

**NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY**  
**MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on November 13, 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**

Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) (Carson City)  
Jennifer Ott, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Carson City)  
Beth Handler, MPH, Deputy Director, Programs, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Carson City)  
Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, DWSS (Las Vegas)  
Aurora Buffington, PhD, RDN, Assistant Professor/Public Health Nutrition Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (Phone)  
Kenneth Osgood, MD, Board of Health, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) (Las Vegas)  
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (Las Vegas)  
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)  
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (Carson City)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)  
Julia Peek, MHA, CPM, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (Las Vegas)  
Jeff Haag, Deputy Administrator, Aging and Disabilities Services Division (Carson City)  
Homa Anoooshepoor, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA (Phone)

**Board Members Not Present**

### **DHHS Staff Present**

Candice McDaniel, MS, Health Bureau Chief, Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

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

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

### **Others Present**

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

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Encouragement Officer, Farmily (Carson City)

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

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

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

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518 § 2.

Chair Fisher welcomed new CFS members, including Beth Handler, Julia Peek, and Jeff Haag. All CFS members introduced themselves, as requested by Chair Fisher.

### **2. ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the July 17, 2019 Council Meeting**

Chair Fisher asked if there were corrections to the minutes from the July 17, 2019 meeting. Julia Peek, Jennifer Ott, and Jeff Haag abstained.

STEVE FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NO CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD, AND ROBERT THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

### **3. INFORMATIONAL: Update on Nevada local food policy councils**

Dr. Aurora Buffington presented on behalf of Southern Nevada Food Council (SNFC). ([SNFC Report](#))

Stephanie Chen presented on behalf of Washoe County Food Policy Council (WCFPC). ([WCFPC Report](#))

Chair Fisher asked if there were any questions.

Cherie Jamason asked Ms. Chen about funding for AmeriCorps volunteers and the potential for [additional] resources to assist with WCFPC support/administration.

Ms. Chen confirmed the WCFPC is seeking funding.

Ms. Jamason stated Reno's Sustainability Plan has been published and includes a section on food security. Lynn Barker of the Office of Sustainability is leading the project and is currently seeking funding to implement the Sustainability Plan, about \$10,000. She proposed if various jurisdictions contributed funds, DPBH [or another State of Nevada entity] could possibly match.

Julia Peek stated she could be of assistance and requested Ms. Jamason send her additional information, including a proposed timeline and the number of AmeriCorps volunteers needed.

Chair Fisher opened the floor for public comment.

Rebekah Stetson expressed concern over who would manage AmeriCorps volunteers and whether the volunteer program would be a good fit for the purposes of the Sustainability Plan and the WCFPC.

Ms. Jamason said the position would be managed by Ms. Barker.

Ms. Stetson suggested considering University of Nevada Reno (UNR) interns, or a student pursuing a public or community health degree as an alternative.

Chair Fisher closed public comment.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations to appoint Rebekah Stetson to fill membership representing farmers or ranchers engaged in food production.**

Ms. Stetson introduced herself and provided a summary of her experience and qualifications. ([Ms. Stetson's resume](#))

CHAIR FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE MS. STETSON FOR COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY MEMBERSHIP. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY JENNIFER OTT. MS. JAMASON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. ACTION ITEM: Present and make recommendations to fill open membership:**

- **One member who is a representative of manufacturing not related to food,**
- **One member who is a representative of the gaming industry, hospitality industry, or restaurant industry,**
- **One member representing persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food,**
- **A person representing an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services focusing on the social determinants of health in rural Nevada**

Chair Fisher asked for candidate suggestions.

Chair Fisher stated Sarah Adler, former CFS member, recommended Courtney Bloomer of the Healthy Communities Coalition to fill the membership representing an organization that

provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services focusing on the social determinants of health in rural Nevada.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated he will send his member recommendations to Laura Urban.

Chair Fisher asked the remaining CFS members to share their recommendations with Ms. Urban as well.

**6. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve Council on Food Security (CFS) 2020 meeting dates**

Chair Fisher presented the proposed 2020 dates with the option to hold additional meetings as needed. ([2020 CFS Meeting Dates](#))

CHAIR FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2020 COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY MEETING DATES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. OSGOOD. ROBERT THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7. ACTION ITEM: Review and approve updated CFS bylaws**

Chair Fisher tabled the approval of the revised CFS bylaws until the January 7, 2020 meeting.

No action was taken.

**8. INFORMATIONAL: Present on Meals on Wheels (MOW)**

Mr. Roberts presented on the MOW program. ([Meals on Wheels Report](#))

Chair Fisher asked about MOW program eligibility.

Mr. Roberts responded a candidate must be at least sixty years old, with other qualifying markers based on income level and mobility. The case manager evaluates the client to ensure they qualify.

Chair Fisher asked how often recipients are reevaluated.

Deacon Roberts stated clients are reevaluated annually on the anniversary of their service date.

Ms. Jamason asked if, during the assessment process, clients are asked if they are on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and if applications are provided for those interested.

Mr. Roberts said a Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) case manager is available to refer clients to other services/programming for which they may qualify.

Chair Fisher asked if there are funding streams other than federal, state, and local organizations for the MOW program.

Mr. Roberts stated CCSN's MOW program receives funding from the City of Las Vegas, as well as funding from private and corporate donations.

Ms. Tyson stated the CFS Policy Subcommittee will revisit two (2) policy priorities concerning older Nevadans: 1) Medicaid Waiver for the Frail and Elderly and 2) the Disability Waiver. Both waivers will be included in the Policy Subcommittee's recommended CFS legislative agenda for 2021.

The CFS discussed the need for a "Silver Summit" to bring together partners working to address hunger among older Nevadans.

**9. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve CFS 2020 priorities**

Chair Fisher stated he reviewed the CFS *Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action* (i.e. the Plan); he felt more action could be taken on the "Grow" portion of the Plan.

Dr. Osgood recommended child food security remain a priority. He also suggested this item be tabled until the January 7, 2020 meeting, so more information could be presented to help the CFS prioritize initiatives.

Ms. Tyson agreed more information is needed. She stated the CFS has prioritized a couple populations over the years but has not approached initiatives holistically. The CFS should transition to looking at the entire food system, and through the perspective/lens of equity. Ms. Tyson recommended a CFS 2020 priority be taking the year to educate the group on the issue of equity, identifying appropriate partners, and diversifying CFS membership to be representative of the communities served throughout Nevada.

Julia Peek agreed with Ms. Tyson; there are similar conversations around health equity and the social determinants occurring throughout the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and among partners.

Deacon Roberts recommended DHHS present an economic overview of demographics served throughout the various nutrition programs statewide.

Beth Handler stated the Nevada State Health Needs Assessment has been completed; she will share the final report with the CFS.

Chair Fisher tabled the discussion/identification of 2020 priorities until the January 7, 2020 meeting.

**10. INFORMATIONAL: Present updates on three (3) CFS Subcommittees: the Policy Subcommittee, the Food for People, Not the Landfills Subcommittee, and the Technology Subcommittee**

Ms. Tyson stated the chair of the CFS Food for People, Not Landfills (FFPNL) Subcommittee resigned. Ms. Tyson will now act as FFPNL Subcommittee chair and Homa Anoohepoor will act as the CFS Policy Subcommittee chair. Ms. Tyson stated the Policy Subcommittee had their first meeting on October 18, 2019. The Policy Subcommittee will meet six (6) times and

develop a legislative agenda which will be presented for the CFS's consideration at the July 7, 2020 CFS meeting. The first FFPNL Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled for early January 2020. Ms. Tyson reported the Technology Subcommittee is currently on hold, as new information was provided by DHHS regarding the Technology Subcommittee's recommendation. She will update the CFS when more information is available.

#### **11. INFORMATIONAL: Present update on the Data and Analysis Project**

Dr. Osgood presented an update on the Data and Analysis Project, including the project's findings and proposed next steps/recommendations. ([Data and Analysis Project Update](#)) The project's next steps/recommendations include: 1) distribute survey spreadsheet to 2-1-1, survey respondents who requested copies, Three Square, Dignity Health and other hospital systems, Medicaid and other insurers, and others; 2) contact agencies that responded they could not determine how many older adults they were unable to serve, and share "Survey of Seniors Unable to be Served" tool; 3) sponsor a networking conference for agencies and organizations that deliver older adult services to encourage greater integration and efficiency; 4) create a statewide, county-specific, Geographic Information System (GIS) map identifying service agencies and organizations to assist in determining available resources; and 5) conduct another analysis (survey) to better clarify service needs and barriers.

Dr. Buffington confirmed they have identified an individual who has offered to develop a statewide GIS map for this project.

#### **12. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve future agenda items**

Chair Fisher stated at the January 7, 2020 meeting, agenda items will include: 1) review and approval of the CFS 2019 Annual Report; 2) a panel on race equity; 3) a presentation on the Nevada State Health Needs Assessment; 4) an update on the Data and Analysis Project; 5) a discussion on CFS 2020 priorities; 6) approval of the revised bylaws; and 6) recommendations for new CFS members.

Chair Fisher asked for public comment.

Ms. Tyson invited CFS members to stop by the New Beginning Church, a new location for congregant meals opening November 18, 2019.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.