targeted outreach campaign. Additionally, there will be cross-training between local WIC agencies and SNAP staff, including the creation of a referral script to streamline the referral process between both programs.

1.4: Create partnerships and sponsorships to feed more children through out-of-school meal programs and daycare centers using the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

Ms. Hogan reported there were 299 SFSP sites and 67 seamless summer sites, totaling 366 sites. Total participation data will be shared with Ms. Urban for the update.

Ms. Hogan reported on CACFP participation data. While there was a decrease in early childcare home participation, there was still an increase in early childhood education (ECE) center participation. The NDA is working with sponsors to increase early childcare home participation in SFSP as well.

Ms. Hogan continued to discuss NDA partnerships which contribute to increased program participation. Children's Advocacy Alliance offered to research why CACFP participation is low in ECE settings, as well as provide training on meal guidelines. It is now a state requirement that all ECEs follow CACFP nutrition guidelines. NDA has trained Child Care Licensing and partners on the guidelines and will be posting resources on their website. She also reported a slight increase in ECE CACFP participation on tribal reservations. The Intertribal Council of Nevada has been instrumental in increasing participation among Head Start programs on reservations.

Ms. Adler asked about the feasibility of aligning nutrition guidelines across federal nutrition programs. This consistency would allow for agencies to offer multiple nutrition programs.

Ms. Hogan stated NDA is making progress, especially as this is also a national effort supported by USDA. CACFP and the National School Lunch Program both follow USDA nutritional guidelines. Enhanced SFSP nutrition guidelines are less likely to change, but improving nutritional content of SFSP meals is always encouraged.

Ms. Adler addressed the difference between urban and rural summer feeding sites. Due to capacity issues, some rural sites resort to serving pre-packaged, shelf-stable meals. This may affect a site's ability to adhere to stricter nutritional guidelines.

Ms. Adler also discussed the System of Care Grant, which is part of the Children's Mental Health Initiative to improve systems for coordinated, community-based, individualized services for children and their families. The NDE has a monthly meeting on this topic. She asked about the NDA's involvement with System of Care and emphasized the need for discussion around food and nutrition resources available to families.

Ms. Urban asked if there are other contributors to increased participation in these programs.

Ms. Hogan stated partnerships are the primary factor. Other factors include meal variety and activities at meal sites. Park safety can also be an issue. Last year, Three Square applied for a waiver allowing children to take food off-site from a park if deemed unsafe.

1.5: Replicate effective models to increase rural capacity for children's out-of-school meal programs.

Ms. Adler reemphasized the lack of economy of scale in Rural Nevada. She suggested enhanced collaboration with the rural school districts and community coalitions.

1.6: Assist school districts and charter schools with implementing the state's School Wellness Policy and support the Office of Child Nutrition Program's enforcement of the policy.

Ms. Urban provided an overview of collaboration between the NDA and CDPHP School Health Program. Schools are required to report on School Wellness Policy implementation annually, but truly tracking implementation is difficult because the policy is not law.

Ms. Hogan agreed with Ms. Urban. She added the annual statewide School Wellness Report has been released. She will share the Report with Ms. Urban to share with the Council and Subcommittee members.

Ms. Adler discussed the importance of aligning School Wellness Policy efforts with those of the NDE Office of Safe and Respectable Learning.

FEED Goal #2: Establish and integrate an actual or virtual "One-Stop-Shop" system to increase access to food and other services for food insecure Nevadans.

2.1: Increase the number of service providers and places within a community and neighborhood to increase access points to healthy food by food-insecure people who may be ineligible for federal nutrition programs.

Ms. Adler asked Ms. Urban about the "One-Stop-Shop" Grant.

Ms. Urban stated Pat Petrie oversees the "One-Stop-Shop" Grant. Mr. Petrie provided her with the final report. Some of the data is provided as baseline data for activity 2.4. She asked if the "One-Stop-Shop" Grant aligns with the original intent of the activity.

Ms. Feiler added the Urban Seed Foundation and the OFS have discussed data projects to develop an interactive asset map. Urban Seed Foundation is working on a phased research project with the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Three Square Food Bank to begin collecting and analyzing data. She emphasized the need for collaboration between the various mapping projects throughout the state. She added this map will allow for increased accessibility to various food and nutrition programs and resources.

