

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
Governor's Council on Food Security
Minutes
March 6, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on March 6, 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, East Hall
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Board Members Present

Steve Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Homa Anoooshehpour, Administrator, Food & Nutrition Services, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, DWSS
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square Food Bank
Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance

Board Members Not Present

Also Present

Karissa Loper, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Michelle Walker, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section Manager, CFCW, DPBH
Joe Dibble, Health Program Specialist II, WIC, CFCW, DPBH
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Janet Osalvo, Obesity Prevention & Control Coordinator, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH
Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH
Gina Gimenez, Administrative Assistant III, WIC, CFCW, DPBH
Mary Liveratti, President, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Nevada State Chapter
Shawna Alto, Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Deacon Tom Roberts, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Cherie Jamason, co-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) Policy Sub-Committee was present.

2. ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of January 3, 2018 Council Meeting

Ms. Jamason asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes for the January 3, 2018 meeting.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 3, 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY NAOMI LEWIS. STEVE FISHER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. ACTION ITEM: Approve 2018 Sub-Committee meeting dates

Laura Urban stated the GCFS Policy Sub-Committee meetings will take place the first Tuesday of every month. Meeting dates past June 2018 will be determined as needed. The save-the-date meeting handout can be found [here](#). The 2018 meeting dates were approved, per member consensus.

4. Identify next steps regarding recommendations from *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*

Mr. Fisher provided an overview of the Freedom from Hunger Addendum. The report can be found [here](#). Mr. Fisher stated establishing relationships with the workforce and Truckee Meadows Community College was crucial to the success of the DWSS workfare program.

Jodi Tyson stated the “cliff effect” mentioned is an issue for several public assistance programs, not just the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Ms. Tyson asked if DWSS is involved with the Interim Committee for the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security.

Ms. Lewis stated she presented at the December 2017 Interim Committee for the Nevada Task Force on Financial Security meeting and is scheduled to present again at their May meeting on updates regarding the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.

Ms. Tyson stated Nevada is working to implement workfare. Nevada operates SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP-ET) and other programs which seek to provide specialized certifications and training, but there are a limited number of slots available for workforce development. Workfare allows for acting in a volunteer capacity as a qualification to maintaining SNAP eligibility until the client can obtain a workforce development slot, is able to get a job, or no longer qualifies for SNAP. Nevada is preparing to offer workfare options for the first time. Ms. Tyson also mentioned special consideration may be given to military families.

Ms. Jamason asked if there were gaps regarding military and former military families’ needs.

Ms. Lewis stated SNAP does not track military and former military families. The application does ask about eligibility for veteran’s benefits.

Mr. Fisher is working with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to obtain data. Once DWSS has this data, it can be matched with data from other state agencies.

Ms. Jamason asked if there is a monitoring system in place to track the vulnerable populations prioritized in *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*.

Mr. Fisher stated it is possible to monitor vulnerable populations, like the veteran population, as the DHHS Office of Analytics can provide this information.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated there is a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic on the Nellis Airforce Base and suggested data could be collected from the clinic. There is also a State Refugee Office in southern Nevada, and they may be able to provide data as well.

It was confirmed the University of Nevada, Reno is home to the State Refugee Office in northern Nevada.

Joe Dibble provided an overview of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Program. The report can be found [here](#).

Ms. Jamason asked for clarification regarding eligibility.

Mr. Dibble stated eligibility is determined based on rural designation and free and reduced lunch eligibility.

Mr. Fisher asked if school districts share data on free and reduced lunch eligibility with WIC.

Mr. Dibble stated the Nevada Department of Education and NDA share free and reduced lunch eligibility and participation data with WIC, as well as contact information for eligible families.

Ms. Tyson asked how participating schools are selected.

Mr. Dibble stated the Summer EBT Program currently serves only one (1) urban-designated district, Washoe County. The families participating in Washoe County were part of the original demonstration project. These families were randomly selected in 2012. The expansion in 2017 allowed for participation of eligible outlying/isolated schools in urban areas.

Ms. Jamason stated Diane Hogan with the NDA will present on updates regarding the "*Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*" child nutrition program recommendations at the April 3rd Policy Sub-Committee meeting.

Ms. Jamason reviewed other recommendations from *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*. One (1) recommendation is to "Create a White House Leadership Council to End Hunger that includes participation by a board group of government and nongovernment stakeholders." She stated national Commission on Hunger members recommended having similar entities acting at the state-level, which aligns with previous conversations regarding placing the GCFS in statute as a formal advisory body to the Office of Food Security.

Ms. Jamason asked Chuck Duarte to discuss the recommendation made regarding the expansion of home-delivered meals for older Nevadans using Medicaid as a payor source.

Mr. Duarte stated using Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms to fund nutritious food delivery may be an option for older Nevadans, but he is not familiar with any existing waiver in the United States allowing for this type of service reimbursement.

Mary Liveratti stated the Nevada Medicaid waiver included home-delivered meal reimbursement originally, but it was removed due to limited use. Other States include home-delivered meals as a service within their Medicaid Waiver. She added home-delivered meals are included as a provision within the Physical Disability Waiver. The Nevada DHHS' Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) is researching the possibility of aligning the Medicaid Waiver and Physical Disability Waiver services.

Mr. Duarte suggested standardizing services among all waivers. He asked if Medicaid data could be used to identify SNAP-eligible individuals.

Ms. Lewis stated DWSS is an integrated agency, meaning staff can determine an individual's eligibility for SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid using the same application. When an individual completes one (1) application, DWSS can determine eligibility for other state programs.

5. Identify next steps regarding recommendations from the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*

Ms. Tyson and Ms. Liveratti provided an overview of the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* including recommendations. The report can be found [here](#).

Ms. Liveratti recommended creating a joint workgroup with representation from the GCFS and the Governor's Commission on Aging to address the recommendations of the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*.

Ms. Tyson stated congregate meal reimbursement rates have not increased since 2000. Rural sites struggle because the reimbursement does not sufficiently cover operational costs. State dollars have been allotted to supplement federal funding for these programs. Ms. Tyson stated one (1) in three (3) older Nevadans is disabled, which makes it more difficult for this population to access pantries. Home-delivered meals are therefore a priority.

Ms. Liveratti asked what the average SNAP benefit is for older Nevadans.

Ms. Lewis stated she has requested her staff retrieve this data, but \$16 is the minimum benefit. DWSS is also working with ADSD social workers to educate and conduct SNAP interviews in older Nevadans' homes.

Ms. Tyson stated pantries do not have a good system for communicating with one another. A client-centered technology system to track clients, including seniors, would be helpful to ensure pantries are meeting the needs of all their clients.

Ms. Liveratti stated transportation among older Nevadans is an ongoing issue.

Ms. Jamason asked how transportation issues will be addressed.

Ms. Liveratti responded a specific recommendation has not been made regarding transportation.

Ms. Liveratti and Ms. Tyson discussed the recommendation regarding senior nutrition program state plans. These formal nutrition plans are renewed on a regular basis and could be reviewed by stakeholders to make recommendations on strategies for enhancing program efficiencies.

Ms. Liveratti suggested the State Plan for the Older Americans Act should be reviewed by the GCFS.

Ms. Liveratti stated ADSD is conducting a Meal Cost Study, which will be released in fall 2018. The report will offer the opportunity to review the meal reimbursement rates, which have not increased since 2000. Child Nutrition Program meal rates are much higher than those supporting nutrition programs for older people. There should be parity among these programs.

Deacon Roberts commented other States contribute general fund dollars up to three (3) dollars per meal.

Ms. Tyson stated DWSS is in the process of extending SNAP certification to three (3) years to increase participation among older Nevadans. She also recommended improving technology among food pantries to increase efficiencies.

Mr. Fisher recommended inviting the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants to the April Sub-Committee meeting to determine if Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) grants can be used to invest in improving technology. Mr. Fisher was also interested in what software pantries currently use.

Ms. Tyson stated many food pantries use the Bit Focus Clarity system.

The Sub-Committee discussed the possibility of using SNAP benefits for online grocery ordering.

Ms. Lewis discussed two (2) national pilot efforts to incorporate SNAP benefits for online ordering of groceries and grocery delivery. Nevada is not participating in either of these initiatives but is monitoring national results.

Ms. Tyson reemphasized the importance of parity in nutrition program funding.

6. Identify next steps regarding community stakeholder policy priorities and recommendations

Shawna Alto and Shane Piccinini presented a policy recommendation on behalf of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. The policy brief can be found [here](#).

Mr. Fisher asked if hospitals approve of this concept.

Ms. Alto stated she has not been able to connect with a northern Nevada hospital representative. She has spoken to rural hospitals and Renown's Social Justice Department; both support this concept.

Mr. Duarte suggested reaching out to Bill Welch from the Nevada Hospital Association as a next step. He volunteered to speak with Mr. Welch as introduction.

Ms. Jamason recommended hospital employees being trained as trusted partners.

Ms. Lewis stated eligibility workers have been placed in Renown to identify and enroll qualifying individuals into DWSS programs.

Ms. Lewis and Mr. Duarte recommended this policy not be legislatively mandated, because it could be successfully accomplished administratively.

Ms. Tyson asked if trusted partners can assist with SNAP outreach.

Ms. Lewis stated there are confidentiality issues, and trusted partners may not be able to assist with SNAP outreach.

Mr. Piccinini stated the policy also includes recommendations for stable housing for seniors.

Mr. Duarte stated there is an ongoing obesity epidemic; fatty liver disease is the leading cause of liver transplantations. Proper nutrition education is the only solution for addressing obesity and preventing fatty liver disease. Mr. Duarte recommends existing programs extend food literacy education to populations receiving food support.

7. Identify agenda items for next Sub-Committee meeting

Ms. Urban suggested meeting with Ms. Tyson and Ms. Jamason regarding the policy recommendations discussed. Drafted recommendations will be presented to the Sub-Committee for further action at the April meeting.

Ms. Tyson recommended inviting Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, ADSD, and Medicaid representatives to discuss any existing activities and the feasibility of potential policy recommendations.

8. Public Comment

NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Jamason adjourned the meeting at 3:50 P.M.