

**POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE FOR
Governor's Council on Food Security
Minutes
May 1, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Sub-Committee held a public meeting on May 1, 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)
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE)
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank
Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA)

Board Members Not Present

Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services Division, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

Also Present

Cody Phinney, Deputy Administrator, Compliance, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy
Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief II, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)
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
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Gina Gimenez, Administrative Assistant III, WIC, CFCW, DPBH
Regis Whaley, Three Square Food Bank
Shane Piccinini, FBNN
Yesenia Alvarez Padilla, FBNN

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

Jodi Tyson, 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 April 3, 2018 Council Meeting

Ms. Tyson asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the April 3, 2018 meeting.

MS. TYSON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 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: Identify next steps regarding recommendations from *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*

Regis Whaley 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](#).

Ms. Tyson stated Three Square's purpose is to pursue legislation to establish a State goal for new meals/more pounds distributed through food recovery efforts. Establishing legislation would help emphasize food recovery as a State goal, not the strategy of one business (e.g., MGM Casino, etc.), and would offer more partnership opportunities to community providers.

Mr. Fisher asked if there is current Nevada legislation around food recovery.

Ms. Tyson replied there is not.

Mr. Fisher asked if there are barriers to expanding food recovery programs without legislation.

Mr. Whaley stated the legislation's goal would be to enhance statewide collaboration. Organizations, like the large casinos/hotels, are apprehensive about donating food.

Chuck Duarte stated creating a State goal through legislation will not increase participation in food recovery programs. There are two (2) major barriers: 1) is a public relations hurdle, in terms of promoting the benefits and opportunities associated with participating in food recovery programs, and 2) the operational concerns of the food banks' ability to quickly redistribute recovered food, in addition to the cost of doing so.

Ms. Tyson stated there is a benefit to stakeholders seeing themselves as part of the solution. Both food banks currently distribute recovered food as it is available, but they do not have a shared program and/or goal. This legislation could be the catalyst to encourage more organizations to participate in food recovery programs.

Mr. Fisher requested a copy of/link to the Vermont legislation that inspired the food recovery proposal.

Mr. Whaley stated he will send the legislation to Laura Urban to share with the GCFS.

Aurora Buffington asked if Three Square Food Bank is familiar with the Federal Food Recovery Act.

Ms. Tyson was not but will do some research.

Shane Piccinini provided an overview of the "cliff effect," when individuals become ineligible for programs for food, transportation, housing, or child care due to an increase in earnings,

ultimately leaving families worse off. This often leads to individuals refusing a promotion or raise to maintain program eligibility. Mr. Piccinini's presentation focused on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The handout can be found [here](#).

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

Cody Phinney discussed Nevada's Frail and Elderly Waiver. Home-delivered meals are not included in the Frail and Elderly Waiver but are included in the Physical Disability Waiver. DWSS and ADSD teams are working together to align the waivers' services, so individuals are not being forced to choose between services.

Ms. Tyson asked if home-delivered groceries qualify under the Physical Disability Waiver.

Ms. Phinney did not know but confirmed she will follow-up with that information.

Ms. Tyson asked if the Physical Disability Waiver applies to anyone who is eligible for the waiver.

Ms. Phinney stated waivers have a participant cap.

Mr. Duarte stated the medical community is not familiar with waiver services.

Jeff Duncan stated there are dedicated ADSD staff who provide waiver outreach and education.

Ms. Phinney also discussed Community Health Workers (CHWs). CHW services are reimbursed through Medicaid managed care programs but not fee-for-service programs. There have been discussions regarding CHWs participating in activities related to food security efforts, such as delivering meals/groceries.

Mr. Piccinini and Yesenia Alvarez Padilla presented a policy proposal on eliminating the asset limits for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program recipients. The proposal can be found [here](#).

Ms. Lewis stated in 2012, DWSS removed the TANF verification requirement so bank statements, receipts, and vehicle registration documents are no longer required in Nevada.

Mr. Piccinini will connect with Ms. Lewis to discuss the TANF proposal further. He will present any changes to the proposal at the June 5th Sub-Committee meeting.

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

The Sub-Committee discussed follow-up items regarding the Frail and Elderly Waiver and CHW reimbursable services. Currently, CHW reimbursable services are only available under Nevada Medicaid's managed care plans. In the future, the GCFS may want to consider a proposal requesting the inclusion of CHW reimbursable services in the State's fee-for-service models.

Ms. Lewis discussed the pilot recommendation within the *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America* around increasing the maximum excess shelter deduction/allowance in SNAP, which is a federal regulation. Nevada may be able to request a waiver from USDA Food and Nutrition Services to increase the maximum shelter deductions allowed by SNAP. Otherwise, changes will need to be made at the federal level, within the Farm Bill, to increase the maximum deductions allowed by SNAP.

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

Ms. Tyson and Ms. Urban will develop a list of the policy recommendations brought forth to the Policy Sub-Committee for Ms. Tyson and Cherie Jamason to present at the June 5, 2018 Sub-Committee meeting.

7. Public Comment

NO PUBLIC COMMENT WAS GIVEN.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Tyson adjourned the meeting at 2:28 P.M.