

**Governor's Council on Food Security  
Minutes  
September 19, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on September 19, 2018, beginning at approximately 1:00 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, Building 1  
West Hall Conference Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

**Board Members Present**

Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) (Carson City)  
Julie Kotchevar, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) (Carson City)  
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) (Carson City)  
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) (Phone)  
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), Board of Health (Las Vegas)  
Rob Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel (Phone)  
Gillian Barclay, Healthcare Industry Specialist, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (Las Vegas)  
Amber Bosket, Executive Director, State Renewable Energy (Phone)  
Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Las Vegas)  
Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties (HCC) (Las Vegas)

**Staff Present**

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Cindy Routh-Smith, Social Services Chief III, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Carson City)  
Kristi Robusto, PhD, Quality Improvement Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

**Board Members Not Present**

Steve Fisher, Administrator, DWSS  
Jerri Conrad, Interim Director, NDA  
Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank  
Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation  
Amy Hill, Government Relations, Walmart

Joe Dibble, LD, RDN, Nutrition Coordinator, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), DPBH, DHHS (Carson City)

Janet Osalvo, Obesity Prevention and Control Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

Diane Hogan, Education Programs Professional, NDA (Las Vegas)

Christopher Bartoni-Rojas, Administrative Assistant II, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

### **Others Present**

Sonia Heckler, Chair, Washoe County Food Policy Council (Carson City)

Al Brislain, President and CEO, FBNN (Carson City)

Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, FBNN (Carson City)

Deacon Tom Roberts, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)

Marcia Blake, Executive Director, James Seastrand Helping Hands of North Las Vegas (Las Vegas)

### **1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Announcements**

Christy McGill called the meeting to order at 1:08 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) was present.

### **2. ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes of July 18, 2018 Council Meeting**

Ms. McGill asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the July 18, 2018 meeting. There were no corrections.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 18, 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY CHERIE JAMASON. ROBERT THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

### **3. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendation for Deacon Tom Roberts to fill membership representing community-based services in Southern Nevada**

Ms. McGill introduced Deacon Tom Roberts and invited him to share his qualifications.

Deacon Roberts stated he has been in Southern Nevada for 30 years. He was an executive in the casino resort industry for 25 years. He was made Deacon in the Catholic Church seven (7) years ago; five (5) years ago he became the President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. He stated addressing food insecurity is one of Catholic Charities' core missions.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO RECOMMEND DEACON ROBERTS FOR THE STATED VACANT MEMBERSHIP. A MOTION TO RECOMMEND WAS MADE BY JULIE KOTCHEVAR. MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

4. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendation for Marcia Blake to fill membership with the experience, knowledge, and skills representing the aging and disability populations**  
Ms. McGill introduced Marcia Blake and invited her to share her qualifications.

Ms. Blake stated she has been the Executive Director of Helping Hands for 17 years. Helping Hands delivers groceries to 2,200 older Nevadans each month.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO RECOMMEND MARCIA BLAKE FOR THE STATED VACANT MEMBERSHIP. A MOTION TO RECOMMEND WAS MADE BY SARAH ADLER. KENNETH OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

5. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations for vacant membership representing food processing or distribution**

Amber Bosket recommended Vanessa McEvoy, Director of Marketing for Get Fresh, a food processing plant which focuses on food sustainability and food access.

Aurora Buffington also recommended a Get Fresh representative, President/CEO Dominic Caldara. She stated a Get Fresh representative would be an asset to the GCFS, as Get Fresh is one of the largest distributors and fresh-cut processors in the region, serving Southern Nevada and the Southwest.

6. **ACTION ITEM: Policy Sub-Committee update**

Ms. Jamason reported the Policy Subcommittee revisited the administrative policy recommendation of eliminating the asset test for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program during the September 11, 2018 meeting. This recommendation was not included in the menu of policy recommendations presented and approved at the July 18, 2018 GCFS meeting due to possible political implications. The Policy Subcommittee discussed recommending an increase in assets, from \$6,000 to \$10,000 and from one (1) car to two (2) cars per adult in the household.

Ms. Jamason asked Mr. Thompson if the proposed increase in assets would require legislative action.

Mr. Thompson stated the increase in assets under TANF would require a change to the State Plan, but not legislation. This was confirmed with Steve Fisher, DWSS Administrator.

Ms. Jamason reported the Policy Subcommittee also motioned a recommendation for DWSS to apply for a Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) waiver or demonstration project to increase the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) shelter allowance deduction. This aligns with one of the *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America* recommendations.

Ms. Jamason also reported Chair Fisher delegated the responsibility of identifying GCFS priorities to the Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee discussed and identified priorities to be presented to the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) at their September 13, 2018 meeting. Per the July 18, 2018 GCFS meeting, Sarah Adler was tasked with presenting GCFS recommendations to the GMAC.

Ms. Adler stated GCFS priorities include children and older Nevadans, a better balance between supporting GCFS policy initiatives and local efforts, addressing transportation issues among seniors, carving out funding specifically for rural food security efforts, and continued case management support. In addition, Ms. Adler presented the recommendation of establishing a dual GMAC/GCFS membership. Ms. Adler stated she also presented the revised [Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action](#).

Ms. Jamason stated the Policy Subcommittee also motioned to recommend Chair Fisher create a Technology Subcommittee to assess client-tracking databases. Further, she stated the Policy Subcommittee will take a hiatus, as the current objectives have been met. Chair Fisher can request the Policy Subcommittee to reconvene at any time.

**7. ACTION ITEM: Present and provide recommendations regarding *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action Evaluation Plan* draft**

Ms. Urban presented the [Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action Evaluation Plan](#) draft. She stated the "Leads" and "Evaluation Measure/Indicator" columns had been updated. Additional potential partners have been included in the "Notes" column, where applicable. The Evaluation Plan will help the Office of Food Security track activity progress, which will be included in the GCFS Annual Report. Ms. Urban stated the Evaluation Plan is a short-term plan, as the original 2013 *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* was revised to be more measurable and actionable.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE *FOOD SECURITY IN NEVADA: NEVADA'S PLAN FOR ACTION* EVALUATION PLAN. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. OSGOOD. MS. JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**8. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve the Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) Policy Recommendations Executive Summary**

Ms. Urban presented the [GCFS Policy Recommendations Executive Summary](#).

Dr. Osgood stated he has been contacted by the President of the Research And Development (RAND) Corporation, who asked for information regarding the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans*; however, he was hesitant to provide more information, as he does not believe the report is a true gaps analysis. Dr. Osgood suggested changing the title of the report. He stated the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* is an outstanding report, but it does not truly measure the gap in services for older Nevadans.

Ms. Urban stated the discussion regarding updating the title of the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* will be discussed during agenda item 11.

Deacon Tom Roberts suggested adding home-delivered meals to the recommendation of "Increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs." Currently, the recommendation only includes congregate meals.

Ms. Buffington stated there is already a placeholder on Nevada Electronic Legislative Information System (NELIS) regarding revisions relating to the GCFS, Bill Draft Request (BDR) 57. There is also a BDR regarding fresh food financing that she is interested in learning more about.

Ms. Urban stated she will provide a legislative update at the November 13, 2018 GCFS meeting.

Ms. Jamason asked if the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) will be submitting a budget request to increase funding for home-delivered meals.

Ms. Urban did not recall but offered to connect with Jeff Duncan to gather more information.

The GCFS discussed the urgency for increased funding for home-delivered meals. Additional funding was allocated for home-delivered meals in the 2017 Legislative Session, but only for one (1) legislative cycle. More than 500 assessed clients are still on a waiting list for home-delivered meals.

Ms. Jamason stated the Policy Subcommittee did discuss home-delivered meals in detail. She was under the impression home-delivered meals funding would be included in the ADSD budget. She agreed including home-delivered meals within the recommendation of "Increase meal reimbursement rates to create parity between child and senior meal programs" is appropriate.

Deacon Roberts stated Kansas contributes \$3.86 per home-delivered meals. Previously, Nevada was ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation for home-delivered meal reimbursement, at only \$0.27 cents per meal. The rate increase from the 2017 Legislative session moved Nevada to 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for this measure.

Dr. Osgood recommended including an additional activity within the revised *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* focusing on older Nevadans and increasing access to food and services to ensure self-sufficiency among this population.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF HOME-DELIVERED MEALS TO THE GCFS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. OSGOOD. MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**9. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve GCFS support regarding inclusion of home-delivered meals in the Frail and Elderly Waiver**

Ms. McGill tabled this agenda item to the November 13, 2018 GCFS meeting, because Jodi Tyson was not present.

**10. Statewide Food Security Summit Planning Update**

Ms. Urban stated the 2018 Food Security Summit is intended to enhance cross-sectional collaboration throughout the food security network in Nevada. Thus far, a steering committee comprised of State and local agencies has been developed to help guide the planning process. Currently, the vendor assisting with coordination, DP Video, is collecting data and conducting key stakeholder interviews.

Ms. Urban shared a survey with GCFS members and additional stakeholders on September 12, 2018 to help assess summit goals and priorities.

Ms. Urban stated the Summit will take place in Las Vegas, since the first Summit was held in Carson City, and will be scheduled for early November 2018. Additional Summit information will be shared as details are finalized.

**11. ACTION ITEM: Discuss and approve next steps regarding the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans***

The GCFS discussed the *Nutrition Programs Gap Analysis for Older Nevadans* and agreed the report title should be updated.

Dr. Osgood suggested titling the document *Nutrition Programs for Older Nevadans and Preliminary Recommendations*. In addition, Dr. Osgood suggested including revising the report's executive summary to reflect the report's previous title, and that additional research will be done to identify service gaps.

Ms. McGill requested Dr. Osgood provide drafted language to Ms. Urban, and he agreed to do so.

The GCFS discussed and agreed a Research and Analysis Subcommittee should be formed to begin the second phase of the gap analysis.

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TITLE CHANGE OF THE *NUTRITION PROGRAMS GAP ANALYSIS FOR OLDER NEVADANS* TO THE *REVIEW OF NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR OLDER NEVADANS AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS*. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. ADLER. MS. JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**MS. MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE A RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SUBCOMMITTEE. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. THOMPSON. DR. OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**12. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations for the 2018 Governor's Council on Food Security Annual Report**

Ms. Urban stated per GCFS bylaws, the GCFS Annual Report is due to the Director of DHHS no later than January 31 of each year. She is collecting recommendations for the report, so the 2018 draft report may be presented at the November 13, 2018 GCFS meeting for members' consideration.

Ms. Jamason requested an overview of the Policy Subcommittee process and outcomes.

Ms. McGill requested a progress update of the revised *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action*.

Ms. Buffington requested a summary of the 2018 Food Security Summit.

**13. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve future agenda items**

Ms. McGill asked for recommendations for future agenda items.

Homa Anooshehpour asked for legislative updates regarding food security-related BDRs.

Ms. Jamason requested a discussion regarding strategies for supporting GCFS legislative/policy priorities.

Ms. Urban explained the GCFS Policy Recommendation Executive Summary was intended to demonstrate GCFS support of specific policies.

Ms. Jamason asked how the GCFS can support policies brought forth by Opportunity Alliance, which presented to the Policy Subcommittee at the April 3, 2018 meeting.

Ms. Urban stated she will add Opportunity Alliances' policies to the GCFS Policy Recommendation Executive Summary.

Ms. McGill suggested a discussion with ADSD regarding home-delivered meals and the agency's policy priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session. Ms. McGill also suggested a Nevada Department of Education update, which can be included as an agenda item in 2019.

**14. Public Comment**

Deacon Roberts stated there will be a Valley-wide event held in Las Vegas in remembrance of the October 1, 2017 tragedy. There will be various gatherings throughout the valley to support grieving Las Vegas residents and visitors.

**15. Adjournment**

Ms. McGill adjourned the meeting at 2:54 P.M.