

**Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee**  
**Minutes**  
**October 18, 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)  
Diane Hogan, Community Nutrition Supervisor, Food and Nutrition Division, Nevada Department of Agriculture (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**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

Ashanti Lewis, Advocacy Manager, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)  
Nicole Lamboley, President and CEO, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (Present via telephone)  
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), Division of Health and Human Services(DHHS)  
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH

**Others Present**

Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief II, Aging and Disability Services Division (Las Vegas)

**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: Present and Approve Subcommittee Goals**

Ms. Tyson stated the Policy Subcommittee is tasked with making policy recommendations to the CFS for the 2021, 81<sup>st</sup> Nevada Legislative Session.

It was determined the Policy Subcommittee will focus on federal-level and state-level issues. Local policy recommendations should be shared with Ms. Tyson and Laura Urban and will be considered.

Ms. Tyson stated policy recommendations impacting the state budget must be identified by June 2020, to be presented to the CFS for their consideration at the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Tyson asked for comments or questions.

Shane Piccinini stated the Policy Subcommittee focus should not be limited; issues/policy needs should be addressed once identified.

**3. INFORMATIONAL: Present and discuss Subcommittee membership**

Ms. Tyson stated per Senate Bill 178 (SB178), CFS subcommittees are limited to a total of five (5) members. Therefore, the Policy Subcommittee is comprised of five (5) voting members and three (3) ex-officio members. Ex-officio members do not count in quorum or vote but are able to participate in discussion outside of public comment. The voting members include: Ms. Tyson, Deacon Tom Roberts, Diane Hogan, Marcia Blake, and Shane Piccinini. Ex-officio members include: Ashanti Lewis, Nicole Lamboley, and Erika Nematian.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Discuss and approve Subcommittee logistics**

Ms. Tyson stated future Policy Subcommittee meetings will take place twice quarterly, during CFS meeting off-months. Including the October 2019 meeting, the Policy Subcommittee will meet five (5) times before making preliminary recommendations to the CFS at the July 7, 2020 meeting. The next four (4) meetings will be scheduled for February, March, May, and June 2020. Ms. Urban will issue a poll to members to assess meeting dates.

Ms. Tyson stated they will have three (3) meetings before the April GCFS meeting to report on state budgetary items.

Ms. Tyson stated they will have to be productive in the meetings and adhere to the established timeline to accomplish the Policy Subcommittee's goals.

No action was taken.

**5. INFORMATIONAL: Present and discuss previous Council on Food Security policy priorities and initiatives**

Ms. Tyson stated the first initiative championed by the CFS was Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) in 2015, during the 78<sup>th</sup> Nevada Legislative Session. Ms. Tyson directed members to the BAB reports in the meeting packet, including the: [2015-2016 BAB Final Report](#), [2016-2017 BAB Final Report](#), and the [2018 BAB Final Report Draft](#). She stated Joe Dibble, School Nutrition

Supervisor with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, will present at a future Policy Subcommittee meeting to discuss BAB data trends.

Ms. Tyson stated at the December 2019 meeting, the Policy Subcommittee will also hear from Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) regarding Senate Bill 323 (SB323), revising provisions governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Specifically, SB323 enacted a waiver of work requirement for SNAP in 2017, targeting Washoe County.

In addition, Ms. Tyson stated in 2017 and 2019 the Policy Subcommittee recommended a series of bills related to seniors, which the CFS later approved and supported. One (1) bill, Senate Bill 443 (SB443), supported an increase of \$.50 [per person] in home delivered meal (HDM) reimbursements. An additional \$.50 increase was implemented in 2019, for a total increase of \$1.00.

Ms. Tyson welcomed Jeff Duncan of the Nevada Aging and Disability Division, to present an update on SB443.

Mr. Duncan presented a legislative update on: 1) SB443 and 2) the 2017 budgetary enhancement for HDMs. His update can be found [here](#).

Ms. Tyson stated the 1.5 million dollars was additional funding appropriated by SB433. She asked what can be done to ensure these funds remain in the State budget.

Mr. Duncan stated this allotment is not guaranteed every biennium. If the funding discontinues, partner funding will decrease.

Deacon Roberts thanked Mr. Duncan. He stated advocacy for education among citizens, lobbyist, and legislators is necessary. Catholic Charities serves over 2,200 meals every day. The cost of everything related to the meal is about \$7.00 per meal. He stated the Policy Subcommittee must address how to keep feeding seniors while aiming to compensate for the shortfalls. It is impossible to take people off the waitlist without adding to the shortfall. When seniors are taken off the waitlist the issue is more than the cost of the meals; it is the cost of the necessary equipment, staffing, and infrastructure, all of which contribute to the shortfalls.

Ms. Blake asked what meal reimbursement rates are for other states.

Mr. Duncan stated rates vary. Some states put a lot of funding into programming. States report the number of meals served divided by reported state and federal contributions. Data are available to help educate our elected officials about how disproportionate our state contribution rate is.

Ms. Tyson stated the Policy Subcommittee can continue discussions around how to approach these issues without asking for another \$.50 per meal.

Ms. Tyson stated the Policy Subcommittee must discuss what initiatives exist that can help with [the aforementioned] issues. Municipalities have purchasing programs, and with collective purchases they can reduce congregate meals and home delivered meals.

Ms. Tyson explained she went to Goldfield and Beatty to see their congregate meal program and discovered they could only order food for one (1) week at a time because they only had one refrigerator. Bigger and better refrigerators and infrastructures for rural areas is necessary.

Mr. Duncan stated the rate increase is great, but the infrastructure is vital to getting people off the waitlist. To get people off the waitlist partners need cafeteria and storage space. Mr. Duncan agreed infrastructure is critical.

Mr. Piccinini asked about the congregate meal funding in SB433.

Ms. Tyson stated SB443 was drafted in 2018; the amendments to expand congregate meal sites were not added or passed. There was a net loss for congregate meals. She expressed concern on communicating the loss to legislators.

The Policy Subcommittee agreed to prioritize the continuation of the 1.5 million dollars of HDM funding.

Ms. Tyson thanked Mr. Duncan and suggested the conversation around HDM and congregate meals be continued at the February 2020 meeting.

Ms. Tyson stated for the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, the Policy Subcommittee recommended a bill for the Frail and Elderly on Medicaid Waiver. This was included in the state budget under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) but was removed with the transition of the new Governor. She directed members to Three Square's Frail and Elderly white paper for more information, which can be found [here](#).

Ms. Tyson stated there will be a meeting the week of October 21, 2019 with DHHS to discuss this waiver and budgetary implications.

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

Ms. Tyson stated at the December 2019 meeting, DWSS will present an update on SB323 and the local food policy councils will present on their policy recommendations/efforts.

**7. Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM