

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
Governor's Council on Food Security
Minutes
June 5, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee held a public meeting on June 5, 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) (Carson City)
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) (Phone)
Naomi Lewis, Deputy Administrator, DWSS (Carson City)
Jodi Tyson, Director of Government Affairs, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)
Homa Anoooshehpour, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Phone)
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) (Carson City)

Board Members Not Present

Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA)

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Staff 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
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Gina Gimenez, Program Officer I, WIC, CFCW, DPBH
Reena Gupta, Public Health Associate, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH

Others Present

Yvanna Cancela, Executive Director, Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project
Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC)
Regis Whaley, Three Square Food Bank
Shane Piccinini, FBNN

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 Subcommittee was present.

2. **ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes from May 1, 2018 Policy Subcommittee Meeting**

Ms. Jamason asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the May 1, 2018 meeting. None were heard.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 1, 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY STEVE FISHER. NAOMI LEWIS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

Jodi Tyson provided an overview of Three Square Food Bank's bill proposal, "*Food for People, Not Landfills*," which was first presented at the May 1, 2018 GCFS Policy Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Tyson stated Yvanna Cancela, GCFS member and Nevada State Senator, will sponsor "*Food for People, Not Landfills*" in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.

Ms. Cancela stated she has already put in a placeholder for the "*Food for People, Not Landfills*" bill. She will work with Three Square Food Bank to develop the Bill Draft Request.

Regis Whaley presented additional information on "*Food for People, Not Landfills*." The presentation can be found [here](#). Legislation addressing food waste has been mandated in various states, including Vermont. The legislation can be found [here](#).

Ms. Tyson introduced two (2) guests to present on the Vermont legislation and its impact: Jason Maring, Vermont Food Bank Chief Operations Officer, and Josh Kelly, Materials Management Section Chief, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mr. Maring stated the Vermont Food Recovery Bill includes a financial tax incentive and has created social capital in the community. The Vermont Food Bank and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation are working together to increase food recovery among businesses by offering support and education. The Vermont Food Bank's Retail Partner Agency Food Recovery Program brings in nearly 2.8 million pounds of recovered food and requires little funding.

Mr. Kelly stated Vermont passed a universal recycling law in 2012, which bans disposing of recyclables and food waste. This law will be enacted in 2020. To prepare, Vermont created a food recovery hierarchy to reduce food waste. A visual of this hierarchy was presented earlier in [Mr. Whaley's presentation](#). By implementing this hierarchy, Vermont has reduced food waste by 8.5%. The recycling law has encouraged new collaborations among various Vermont agencies and businesses.

Ms. Tyson clarified the “*Food for People, Not Landfills*” draft legislation does not include a ban on food waste. The intention is to incentivize participation and collaboration among statewide partners to achieve a unified goal of reducing food waste in Nevada.

Ms. Tyson introduced Shane Piccinini of FBNN to present a follow-up to his “cliff effect” presentation from the May 1, 2018 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Piccinini presented additional information on the “cliff effect.” The “cliff effect” occurs when individuals become ineligible for assistance 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 presented state-level policies that support low-income families, which are outlined in [this document](#). These policies were put forth in the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session but were not passed. Mr. Piccinini will contact the legislators who sponsored these bills to determine whether they plan to sponsor them again in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session.

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

Ms. Jamason presented Recommendation 18 from [Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America](#). The recommendation is to “Incentivize and expand civic engagement efforts on reducing and eliminating hunger.” Ms. Jamason provided an example of a [Texas bill](#) which aligns with this recommendation.

The Policy Subcommittee confirmed this could be a state-level policy to encourage and foster public/private collaboration among agencies and organizations throughout Nevada.

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

Ms. Tyson presented a [policy handout](#) outlining the recommendations presented and discussed at the Policy Subcommittee meetings to date. The policy handout is a draft of what will be presented to the GCFS at the July 18, 2018 meeting. Ms. Tyson asked for recommendations and edits pertaining to the document's content and structure.

Mr. Fisher suggested separating the administrative and State legislative policies into two (2) charts.

The Policy Subcommittee agreed with Mr. Fisher and identified five (5) administrative policies: 1) support Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) screening, referral, and outreach in inpatient settings within hospitals; 2) enhanced alignment of Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Food Security Grants priorities with GCFS priorities; 3) eliminate asset limits for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients; 4) GCFS should review food and nutrition State Plan proposals to make recommendations related to senior nutrition; and 5) funding for Financial Capability Services.

The Policy Subcommittee identified four (4) State legislative polices: 1) establish the GCFS as a permanent advisory committee, board, or commission in Nevada; 2) increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs; 3) support the

policies proposed to protect Nevada families from the “cliff effect;” and 4) support “*Food for People, Not Landfills*” draft legislation.

Mr. Fisher and Ms. Lewis suggested the policy recommendation of eliminating the asset limits for TANF recipients not be presented to the GCFS; they suggested revisiting this recommendation at the next GCFS Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Per Policy Subcommittee member consensus, the following four (4) administrative policies will be presented to the GCFS at the July 18, 2018 meeting: 1) support SNAP screening, referral, and outreach in inpatient settings within hospitals; 2) enhanced alignment of FHN Food Security Grants priorities with GCFS priorities; 3) GCFS should review food and nutrition State Plan proposals to make recommendations related to senior nutrition; and 4) funding for Financial Capability Services.

Ms. Jamason stated the block of policies proposed to protect Nevada families from the “cliff effect” are all policies put forth during the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session and may be resubmitted in the 2019 Legislative Session. In addition, these policies do not specifically address the “cliff effect,” but rather support family economic stability. She asked the Policy-Subcommittee to consider these factors and asked how they should proceed.

Ms. Tyson suggested this policy block be renamed, “policies proposed to protect financial stability for Nevada families” and suggested Mr. Piccinini contact the Legislators who put these policies forward in the 2017 Legislative Session to determine if these policies will be put forth again in the 2019 Legislative Session.

Per Policy Subcommittee member consensus, the following three (3) State legislative policies will be presented to the GCFS at the July 18, 2018 meeting: 1) establish the GCFS as a permanent advisory committee, board, or commission in Nevada; 2) increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs; and 3) support “*Food for People, Not Landfills*” draft legislation. The Subcommittee agreed the policies proposed to protect financial stability for Nevada families will also be recommended, pending resubmission in the 2019 Legislative Session.

6. ACTION ITEM: Identify agenda items, action items, and goals for next Subcommittee meeting

Per Policy Subcommittee member consensus, there will be two (2) additional Policy Subcommittee meetings to discuss Federal and local policies, one (1) in August and one (1) in September. Laura Urban will issue a poll to identify the August and September meeting dates. It was agreed the policy recommendation of eliminating the asset limits for TANF recipients will be discussed during the August 2018 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

7. Public Comment

Sarah Adler stated if the GCFS were to consider a policy as recommended in agenda item four (4), regarding a framework to foster public/private relationships, possible incentives could include a tax policy and/or a Good Samaritan component. A collaboration framework could encourage new and enhance existing partnerships throughout Nevada. Such a framework policy is worth the consideration.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Tyson adjourned the meeting at 3:15 P.M.