

Governor's Council on Food Security
Minutes
January 17, 2018

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on January 17, 2018, beginning at approximately 1:05 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)
Amy Roukie, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Dana Serrata, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, DWSS
Jim Barbee, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square
Yvanna Cancela, Executive Director, Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Charles (Chuck) Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA)
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)
Kenneth Osgood, MD, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Board of Health
Rob Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel
Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation

Board Members Not Present

Amy Hill, Government Relations, Walmart
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)
Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties
Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, NDA
David Weaver, Food Service Industry Consultants

Also, Present

Linda Anderson, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General's Office
Beth Handler, Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), DPBH
Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW, DPBH
Jeffery Duncan, Social Services Chief II, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Michelle Walker, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program 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, DHHS
Darlene Dougherty, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed), Nutrition Specialist, and SNAP Outreach Coordinator, DWSS

Mary Liveratti, President, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Nevada State Chapter

Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Gina Gimenez, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Administrative Assistant III, CFCW, DPBH

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Announcements

Steve Fisher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 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 from November 15, 2017 Council Meeting

Mr. Fisher asked if there were any corrections to the November 15, 2017 draft minutes.

Aurora Buffington stated the program name mentioned on page three (3) is the "Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program."

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 15, 2017 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY CHUCK DUARTE. CHERIE JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. Update Regarding 2018 Meeting Dates

Per GCFS member request, Laura Urban conducted a survey to reassess the 2018 GCFS meeting dates. The majority of GCFS members preferred to keep the 2018 meeting dates as approved at the September 2017 meeting. The GCFS will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of every other month.

4. Policy Subcommittee Update

The Policy Subcommittee met for the first time on January 3, 2018. The Subcommittee established guidelines and goals. Ms. Jamason and Jodi Tyson will co-chair. The Subcommittee will develop a menu of policy recommendations for GCFS consideration.

Jim Barbee asked if State agencies will be bringing forward Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Fisher stated Director Whitley will need to express support for DHHS BDRs before they are presented to the Subcommittee. The timeframe should be during May-July 2018.

It was confirmed the Policy Subcommittee meetings are open meetings; anyone can attend as members of the public.

5. Review, make recommendations, and approve 2017 Annual Report

Ms. Urban presented the GCFS 2017 Annual Report for GCFS consideration. She stated the Executive Summary's second sentence will be revised to reflect "one in eight Nevada households do not know from where their next meal will come." The report can be found [here](#).

Ms. Jamason recommended adding child hunger data to the executive summary.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2017 GCFS ANNUAL REPORT. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. ANNMARIE FEILER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

6. Make recommendations for vacant membership representing non-food manufacturing or business

Mr. Fisher asked for recommendations for the membership "representing non-food manufacturing or business."

Ms. Buffington recommended Dave Martin from Indoor Farms of America.

Ms. Tyson agreed Dave Martin would be a good addition.

It was recommended an on-boarding process be developed for new members.

Ms. Tyson offered to meet with new members located in Southern Nevada.

7. Overview of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed)

Darlene Dougherty presented an overview of the Nevada SNAP-Ed Program. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Dr. Osgood asked if there are enough full-time employees (FTEs) for effective program implementation and if additional funding is needed.

Ms. Dougherty stated SNAP-Ed could always use more funding. Nevada's SNAP-Ed funding allotment has not changed in eight (8) years. Lack of FTEs is not an issue, it is more about limited funding amounts.

Ms. Tyson asked if program changes were anticipated and if some programs would be cut due to lack of funding.

Ms. Dougherty stated SNAP-Ed programs are evaluated annually to ensure goals are met. If goals are not met, those implementing agencies are at risk of losing funding. Changes may occur at the Federal level. SNAP-Ed funding is not guaranteed beyond 2018.

Ms. Tyson asked if a letter of support (LOS) from the GCFS would be helpful.

Linda Anderson stated the GCFS cannot vote on supporting a LOS today, as it is not on the agenda. The minutes will reflect the GCFS's support of SNAP-Ed and a letter can be drafted in the future.

Ms. Tyson stated in addition to a LOS, individual requests to agencies can be made, requesting they contact congressional delegates to express SNAP-Ed support.

Ms. Jamason asked if a Farm Bill briefing could be arranged.

Mr. Fisher suggested a Farm Bill briefing be added to the March 21, 2018 agenda.

8. Report on farmer's market SNAP redemption

Mr. Fisher stated the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Equipment Program will be available later this year. The machines offered through this program only accept EBT cards. This program pays for equipment and service fees for food providers for up to three (3) years. Another option is the State Equipment Program, provided by DWSS. The equipment offered through this program also only accepts EBT cards. The machine costs \$1,500 with additional service fees paid by the State. DWSS does not have these costs allocated in their budget and can only afford one (1) more machine.

Ms. Jamason asked if most farmers are using Square (a mobile payment processing company) instead of the EBT-only device.

Mr. Fisher stated 18 farmer's markets are FNS-approved and only one (1) is using a DWSS-supported EBT machine.

Ms. Buffington stated SNAP benefits cannot be spent via Square because of encryption errors.

Ms. Tyson asked if Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) was providing the FNS Equipment Program and if so, was the monthly fee included.

Ms. Buffington responded initially SNHD could purchase the machine and cover additional fees using funding available at the time. Several farmers took advantage of this opportunity. The funding has since ended. Farmers are now covering the transaction fees.

Ms. Buffington stated once the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grant begins, only farmer's markets accepting SNAP benefits will be able to provide the one for one match.

Mr. Fisher asked if this is something that could be lobbied for in the Farm Bill.

Ms. Buffington responded yes and stated she will survey Southern Nevada farmer's market managers to assess EBT monthly fees.

9. Identify next steps regarding the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* findings and recommendations

Dr. Osgood suggested listing all programs available to older Nevadans, including Federal, State, and secular programs to better understand the service gap.

Ms. Tyson stated the report does show a list of programs, such as food pantries, etc. Ms. Tyson believes the focus should be on unaccounted-for older Nevadans.

Dr. Osgood emphasized the need to identify the issues making older Nevadans food insecure and list programs addressing those issues. For example, some older Nevadans are food insecure due to lack of transportation, in this case it would be beneficial to list Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) programs and resources.

Mr. Duarte suggested focusing on programs such as Meals on Wheels, which help keep older Nevadans out of assisted living.

Yvanna Cancela stated Catholic Charities has data on the health care cost savings associated with Meals on Wheels.

Ms. Jamason recommended creating another GCFS Subcommittee focused on senior issues.

Dana Serrata agreed it is time to start focusing on senior hunger issues.

Mr. Duarte suggested the GCFS Policy Subcommittee review the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* recommendations.

Mary Liveratti stated the Governor's Commission on Aging was also given the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* for review and consideration.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NUTRITION PROGRAMS GAP ANALYSIS FOR OLDER NEVADANS. A MOTION TO ACCEPT WAS MADE BY MR. BARBEE. MS. JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Jamason attempted to make a motion to create a Subcommittee to focus on issues facing older Nevadans.

Ms. Urban stated the GCFS could not motion the creation of a new Subcommittee at the time, because it was not already on the agenda. Ms. Urban suggested adding this topic as a reoccurring agenda item rather than establishing another Subcommittee.

Ms. Tyson asked if volunteers could convene a working group instead of holding a public meeting.

Ms. Anderson stated if the working group reports back to the GCFS and the Governor's Commission on Aging, then any meetings held would need to follow Nevada Open Meeting Law.

Mr. Duarte suggested the GCFS Policy Subcommittee include this topic as an agenda item for their February 6, 2018 meeting.

10. Review updates, make recommendations, and approve the revised *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*

Ms. Urban provided an overview of the revised *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* (i.e., the Plan). Following the meeting, Ms. Urban will identify leads for each activity.

Ms. Jamason asked how the revised Plan will be evaluated.

Ms. Urban stated once the revised plan is approved by the GCFS, the Office of Food Security will work with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section's Evaluation Team to develop a formal evaluation plan, which will be presented to the GCFS. Reporting will occur twice each year.

Mr. Barbee stated the NDA is a committed partner of the GCFS, but they are understaffed right now. Due to this barrier, he warned it may take longer to fulfill data requests.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REVISED *FOOD SECURITY IN NEVADA: NEVADA'S PLAN FOR ACTION*. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. JAMASON. MS. TYSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

11. Make recommendations for future agenda items

Mr. Duarte reiterated his recommendation of referring the identification of next steps and recommendations regarding the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* to the Policy Subcommittee. He suggested recommendations be consistent with the combined work of the Governor's Commission on Aging, the GCFS, and partner agencies.

Mr. Duarte requested a presentation from agencies implementing Medical Nutrition Therapy.

Naomi Lewis stated a briefing on the Farm Bill was also requested as a future agenda item.

MR. FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ADD THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. FEILER. MR. DUARTE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

12. Public Comment

Ms. Liveratti stated she discussed the need for home-delivered groceries with staff from the Aging and Disability Services Division.

Ms. Lewis stated there was a pilot program through FNS which allowed SNAP benefits to be used for home-delivered food.

Ms. Dougherty stated Lutheran Social Services of Nevada was awarded a grant to pilot home-delivered groceries, but she is unaware of the program's status.

Ms. Tyson stated Three Square Food Bank will be making an announcement on January 17, 2018 regarding hot food recovery.

13. **Adjournment**

Mr. Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:12 P.M.