

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR  
Governor's Council on Food Security  
Minutes  
April 3, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on April 3, 2018, beginning at approximately 1:07 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 AnooShehpoor, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, 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  
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square Food Bank

**Board Members Not Present**

Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance

**Also Present**

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
Cynthia Routh Smith, Social Services Chief III, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief II, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)  
Michelle Walker, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section Manager, CFCW, DPBH  
Sheri Gallucci, Social Services Specialist III, DWSS  
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS  
Diane Hogan, Nutrition Programs Professional, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA  
Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH  
Gina Gimenez, Administrative Assistant III, WIC, CFCW, DPBH  
Mary Liveratti, President, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Nevada State Chapter  
Michelle Dobbs, On Common Ground  
Shannon Dobbs, On Common Ground  
Nancy Brown, Opportunity Alliance Nevada  
Lynne Keller, Opportunity Alliance Nevada

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

Jodi Tyson, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 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 from March 6, 2018 Sub-Committee Meeting**

Ms. Tyson asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the March 6, 2018 meeting.

MS. TYSON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 6, 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: Discuss progress and identify next steps regarding recommendations from *Freedom From Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America***

Diane Hogan provided an update on the recommendations from *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*. The handout can be found [here](#).

The Sub-Committee discussed Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) waivers issued to Three Square in summer 2017, including a safety waiver and an extreme heat waiver. Both waivers allowed children to take meals home, rather than requiring meals to be eaten at the congregate meal site.

Ms. Tyson stated Three Square received the safety waiver for one (1) of their SFSP sites, but only for one (1) month. The extreme heat waiver was also in effect in summer 2017 - extreme heat in Las Vegas is defined as 115 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

Ms. Hogan asked if the safety waiver was only in effect for one (1) month due to it being issued at the end of the summer.

Ms. Tyson stated the waiver did specify 30 days.

Ms. Hogan stated she will review the conditions of the waivers.

It was determined program waivers are designed and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) at the federal level.

Ms. Hogan stated the USDA developed guidance, including strategies to streamline Child Nutrition Program applications and requirements to simplify the process for program sponsors. Nevada has implemented all the strategies recommended.

Cherie Jamason asked about the status of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in Early Care and Education (ECE) settings.

Ms. Hogan stated ECE CACFP participation has declined nationwide. Many of NDA's program sponsors, including Food for Kids, are conducting outreach to increase CACFP participation in ECEs among the eligible population. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) has added ECE settings under their CACFP sponsorship. Three Square Food Bank has also taken ECEs under their sponsorship.

The Sub-Committee discussed direct certification for nutrition programs in schools. Direct certification is a process conducted by the local education agencies (LEAs) to certify eligible children for free meals, without having the family complete an application. Direct certification matches student enrollment lists with SNAP and other agency records whose participants are categorically eligible for free meals. Identifying qualifying children through direct certification will increase participation numbers among eligible persons.

Homa Anooshehpour stated the NDA has a direct certification grant. By the end of the grant period, NDA hopes to expand direct certification to all school districts.

Ms. Jamason asked Ms. Anooshehpour to consider recommendations for state administrative changes that can be adjusted within federal guidelines to feed more children in Nevada, and to send these recommendations to Laura Urban.

Ms. Tyson stated final policy recommendations would need to be shared at the May 1<sup>st</sup> or June 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Sub-Committee meetings.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding community stakeholder policy priorities and recommendations**

Nancy Brown provided an overview of Opportunity Alliance Nevada. The presentation can be found [here](#). Ms. Brown will refine Opportunity Alliance Nevada's policy recommendations and send them to Ms. Urban.

Shannon and Michelle Dobbs provided an overview of On Common Ground. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Michelle Dobbs shared the policy recommendation of addressing Washoe County zoning restrictions limiting multiple agencies from distributing food and restrictions around food

processing licensing. In addition, she suggested enhancing community collaboration between for-profit businesses.

Shannon Dobbs stated in France it is illegal for grocery stores to throw away food. He would like to see a similar policy instituted in Nevada.

Ms. Jamason asked Mr. and Ms. Dobbs to send Ms. Urban more information regarding On Common Ground's policy recommendations.

Ms. Tyson stated one of the recommendations from the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* is to increase congregate meal reimbursements for nutrition programs serving older people to create parity with child nutrition program meal reimbursement rates.

Jeff Duncan stated Nevada ADSD has not submitted a budget request to increase the congregate meal rate.

Ms. Tyson asked what the estimated cost would be to increase the congregate meal and home-delivered meal reimbursement rates.

Mr. Duncan stated ADSD is currently working on a meal rate study but is unable to separate congregate and home-delivered meals rate data. A national level study revealed the difference is approximately 40 cents.

The Sub-Committee concluded a Bill Draft Request would need to be submitted to increase meal reimbursement rates for nutrition programs serving older Nevadans. It was recommended there be three (3) separate meal rates: 1) less of a rate for congregate meals, 2) standard rate for frozen meals, and 3) accelerated rates for hot meals being delivered.

Ms. Jamason asked if it is possible for the State to negotiate a meal reimbursement rate with an organization which would sponsor sites and reimburse meals at a higher rate.

Mr. Duncan confirmed the State can negotiate a meal reimbursement rate with an organization which would sponsor sites and reimburse meals at a higher rate.

Ms. Tyson asked if community health worker services could be reimbursed if they were used to deliver meals.

Mr. Duncan did not know but confirmed he would investigate the question.

Mr. Duncan continued and stated the Frail and Elderly Waiver does not include home-delivered meals; however, data shows 25% of those on the waiver received home-delivered

meals. Data also shows 50% of those on the Physical Disability Waiver receive home-delivered meals.

Ms. Jamason asked Mr. Duncan to send administrative policy recommendations to Ms. Urban.

Ms. Tyson stated the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* also looked at aligning funding resources. There is a food insecurity, One-Stop-Shop grant opportunity offered through the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, within the Department of Health and Human Services. The Sub-Committee has had discussions about enhancing coordination with the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants to align their grant priorities with those of the GCFS. Ms. Tyson asked Cynthia Routh Smith to provide an overview of the One-Stop-Shop grant.

Ms. Routh Smith stated hunger has fallen to the third State priority per the last needs assessment conducted in 2016. Extensive research occurs prior to creating the needs assessment questionnaire, which determines grant priorities. The 2018 Needs Assessment is being conducted now. The final report will be presented to the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) at their June 2018 meeting. Ms. Routh Smith suggested a GCFS member present to GMAC on GCFS priorities.

Ms. Tyson stated the next GCFS meeting is on May 16, 2018. The GCFS can discuss the possibility of drafting a letter outlining recommendations to the GMAC at that time.

Ms. Lewis provided the average Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit amount for older Nevadans, as requested at the March meeting. Ms. Lewis stated for 30,000 older Nevadans, the average benefit is \$87 per month. The data also showed most older Nevadans receiving SNAP benefits live in a one (1) person household.

**5. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve policy recommendations to be presented to the Governor's Council on Food Security**

Ms. Tyson stated the Sub-Committee will wait to approve recommendations until a refined list is developed. She will speak with On Common Ground regarding their food processing regulation concerns.

The Sub-Committee agreed to 1) recommend a policy to increase funding for home-delivered and congregate meals, and 2) request the GCFS draft a letter to GMAC recommending senior programming be considered a funding priority.

**6. ACTION ITEM: Identify agenda items, action items, and goals for the next Sub-Committee meeting**

Ms. Tyson requested inviting Medicaid to the May 2018 Sub-Committee meeting to discuss including home-delivered meals in the Frail and Elderly Waiver.

The group recommended Ms. Routh Smith present at the May 16, 2018 GCFS meeting about the food insecurity One-Stop-Shop grants.

**7. Public Comment**

NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN.

**8. Adjournment**

Ms. Tyson adjourned the meeting at 4:06 P.M.