Ms. Stonebarger stated the map will also be used to increase program partnerships and fill in service gaps.

Ms. Adler brought the group's attention to the target population for this activity, "...people who may be ineligible for federal nutrition programs."

Ms. Urban asked if this was measurable.

Mr. Piccinini stated the FBNN collects this information through the program intake form. This allows FBNN to track other social factors which may affect their clients' food security.

After discussion, the Subcommittee suggested revising the goal to state "Increase the number of services providers and places within a community and neighborhood to increase access points to healthy food by food insecure people, including those who may be ineligible for federal nutrition programs." The Subcommittee agreed the activity's language should be more inclusive and focus on identifying and increasing the number of food access points throughout Nevada.

Ms. Urban asked if the Subcommittee suggests revising the activity to reflect a statewide approach.

Ms. Adler stated this is a statewide activity, but the data should be collected at the local level, by zip code for example.

Naomi Lewis asked if activity 2.1 includes program enrollment and access to healthy foods.

Ms. Adler replied the driver behind "One-Stop-Shop" activities is to maximize enrollment in all programs for which a recipient is eligible.

2.2: Assess and implement a single, statewide database system that integrates with other information and service systems (e.g., 2-1-1, Federal Nutrition Programs).

Ms. Urban stated her update in the worksheet is now irrelevant. She will update again to include information on the DWSS single identifier database mentioned at the July 19th LEAD/REACH meeting.

Ms. Lewis provided an overview of the single identifier database and the No Wrong Door initiative. She discussed another DWSS project, Targeting Partnerships, in which the goal is to place SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid-eligible workers in the community for program outreach.

Ms. Lewis stated a single integrated data system already exists for SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF.

Ms. Adler stated the intent of this activity is to include other public assistance programs.

Ms. Lewis suggested this activity needs to be more specific.

Ms. Adler suggested revising the activity to include public assistance programs.

2.3: Collaborate with the Consumer Assistance Committee of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange on a single point entry/application process for multiple assistance programs across systems.

Ms. Urban reported that at the July 19th LEAD/REACH meeting, a member stated the single identifier database must exist before the single point of entry application can exist. She asked Ms. Lewis to confirm.

Ms. Lewis believes this came about from the single streamlined application for health care reform, which still exists. She believes the No Wrong Door screening will enhance this process.

Ms. Adler suggested revising the activity to focus on the development of a single point entry/application process for multiple assistance programs.

2.4: Strengthen partnerships and increase efficiency to implement a "One-Stop-Shop" for all assistance programs.

Ms. Adler stated the No Wrong Door work aligns with this activity.

Ms. Feiler asked if a client's personally identifiable information can be shared among partners.

Ms. Lewis clarified that only de-identified client data can be shared. Specific personally identifying information cannot be shared.

Ms. Adler stated this data will help identify underserved individuals and help direct collaboration efforts. She encouraged the Subcommittee to also consider how they would measure efficiency. She stated the collaboration and partnerships must be developed before they can enhance efficiency.

2.5: Expand partnerships linked to a "One-Stop-Shop" to address risk factors that increase food insecurity.

Ms. Adler discussed the social determinants of health and the connection with food security. She suggested cross-referencing discussions from the July 19th LEAD/REACH meeting about the social determinants of health.

Ms. Lewis provided information about a collaboration with a community college which allows SNAP recipients to enroll in certificate programs that can improve their chances of earning a living wage.

Ms. Adler stated additional partnerships to be considered under this activity should include organizations involved in education, affordable housing, and access to healthcare.

Darlene Dougherty stated Lutheran Social Services is increasing access to resources by delivering bags of food to shut-ins at their homes. She also stated the Aging and Disability Services Division is working with SNAP-Ed funds to increase socialization and physical activity among older Nevadans. She stated there are now WIC Farmers' Markets in Nevada.

MS. FEILER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES TO FEED GOALS #1 AND #2. MS. STONEBARGER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

GROW Goal #1: Increase the number of servings of nutritious foods consumed by Nevadans - with emphasis on foods that are produced in Nevada.

1.1: Encourage local producers to establish aggregation centers to increase retail and wholesale sales.

Ms. Adler stated the Healthy Community Coalition submitted a grant application to USDA for this purpose.

Ms. Urban stated she was unable to find comprehensive data on the number of aggregation centers in Nevada.

Ms. Adler suggested contacting the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) for data related to this activity.

1.2: Support and expand model programs and partnerships (e.g., school gardens, community gardens, and small food plots) to supplement a household's supply of fresh produce or encourage entrepreneurial efforts, with a focus on individuals utilizing the food security network.

Ms. Hogan asked the group how they define "certified garden."

Ms. Feiler stated it is any garden with a school district-approved curriculum.

Ms. Adler states the number of certified school gardens does not align with the activity.

Ms. Hogan stated she will follow up on the number of school gardens statewide as well as if those gardens can hold a farmers' market.

Ms. Feiler stated she can help gather school garden data for Clark County.

Ms. Adler and Ms. Dougherty agreed there should be an activity focusing on farm-to-school programs and initiatives.

1.3: Develop a food asset map (inventory) to catalog existing food resources and potential resources in the state that could be leveraged further.

Ms. Adler suggested reaching out to Fred Steinmann at UNR. He has been working on a food regulatory map.

Ms. Dougherty stated there are several existing access maps available. She suggests collecting existing maps to determine if they are compatible and if there are any data gaps.

Ms. Adler stated activities 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5 build on one another.

Ms. Stonebarger asked if there is alignment between this activity and FEED Goal #2 activity 2.1.

Ms. Adler stated no. This activity relates to food grown by a community including urban, community, and school gardens.

Ms. Dougherty would like to see a map of all food assets.

Ms. Feiler and Ms. Stonebarger discussed their collaborative mapping project for Clark County. It will include grown food, grocery stores, and resource asset points. The map will only include healthy food assets.

Ms. Adler stated the Clark County asset map aligns more with REACH Goal #1 activity 1.2. She suggested the following revision for: "Assure food system asset maps catalogue existing grown food resources."

1.4: Analyze the asset map, prioritize, and recommend investment and collaboration opportunities to increase food security and its economic impact.

Ms. Adler recommended revising this activity to state, "Analyze the asset map and work with key partners (NDA, CABNR, UNCE, key non-profits, Urban Seed Foundation, etc.) to prioritize and recommend investment and collaboration opportunities to increase food security and its economic impact."

Ms. Adler also suggested convening these key partners in the future.

1.5: Use identified aggregation, processing, and distribution capacity to pilot the utilization of local foods into the food security networks and Nevada institutions (e.g., Farm to School, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program).

The Subcommittee discussed the feasibility of incorporating locally grown foods into Nevada schools.

Mr. Piccinini said Washoe County Nutrition Services buys as much local produce as they can. They have found local producers have enough product for approximately one (1) day of food service.

Ms. Feiler stated Clark County has a similar problem. Most produce served in schools comes from California due to lack of local product availability. Urban Seed, Inc. has the capacity to fill this need and could be a viable vendor for Clark County School District within 18 months.

1.6: Work with producers and other stakeholders to identify and address barriers preventing the production, sale, and use or expansion of local foods.

Ms. Adler stated the local health districts will be a key partner for this activity. She also suggested reaching out to Rick Lattin of Lattin Farms. He is very concerned about the next generation of food safety regulations and is very knowledgeable about this topic.

The Subcommittee discussed the progress of this activity, including the passing of the Cottage Food Bill, allowing for a limited amount of non-hazardous foods to be prepared in a person's home, and the passage of Senate Bill 429, which establishes provisions relating to urban agriculture

1.7: Develop an education and marketing plan to encourage consumption of nutritious, local foods, focused on individuals who utilize the food security network.

The Subcommittee agreed this activity aligns with the asset map of GROW Goal #1 activity 1.3. Ms. Feiler and Ms. Stonebarger stated there will be a marketing plan to promote the use of the mobile application which will accompany the previously discussed food asset map.

Ms. Adler recommended to change the language to "Support the collaboration of state/non-state agencies and stakeholders to produce and execute culturally competent marketing plans to encourage consumption of nutritious, local foods focused on individuals who utilize the food security network."

MS. FEILER MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES TO GROW GOAL #1. MS. STONEBARGER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Adler adjourned the meeting at 3:19 P.M.