

Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee
Minutes
December 4, 2019

The Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee held a public meeting on October 18, 2019 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

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
8050 Paradise Road, Ste. 100
Classroom E
Las Vegas, NV, 89123

Board Members Present

Jodi Tyson, Chair, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (Las Vegas)
Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (Carson City)

Board Members Not Present

Diane Hogan, Community Nutrition Supervisor, Food and Nutrition Division, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ashanti Lewis, Advocacy Manager, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)
Elika Nematian, Advocacy and Compliance Manager, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)

Staff Present:

Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH

Others Present:

Aurora Buffington, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND, Assistant Professor/Public Health Nutrition Specialist
Sheri Gallucci, Social Services Specialist III, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, DHHS

1. Roll Call

Jodi Tyson 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) Policy Subcommittee was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.519 § 2.

2. ACTION ITEM: Approve the Minutes from the October 18, 2019 Meeting

CHAIR TYSON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 18, 2019 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY SHANE PICCININI. MARCIA BLAKE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve Policy Subcommittee 2020 meeting dates.

Chair Tyson presented the [2020 CFS Policy Subcommittee meeting dates handout](#). These dates were identified via a poll sent to all Policy Subcommittee members.

The CFS Policy Subcommittee approved the 2020 meeting dates presented.

Ms. Tyson stated effective January 2020, Homa Anooshepoor will be replacing Ms. Tyson as CFS Policy Subcommittee chair; her first meeting will be February 3, 2020.

4. ACTION ITEM: Present and discuss Senate Bill 323, regarding revising provisions governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Ms. Tyson introduced Sheri Gallucci from the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS).

Ms. Gallucci provided an update on SB323, a bill regarding provisions governing SNAP that was passed in the 79th Nevada Legislative session. Since the passing of SB 323, the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), Three Square Food Bank, and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada have worked closely together to roll-out planning and implementation of the bill. The bill, in part, 1) changed the SNAP calendar to a “fixed” calendar; 2) required the Nevada DWSS to request federal waivers under certain circumstances related to unemployment and/or insufficient job availability; and 2) established a workfare program to support ABAWDs meet the weekly work requirement to maintain their SNAP benefits and gain valuable work experience.

Ms. Gallucci stated the change to a fixed calendar for SNAP was successfully implemented in 2018. Previously a “rolling” calendar was in place, which made it difficult to count the months Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) were eligible for SNAP benefits. The fixed calendar is representative of 36 months, or three (3) years. Under the fixed calendar, ABAWDS can qualify for three (3) months of SNAP benefits in a fixed 36-month period without meeting SNAP work requirements.

Ms. Gallucci stated Nevada DWSS submitted a waiver pursuant to SB323 for in June 2019 for 2020; it is pending Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) review. Nevada DWSS expects to hear some FNS in mid-December 2019. Nevada’s 2019 ABAWD waiver will expire December 31, 2019. If approved, the 2020 ABAWD waiver will be similar to the 2019 waiver, which exempts 16 Nevada counties of the ABAWD work requirement, with the exception of Washoe County.

Ms. Tyson requested data regarding the impact of SB323.

Ms. Gallucci stated in 2018, Nevada DWSS estimates there were potentially 51,000 individuals statewide that fit state-level ABAWD criteria, but there are a number a federal exceptions that

can impact an individual's ABAWD status, for instance having a child in the home or receiving state or federal disability benefits. DWSS was unable to evaluate all 51,000 recipients to assess ABAWD criteria per the federal regulations. In 2019, DWSS estimated 5,145 individuals in Washoe County fell under the ABAWD rule. After assessing the total Washoe SNAP caseload, the number dropped to 2,458 individuals.

Ms. Gallucci stated she wanted to briefly touch on the Final Rule for ABAWDS, which was released that day, December 12, 2019, and will take affect December 13, 2019. Under the new rule, FNS will only allow 2020 waivers to be approved through March 31, 2020. This is due to the new rules around waiver eligibility. States are required to submit a request for an additional wavier under the new rule by April 20, 2020.

Ms. Tyson asked if there is data available on the potential impact of the new Final Rule.

Ms. Gallucci stated DWSS is currently conducting an analysis and will share with Ms. Urban when finalized.

Ms. Tyson asked Ms. Gallucci for the name of the Final Rule.

Ms. Gallucci stated it is called ABAWDS Waiver Standards and Discretionary Exemptions.

Ms. Tyson asked Ms. Gallucci to outline the exceptions to the federal ABAWD rules.

Ms. Gallucci stated some exceptions include: 1) if there is a child under the age of 18 in the individual's household, regardless if the individual is the parent/guardian of the child; 2) if the individua is on state/federal disability; and 3) if the individual is receiving the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

Marcia Blake asked how the waiver impacts the senior population.

Ms. Gallucci verified the ABAWD rule only applies to individuals 18-49 and will not affect the senior population.

Ms. Tyson asked if Subcommittee members had additional questions.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated the transition to the fixed calendar year mentioned earlier is less confusing for clients. Deacon Roberts said the transition has made a huge difference from the client's perspective.

Ms. Tyson thanked Ms. Gallucci and requested: 1) she share data on the economic impact of SB323 with Ms. Urban and 2) present again at the May or June 2020 Policy Subcommittee to present on senior SNAP participation.

5. INFORMATIONAL: Present and discuss Southern Nevada Food Policy priorities- Aurora Buffington, PhD, RDN, Assistant Professor/Public Health Nutrition Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Buffington stated the Southern Nevada Food Policy Council (SNFPC) is currently in a reset phase. The SNFPC will begin the development of their action plan in January 2020. She said the SNFPC has discussed prioritizing school health and implementation of the Nevada School Wellness Policy (SWP). One strategy could be to make changes to the annual accountability report issued by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). Nevada school districts use the accountability report to update NDA on their progress of three (3) goals related to nutrition promotion, physical education, and nutrition promotion. Currently there are no repercussions for not adhering to the SWP.

Ms. Tyson suggested exploring whether it could be a policy recommendation to standardize the mechanism schools use to track/measure their compliance with the SWP.

Ms. Buffington agreed.

Ms. Tyson asked Dr. Buffington if the SNFPC or the Nevada Dietetic Association has discussed nutrition labeling.

Both Ms. Tyson and Ms. Blake expressed Three Square Food Bank and Helping Hands of Vegas Valley clients have expressed whether donated food is expired.

Ms. Buffington stated yes, there have been discussions around how much food is wasted due to confusion around expiration dates. She believes there is legislation in other states addressing this issue. She stated this may be discussed at the January 2020 SNFPC meeting.

6. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve future agenda items.

Ms. Tyson stated the following presentations will be scheduled for the February 3, 2020 CFS Policy Subcommittee meeting: 1) an update on Breakfast After the Bell by NDA and 2) a summary of policy priorities of Three Square Food Bank and Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Ms. Tyson requested Deacon Tom present on Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada policy priorities around seniors at the March 2020 meeting. She recommended inviting Jeff Duncan from Aging and Disability Services Division to present as well.

Ms. Tyson asked if there are other groups/organizations that should be invited to present policy priorities to the Subcommittee.

Deacon recommended inviting Nevadans for the Common Good.

Ms. Blake recommended the Commission on Aging.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM