

**Governor's Council on Food Security**  
**Minutes**  
**May 15, 2019**

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on May 15, 2019 beginning at approximately 1:05 P.M. at the following locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way Room 301  
Carson City, NV 89706

Health Care Quality and Compliance  
4220 South Maryland Parkway  
Building D, Suite 810  
Las Vegas, NV, 89119

**Board Members Present**

Steve Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) (Carson City)  
Jennifer Ott, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Carson City)  
Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, DWSS (Carson City)  
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) (Carson City)  
Aurora Buffington, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) (Phone)  
Kenneth Osgood, MD, Board of Health, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) (Las Vegas)  
Amber Bosket, Chief Executive Officer, Growing Gears (Phone)  
Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation (Phone)  
Rob Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel (Phone)  
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) (Carson City)  
Lisa Sherych, Interim Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (phone)

**Board Members Not Present**

Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties (HCC)  
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
Gillian Barclay, Healthcare Industry Specialist, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Staff Present**

Candice McDaniel, MS, Health Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)  
Kristi Robusto, PhD, MS, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section Manager, CFCW, DPBH  
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), CFCW, DPBH, DHHS (Carson City)

Lori Follett, Social Services Specialist, Director's Office, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, DHHS (Carson City)

Allen Pai, DrPH, Evaluation and Surveillance Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

### **Others Present**

Rachel Leach, Sixth Grade Teacher, Silver Stage Middle School

Ciara Byrne, Co-Founder/Co-Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Green Our Planet

Kathrin Liebers, Development Manager, Green Our Planet

Kelli Seals, Health Educator Coordinator, Washoe County Health District (WCHD)

Steven Shane, MD, MS, Pediatrician, Program Director, Healthy Living Program, Community Health Alliance (CHA)

Sierra Kelly, MPH, Wellness and Nutrition Coordinator, CHA

Shane Piccinini, Government Relations and Public Policy, FBNN

Marie Baxter, CEO, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and the St. Vincent's Programs

Christin Johnson, Founder/Director, Decipher Food Waste (phone)

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

Christy McGill, Vice 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) was present.

Ms. McGill called for public comment.

Christian Johnson stated he is the Founder/Director of Decipher Food Waste in Las Vegas. Decipher Food Waste is working to manage food waste in Las Vegas Valley through composting waste into soil. The soil is then used to grow fruits and vegetables. Mr. Johnson requested the opportunity to present on Decipher Food Waste's initiatives at a future GCFS meeting.

Ms. McGill thank Mr. Johnson for his comment and asked Laura Urban to connect with him to schedule the presentation.

Candice McDaniel stated Nevada's WIC Program received notice in early May 2019 that Nevada WIC would not be awarded 2019 Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (SEBT) funds. Nevada WIC has received these funds to implement the SEBT Program for the past five (5) years. However, applicant requirements were changed for the 2019 grant cycle. States which had not previously implemented SEBT were prioritized. Despite strong efforts by state staff, Nevada WIC was not awarded this cycle. All 12 states which were previously funded for SEBT Program activities did not receive funding for this cycle.

Ms. McDaniel stated she would notify the GCFS if any funding opportunities arise to reinstitute the SEBT Program in the future.

Cherie Jamason asked how much the SEBT Program cost to implement.

Ms. McDaniel stated in Summer 2018, \$600,000 was allocated for food costs and \$300,000 for program administration costs.

Jodi Tyson asked how many children were served in Summer 2018.

Ms. McDaniel stated 5,307 households with at least two (2) children per household participated in the program in Summer 2018. Each household received \$30.00 per child, per month.

Lisa Sherych added 10,065 individual children will be impacted by the loss of funding.

Ms. Jamason stated Nevada was fortunate to participate in the SEBT Program over the years which provided supplemental benefits to eligible households with children who qualify for free or reduced school meals. She suggested the GCFS advocate for funding to reinstitute the SEBT Program in Nevada.

Ms. Sherych stated this is an important issue and should be revisited at future meetings.

There was no additional public comment.

**2. ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the March 20, 2019 Council Meeting**

Vice Chair McGill asked if there were corrections to the draft minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting.

Aurora Buffington stated her title is now Assistant Professor and asked for the minutes to be updated accordingly.

VICE CHAIR MCGILL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 20, 2019 MEETING WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ROBERT THOMPSON. JENNIFER OTT SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**3. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendation to appoint Marie Baxter to fill membership representing community-based services in Northern Nevada.**

Ms. McGill invited Ms. Baxter to introduce herself.

Ms. Baxter stated she is the Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and the St. Vincent's Programs. Her resume can be found [here](#).

Ms. Urban stated agenda item four (4) is listed as an informational item and will not be voted on today. Chair Fisher will decide, based on today's discussion, whether to recommend Ms. Baxter to DHHS Director Whitley.

Vice Chair McGill thanked Ms. Baxter and stated Ms. Urban will connect with her to outline the next steps.

**4. INFORMATIONAL: Make recommendations for the vacant membership representing food retailer.**

Chair Fisher stated the GCFS membership representing food retailers is currently vacant. He asked for recommendations to fill this vacancy.

Ms. Jamason asked whether the GCFS still had representation from Walmart.

Chair Fisher stated no; Amy Hill, Senior Director of Public Affairs for Walmart, did not renew her membership for an additional term.

Ms. Jamason recommended a representative from Raley's Grocery Stores.

Ms. Tyson suggested a representative from the Retailers Association of Nevada (RAN). RAN represents food retailers across Nevada and supported [Senate Bill \(SB\) 178](#).

It was determined, per GCFS bylaws, a RAN representative would be an appropriate recommendation.

Ms. Tyson stated she would connect with RAN to assess interest.

**5. INFORMATIONAL: Present on Rural School Garden Programs**

Ms. McGill stated agenda items will be presented out of order to prioritize community partner's presentations in the interest of their time.

Ms. McGill proudly introduced the students from Silver Stage Middle School.

Five (5) sixth grade students from Silver Stage Middle School presented on the Silver Stage Middle School Garden Program. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Students stated Silver Stage Middle School is in a food desert; the closest grocery store is 25 miles away. Their program was started by sixth grade teacher, Rachel Leach, and is used for educational purposes by Silver Stage Middle and Elementary Schools. Students learn about recycling, composting, and how to grow fruits and vegetables. The program also allows Silver Stage Middle School students to teach and mentor Silver Stage Elementary School students.

Amber Taylor, the principle of Silver Stage Middle School, stated Ms. Leach started the garden program in 2012. Since its inception, the program has expanded and now includes a curriculum with lessons on composting, recycling, and growing and preparing food. Silver Stage Middle School also uses produce from the garden to create school meals which are served family-style in the school's cafeteria.

Ms. Leach added there are plans for the local high school to join the Silver Stage Middle School Garden Program to help build a chicken coop.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked how many students attend the Silver Stage Middle and Elementary schools.

Ms. Leach replied there are 3,035 students at Silver Stage Middle School and 450 students at Silver Stage Elementary School.

Ms. Jamason stated she was in awe of the program and the students' and teachers' passion. She commented on the importance of shifting the health culture of a community.

Ms. Sherych thanked the students and teachers for their presentation. She commented she would like to see similar programs implemented in all schools.

**6. INFORMATIONAL: Present the 5210 (pronounced “five, two, one, zero”) Healthy Washoe Program**

Dr. Steven Shane presented on CHA's 5210 Healthy Washoe Program. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Thompson asked if Dr. Shane has considered using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Education (SNAP-Ed) funds to support 5210 programming.

Dr. Shane replied he has not investigated using SNAP-Ed funding but will connect with Mr. Thompson for more information.

Ms. Buffington suggested sharing the 5210 Healthy Washoe Program with SNHD's Chronic Disease Prevention Program.

Ms. McGill suggested presenting the 5210 Healthy Washoe Program to school nurses statewide.

**7. INFORMATIONAL: Present on Green Our Planet**

Ciara Byrne and Kathrin Liebers presented on Green Our Planet, a Las Vegas non-profit operating a comprehensive science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEM) school garden program. Their presentation can be found [here](#).

Dr. Osgood asked if Green Our Planet offers programming to high schools.

Ms. Liebers replied Green Our Planet is currently working with 15 high schools and 130 elementary schools throughout Las Vegas.

Ms. Jamason asked if Green Our Planet plans to expand to offer programming statewide.

Ms. Liebers stated yes; they are excited to expand programming to Northern Nevada. Green Our Planet is currently working with two (2) schools in Reno, and one (1) school each in Dayton, Pahrump, and Mesquite.

It was established that Green Our Planet would connect with the presenters from Silver Stage Middle School to collaborate.

8. **INFORMATIONAL: Present on Nevada local food policy councils**

Ms. McGill left the GCFS meeting at this time. Chair Steve Fisher joined and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Buffington presented on the Southern Nevada Food Council. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Kelli Seals presented on the Washoe County Food Policy Council. The presentation can be found [here](#).

It was agreed the GCFS would investigate securing representation from both the Northern and Southern Local Food Policy Councils. Ms. Buffington is currently a GCFS member and can act as a representative for the Southern Nevada Food Policy Council.

Ms. Buffington stated if consistent membership representation is an issue, there can be a standing agenda item for local food policy councils to present updates on initiatives and goal progress.

9. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendation to appoint Jeremiah Relaford to fill membership representing food processing or distribution.**

Chair Fisher tabled this item until the July 17, 2019 GCFS meeting.

10. **INFORMATIONAL: Present the Nevada Obesity Prevention and Control Program's *CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM (CACFP) EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION (ECE) GAP ANALYSIS***

Dr. Kristi Robusto and Ms. Urban presented the *CACFP ECE Gap Analysis*. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Ms. Buffington asked whether families receiving SNAP and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) can automatically qualify for CACFP, similar to the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

Ms. Jamason stated she did not think so. FBNN has been working at the Federal level to update CACFP requirements for the past 20 years. She stated there are national efforts to align requirements and regulations among the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and CACFP. Currently, CACFP is exponentially more difficult to implement than SFSP. For example, SFSP allows for area-eligibility (based on zip-code level median incomes, for example), which eliminates the need for collecting financial information from parents.

Mr. Thompson asked how many children currently participate in CACFP.

Ms. Urban stated she did not know the number of children in ECEs participating in CACFP, but as of April 2019, 212 ECE Centers were actively participating in CACFP.

Mr. Thompson stated DWSS likely already has the financial information of eligible families and may be able to share this information, if the client approves, to streamline the eligibility process for ECEs.

GCFS members discussed the possibility of establishing a CACFP Task Force to address updating CACFP requirements and regulations.

Director Ott asked about the origin of the *CACFP ECE Gap Analysis* and how often the Gap Analysis will be conducted.

Dr. Robusto responded early childhood obesity prevention is a priority of the Obesity Prevention and Control Program and CACFP participation is recognized as an early childhood obesity prevention strategy. As such, increasing CACFP participation among ECE Centers is a priority outlined in the *Nevada Early Childhood Obesity Prevention State Plan*. It has not yet been determined how often the Gap Analysis will be conducted. She stated this is the first step to identifying qualitative and quantitative data to address CACFP ECE participation.

Director Ott asked how progress and improvement will be determined and evaluated.

Dr. Robusto responded the Obesity Prevention and Control Program will establish target outcomes and timelines with evaluation indicators to track progress.

It was confirmed the Task Force mentioned in the presentation was specifically convened to address food safety regulations in ECE Centers and align Nevada Revised Statute implementation among the various local health regulatory agencies.

It was decided a more comprehensive CACFP Task Force will be put on hold to allow time for the Nevada Department of Agriculture to respond and address the barriers identified first.

**11. ACTION ITEM: Update regarding two (2) Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) Subcommittees: 1) Technology and 2) Research and Analysis**

Ms. Tyson stated the GCFS Technology Subcommittee has met four (4) times. Over the course of these four (4) meetings, the Subcommittee reviewed seven (7) client-tracking database systems with the goal of establishing a list of recommended systems. So far three (3) systems have been eliminated from a possible recommendation. The Subcommittee will meet a final time June 17, 2019 to assess the final four (4) systems. The Subcommittee's recommendations will be presented at the July 17, 2019 meeting.

Dr. Osgood stated the Research and Analysis Subcommittee will not be officially established until more information can be gathered. For now, he will refer to it as the Research and Analysis Project, which he will continue to lead. His update can be found [here](#).

**12. INFORMATIONAL: Present Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Wellness monies update**

Lori Follet stated four (4) Nevada agencies were awarded FHN Wellness monies for the 2020-21 grant period, including 1) Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada; 2) Food Bank of Northern Nevada; 3) Three Square Food Bank; and 4) Money Management Incorporated.

Ms. Follett added effective July 1, 2019, FHN Wellness funds will be transferred to, and managed by, the Office of Food Security. The Office of Community Partnerships and Grants is working closely with the OFS to ensure a smooth transition.

**13. INFORMATIONAL: Update regarding the Commission on Aging (CoA) and GCFS joint Subcommittee addressing older Nevadans**

Chair Fisher stated the CoA and GCFS joint Subcommittee has been put on hold until after Legislative Session.

**14. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify 2019 GCFS priorities**

It was determined this would be discussed and established at a future meeting, pending the outcome of SB178, establishing the GCFS and the Food for People, not Landfills Program.

**15. INFORMATIONAL: Present update on 2019 bills related to food security, including Assembly Bill (AB) 174, AB122, AB326, Senate Bill (SB) 458, SB178, and SB433**

Chair Fisher presented updates on [AB174](#), [AB122](#), [AB326](#), [SB458](#), [SB178](#), and [SB433](#). His update can be found [here](#).

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

Chair Fisher asked for suggestions for future agenda items.

Ms. Urban stated she has developed a GCFS presentation schedule for the remainder of 2019. At the next meeting, the GCFS will hear a presentation from Joe Dibble from NDA on Child Nutrition Programs. She will also connect with Mr. Johnson to schedule a presentation on Decipher Food Waste.

Chair Fisher asked GCFS members to connect with Ms. Urban directly to request future agenda items.

**17. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting at 4:55 P.M.