

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR
Governor's Council on Food Security
[Draft] Minutes
August 6, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee held a public meeting on August 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

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4220 South Maryland Pkwy, Building D, Ste. 810
Small Conference Room
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)
Homa Anooshehpour, 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)
Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA) (Carson City)

Board Members Not Present

Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, DWSS
Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Staff Present

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (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, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), CFCW, DPBH

Others Present

Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, FBNN
Paige Barnes, Crowley & Ferrato Public Affairs

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 August 6, 2018 Subcommittee meeting**

Ms. Jamason asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the June 5, 2018 meeting.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 5, 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY STEVE FISHER. AURORA BUFFINGTON 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**

The GCFS Policy Subcommittee reviewed the recommendations of *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*. A handout outlining the recommendations can be found [here](#). Many of these recommendations are being addressed. Various State agencies have provided updates on these recommendations at previous Policy Subcommittee meetings, including the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section.

Laura Urban will develop a comprehensive document compiling these updates for the Policy Subcommittee's review at the September 11, 2018 meeting.

Ms. Jamason brought the Subcommittee's attention to two (2) policy recommendations relating to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) outlined in *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*: 1) *improve access to summer feeding programs and congregate meals by reconsidering requirements for rural areas*, and 2) *change area eligibility for reimbursement of summer feeding from 50% of children eligible for free or reduced-price school meal to 40% to help reach children in rural and suburban areas*. These recommendations must be addressed at the Federal level.

Ms. Jamason suggested the strategy of expanding the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program to increase participation in summer food programs via a new policy.

Chuck Duarte stated the CNP recommendations to which Ms. Jamason is referring would require regulatory or Federal action. He asked if it would be possible for the State to receive a waiver of federal regulations, thereby allowing Nevada to implement the CNP recommendations.

Ms. Jamason responded there are actions that can be taken at the State level.

Mr. Duarte suggested inviting a Medicaid representative to the September 11, 2018 meeting to discuss the Medicare/Medicaid-related recommendations, including: 1) *expand Medicare managed care plans to include coverage for meal delivery for seniors with physician recommendations* and 2) *expand Medicaid managed care plans to include coverage, with a physician recommendation, for meal delivery for individuals who are too young for Medicare, but who are at serious risk or have a disability*.

The Subcommittee discussed the most vulnerable food insecurity populations, as outlined in *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*. These include seniors, single parent families with young children, veterans and active duty military, people with disabilities, American Indians, people affected by high incarceration rates, and immigrants.

Mr. Fisher stated DWSS is currently not working on initiatives serving military families and agreed this is a gap that needs to be addressed. DWSS programs do not track military status.

Ms. Jamason stated the military has their own program similar to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), entitled the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA). This program is underutilized due to stigma among those enlisted and a lack of outreach and promotion. She recommended identifying a liaison to better reach this population.

Mr. Fisher recommended a collaboration with the Nellis Air Force Base in Southern Nevada.

Mr. Duarte stressed the importance of prioritizing two (2) vulnerable populations: active military and veterans. He suggested working with the Nevada Department of Veteran's Services.

Mr. Fisher suggested connecting with both the Nellis Air Force Base and the Nevada Department of Veteran's Services to collect SNAP participation/eligibility data among enlisted military. This data will help determine enrollment gaps, if any exist.

Ms. Buffington stated the Governor's Office also has a Veteran's Advocate Group, which provides outreach to veterans regarding federal assistance programs.

Mr. Duarte suggested the homeless as another priority population. Nevada homeless population data can be collected through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The Subcommittee discussed the need for data to determine the priority populations on which the GCFS should focus efforts and outreach. The Subcommittee recommended the SNAP-Education (Ed) program present on the Needs Assessment conducted in 2017 which includes the SNAP-Ed priority population data.

Ms. Jamason requested a follow-up conversation be put on the September 11, 2018 agenda on "Pilot C" within *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*, which recommends testing the impact of increasing the SNAP maximum excess shelter deduction/allowance on hunger. Naomi Lewis provided information related to this recommendation at the March 6, 2018 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

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

Shane Piccinini stated the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) has hired a lobbyist and is currently assessing the FBNN's legislative priorities. He will share the FBNN's legislative priorities once finalized.

Mr. Duarte asked Mr. Piccinini to provide an update on the administrative policy recommendation previously approved by the Policy Subcommittee and GCFS regarding supporting SNAP screening, referral, and outreach in inpatient settings within hospitals.

Mr. Piccinini stated there will be a meeting in September 2018 regarding this recommendation. He will follow up with the Subcommittee when he has additional information to share.

5. **ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding Federal policy priorities and recommendations**

Mr. Piccinini stated the Farm Bill is currently in Conference Committee at the federal level.

Ms. Jamason asked if the GCFS should write a letter to advocate for changes related to the Farm Bill.

Mr. Piccinini stated if the Farm Bill goes into a reconciliation process, then a letter would be requested.

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

The Subcommittee agreed to add a follow-up discussion regarding: 1) the removal of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Asset Test, 2) expanding Medicaid/Medicare to include coverage for meal delivery, and 3) "Pilot C."

7. **Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Jamason adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.