

**Council on Food Security  
Minutes  
July 17, 2019**

The Council on Food Security held a public meeting on July 17, 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

Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health  
Services, East Hall  
Las Vegas, NV, 89146

**Board Members Present**

Steve Fisher, Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) (Carson City)  
Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, DWSS (Las Vegas)  
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) (Las Vegas)  
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)  
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) (Carson City)  
Beth Handler, Deputy Administrator, designee for Lisa Sherych, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)  
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (Las Vegas)  
Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Carson City)

**Board Members Not Present**

Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)  
Jennifer Ott, Director, NDA

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) 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)  
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

Cindy Cohen, Health Program Specialist II, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

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

### **Others Present**

Stephanie Chen, Health Educator, Washoe County Health District (WCHD) (Phone)

Joe Dibble, LD, RDN, School/Community Nutrition Supervisor, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA (Carson City)

Allison Schnitzer, LD, RD, Health Educator II, Office of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, SNHD (Las Vegas)

Sierra Kirby, Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Program, UNCE (Las Vegas)

Christian Johnson, Chief Executive Officer/Director, Decipher Food Waste (Las Vegas)

Marie Baxter, CEO, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN) and the St. Vincent's Programs (Carson City)

Karen Gutierrez, SNHD (Las Vegas)

Donna Gould, UNCE (Las Vegas)

Liz MacMenamin, Vice President of Government Affairs, Retail Association of Nevada (Phone)

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

Steve Fisher, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

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

Chair Fisher called for public comment.

Chair Fisher thanked all partners who supported the shift to staggered issuance of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

There was no additional public comment.

### **2. ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the May 15, 2019 Council Meeting**

Chair Fisher asked if there were corrections to the draft minutes from the May 15, 2019 meeting.

**CHAIR FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 15, 2019 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. ROBERT THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

### **3. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations to appoint Jeremiah Relaford to fill membership representing food processing or distribution**

Chair Fisher tabled this item until the September 18, 2019 meeting.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendation to appoint Liz MacMenamin to fill membership representing food retailers**

Ms. MacMenamin introduced herself and shared her qualifications. Her bio can be found [here](#).

Jodi Tyson stated Ms. MacMenamin would replace Amy Hill from Walmart. She stated representation from the Nevada Retail Association would benefit the CFS.

Chair Fisher asked CFS members to voice any concerns regarding Ms. MacMenamin's recommendation for CFS membership.

There were no concerns regarding Ms. MacMenamin's recommendation for CFS membership.

Chair Fisher stated Laura Urban will contact Ms. MacMenamin regarding the updated process for CFS appointment.

**5. INFORMATIONAL: Update on Nevada local food policy councils**

Chair Fisher stated per the May 15, 2019 meeting, updates from the two (2) local Nevada food policy councils will be a standing CFS agenda item. He welcomed Stephanie Chen and Dr. Aurora Buffington to present their updates.

Ms. Chen provided an update on the Washoe County Food Policy Council. Her report can be found [here](#).

There were no questions for Ms. Chen.

Dr. Buffington provided an update on the Southern Nevada Food Council. Her report can be found [here](#).

Chair Fisher asked how many members are on the Southern Nevada Food Council.

Ms. Buffington replied the Southern Nevada Food Council currently has 22 members.

Cherie Jamason acknowledged both Councils for their service and great work.

**6. INFORMATIONAL: Present on the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP)**

Joe Dibble presented the NDA school nutrition programs. His presentation can be found [here](#). Mr. Dibble presented information on the [NSLP](#), [SBP](#), [Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#), [Afterschool Snack Program](#), and [Special Milk Program](#).

Ms. Jamason thanked Mr. Dibble for his presentation and shared additional successful advocacy efforts championed by the CFS and other local advocates related to NDA nutrition programs, including Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) and direct certification for NSLP and SBP through the SNAP application. She stated advocacy efforts at the Federal level led to the Seamless Summer option, which allows qualifying schools to offer breakfast and lunch to students during the summer months. She also shared Provision II, which allows all students to receive free

meals; student applications are only taken every four (4) years. Provision II allows for more flexibility for the NSLP and SBP. She stated these successes are a result of partnerships between the NDA, DWSS, and advocates at the local level.

Christy McGill stated NDE is overhauling how they communicate with Nevada school districts. The Superintendent will start sending monthly emails to school districts to share information and resources. She added school nutrition program information, updates, and/or success stories can be shared through this monthly communication. She would like to see a success story on Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in the Nye County School District.

Mr. Dibble stated other Nevada counties are eligible for county-wide CEP. NDA is working with those counties to help them meet the requirements. CEP participation has increased over the years; from the 2017-2018 school year to 2019-2020, sponsors increased from ten (10) to fifteen (15), and schools increased from 153 to 314. The number of schools participating in CEP have more than doubled since the 2017-2018 school year.

Ms. Tyson asked which Nevada counties qualify to go district-wide with CEP.

Mr. Dibble replied this is public information posted on the NDA website, and he will share the NDA link with Ms. Urban to share with all CFS members.

Ms. Tyson stated BAB propelled Nevada from near last in the country for SBP participation to seventh in 2017. She doesn't believe Nevada is still ranking in the top ten (10) for SBP participation and asked what can be done to help keep SBP participation high, and what can the CFS do to address identified challenges/barriers.

Mr. Thompson asked if the Nevada SBP participation ranking dropped due a decrease in SBP participation or because other states increased SBP participation.

Mr. Dibble stated he did not have the data with him but would provide it to Ms. Urban after the meeting. He added there are no more grant funds available, so when a school transitions to BAB the school food authority must fund any associated increased administrative costs including meals, mobile carts, volunteers, teacher training, etc. He will continue to investigate why SBP has decreased in Nevada.

Ms. McGill stated Eureka County is the only county not participating in the NSLP. She asked if the NDA would allow Eureka County to offer the NSLP under Elko County.

Mr. Dibble stated school districts have the option to opt in or out of the NSLP. He stated NDA would work with Eureka County to offer NSLP; there are several model options available to help support NSLP participation.

Ms. Buffington asked if SBP/NSLP leftovers could be rescued/donated.

Mr. Dibble stated once food leaves the food line it cannot be returned; however, there are strategies for decreasing food waste in schools which NDA supports. For example, Silver Stage

Elementary School donates leftovers to local farmers for livestock feed and also composts leftovers to use as fertilizer in their school garden.

Ms. Buffington asked if leftover food can be taken home, if approved by the principal.

Mr. Dibble stated no, not to his knowledge.

Ms. Jamason asked if there is an NDA policy or practice allowing/encouraging “sharing tables” at schools, to decrease food waste.

Mr. Dibble stated the use of sharing tables in the school setting is considered a best practice. Sharing tables are recommended and encouraged if food is kept at the appropriate temperature.

Ms. Tyson added the USDA released a memo stating school nutrition program food can be donated to non-profit organizations. Three Square Food Bank currently rescues food from Clark County School District. Southern Nevada Health District provided guidance on which types of foods could be rescued.

There were no further questions for Mr. Dibble.

#### **7. INFORMATIONAL: Present on School Wellness Policy**

Allison Schnitzer and Sierra Kirby presented the Nevada School Wellness Policy. Their presentation can be found [here](#).

Marcia Blake discussed the importance of mandated recess for young children, as well as the recommendation to schedule recess before lunch.

Dr. Osgood recommended the CFS make recommendations to improve the school physical activity and nutrition environment.

Ms. Tyson stated agenda item 13 reestablishes the CFS Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee can explore legislative strategies for supporting school health and nutrition.

Ms. McGill stated Ms. Schnitzer and Ms. Kirby can also share information and resources through NDE’s monthly emails to school districts.

Dr. Buffington stated the Nevada School Wellness Policy is difficult to enforce because it is mandated by the USDA but supposed to be maintained by NDE, which she believes is a disconnect. She recommended including school compliance in the school accountability report, specifically which goals were met and how those goals were met.

Dr. Buffington further explained the School Accountability Report is a statewide report issued annually and includes information/data for Nevada schools regarding academic achievement, student demographics, teacher certification, parent engagement, etc.

Ms. Tyson asked if the CFS Policy Subcommittee could recommend a metric be included in the School Accountability Report regarding School Wellness Policy implementation.

Dr. Buffington replied yes, the suggested metric could be added to the report.

#### **8. Informational: Present on Decipher Food Waste**

Christian Johnson presented Decipher Food Waste. His presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Johnson verified the activities he describes are currently being implemented, but only on a small scale for research purposes and identifying best practices.

It was confirmed Three Square Food Bank and DWSS are currently not participating in Decipher's program; they were only used as an example in the presentation to explain potential program expansion.

Ms. Blake asked whether Decipher will collaborate with food pantries, restaurants, and other businesses, and not just home owners.

Mr. Johnson replied yes, Decipher is currently looking at a possible collaboration with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada. Decipher will work with partners to meet any Federal requirements.

Ms. Bosket stressed the importance of conservation efforts for agriculture. She noted conservation efforts will not have immediate results, because they take time, sometimes years, to implement and be effective and it will not be easy.

#### **9. INFORMATIONAL: Present on legislative debrief**

Chair Fisher stated Ms. Urban will share a legislative summary with CFS members via email. He stated [Senate Bill \(SB\) 178](#), establishing the Council on Food Security and the Food for People, Not Landfills Program and [AB 326](#), providing tax credits for certain business entities that invest in certain fresh food retailers located in underserved communities and similar areas were both passed in the 2019 Legislative Session.

Ms. Tyson provided an update on [SB 443](#), which increased the meal reimbursement rates for senior congregate meals and home delivered meals. SB443 increased the congregate meal reimbursement rate from \$2.20/meal to \$3.20/meal and the home-delivered meal reimbursement rate from \$2.65/meal to \$3.65/meal. Ms. Tyson confirmed both seniors and their direct caregiver qualify for congregate meals.

#### **10. INFORMATIONAL: Present next steps on Senate Bill 178, including Governor's Council on Food Security bylaws and membership, and establishing the Food for People, Not Landfills Program**

Chair Fisher stated the OFS is working to update the CFS bylaws per SB 178. The bylaws will be presented to the CFS for approval at the next meeting. Once approved by the CFS, the revised bylaws will be shared with the Director of Health and Human Services for his consideration and final approval. Once finalized, the bylaws will be posted to the CFS website. He added the OFS

is also working to update CFS membership per SB 178. Ms. Urban will reach out to each current CFS member with next steps for appointment under the new legislation.

Chair Fisher stated agenda item 14 will create the Food for People, Not Landfills (FFPNL) Subcommittee. The FFPNL Subcommittee will develop five (5) year goals, create criteria for donor participation, and develop the program seal.

**11. Action Item: Present and approve recommendations of the Governor’s Council on Food Security (GCFS) Technology Subcommittee.**

Ms. Tyson provided a summary of the CFS Technology Subcommittee recommendations, as outlined in the [CFS Technology Subcommittee Executive Summary](#).

The CFS agreed to table approval of the CFS Technology Subcommittee recommendations to provide CFS members time to comprehensively review the Subcommittee’s findings. Additionally, it was decided Chair Fisher and the OFS will consult with the Nevada Deputy Attorney General (DAG) regarding appropriate next steps for a formal CFS recommendation, if allowable.

**12. INFORMATIONAL: Update on the Research and Analysis Project**

Dr. Osgood stated the CFS Research and Analysis Project is led by a team of three (3), which includes himself, Dr. Buffington, and Donna Gould from UNCE. The team has assembled a database of services per the 211-nursing call center. Of the 3,000 to 4,000 calls per month received by the 211-nursing center, approximately five hundred are asking for food assistance. The team developed an agency survey to assess services provided, numbers served, and gaps in services. Ms. Gould will begin surveying agencies the week of July 22, 2019.

Dr. Osgood ended by stating he would have a full report of the survey results at the next CFS meeting.

**13. ACTION ITEM: Present on and reinstitute the GCFS Policy Subcommittee**

Chair Fisher stated the CFS Policy Subcommittee will be reestablished to identify CFS priorities for the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session. Interested members should connect with Ms. Urban.

**14. ACTION ITEM: Present on and create the CFS Food for People, Not Landfills Subcommittee**

Chair Fisher created the Food for People, Not Landfills Subcommittee. Interested members should connect with Ms. Urban.

Ms. Bosket volunteered to Chair the FFPNL Subcommittee.

Chair Fisher asked for public comment.

Marie Baxter, CEO for Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, stated she would like to participate on the FFPNL Subcommittee.

Chair Fisher welcomed her participation.

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

Chair Fisher stated the agenda items for the September meeting include:

- 1) present and approve CFS revised bylaws;
- 2) present and approve Technology Subcommittee recommendations;
- 3) present on Electronic Benefits Transfer (Lattin Farms);
- 4) update on SB178 implementation;
- 5) update on the Research and Analysis Project;
- 5) updates from local food security councils; and
- 7) make recommendation to appoint Jeremiah Relaford to fill membership representing food processing or distribution.

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Fisher called for public comment.

Mr. Johnson stated he would like to participate on the FFPNL Subcommittee.

Chair Fisher welcomed Mr. Johnson's participation.

There was no additional public comment.

**17. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting at 4:40 PM.