

Governor's Council on Food Security
Minutes
March 20, 2019

The Governor's Council on Food Security held a public meeting on March 20, 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 (Las Vegas)
Christy McGill, Director, Safe and Respectful Learning Environments, Nevada Department of Education (NDE) (Phone)
Aurora Buffington, Assistant Professor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) (Phone)
Kenneth Osgood, MD, Board of Health, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) (Las Vegas)
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (Las Vegas)
Amber Bosket, Chief Executive Officer, Growing Gears (Las Vegas)
Amy Hill, Government Relations, Walmart (Phone)
Gillian Barclay, Healthcare Industry Specialist, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (Las Vegas)

Staff Present

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), DPBH (Carson City)
Jeff Duncan, Social Services Chief II, Planning, Advocacy and Community Services Unit, Aging and Disabilities Services Division (ADSD) (Las Vegas)
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Carson City)
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

Others Present

Corrie Bosket, Growing Gears (Las Vegas)

Board Members Not Present

Julie Kotchevar, Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Sarah Adler, Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon & Storey Counties (HCC)
Jodi Tyson, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)
Rob Medeiros, CEO, Boomtown Casino Hotel and Reserve Casino Hotel
Annmarie Feiler, Executive Director, Urban Seed Foundation

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

Chair Fisher 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.

Chair Fisher called for public comment.

Chair Fisher stated DWSS will transition to a staggered issuance cycle for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Effective July 1, 2019, SNAP benefits will be issued during the first ten days of the month. The issuance date will be based on the head of household/card holder's birth year.

There was no additional public comment.

2. **ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the January 16, 2019 Council Meeting**

Chair Fisher asked if there were corrections to the draft minutes from the January 16, 2019 meeting.

Marcia Blake requested her title be updated to "Executive Director of Helping Hands of Vegas Valley." Her position changed effective January 2019.

Gillian Barclay stated her name was not included in the attendance list. She asked her name to be added.

CHAIR FISHER ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2019 MEETING WITH RECOMMENDED CHANGES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY AMY HILL. DR. KENNETH OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations for vacant membership representing food processing or distribution.**

Chair Fisher requested recommendations to fill the vacant membership representing food processing or distribution. He stated the GCFS identified a candidate previously, but the candidate switched positions and no longer qualified for the membership.

Jennifer Ott recommend Jeremiah Radford from U.S. Foods.

Chair Fisher requested additional recommendations be sent to Laura Urban.

4. **ACTION ITEM: Make recommendations for the vacant membership representing community-based services in Northern Nevada.**

Deacon Tom Roberts recommended the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, Marie Baxter.

Chair Fisher requested additional recommendations be sent to Ms. Urban.

5. **INFORMATIONAL: Present and Discuss the food desert data**

Chair Fisher referred GCFS members to the [food desert one-pager](#) developed by the OFS. He requested the OFS compile food desert data and best practices in preparation for Senate Bill (SB) 326, establishing a program to provide loans to certain operators of grocery stores located in underserved communities, sponsored by Assemblyman McCurdy. He stated Nevada DWSS is interested in addressing food deserts. The development of a Fresh Food Financing Initiative, as proposed in SB326, has been successful in other states such as Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Florida. He encouraged GCFS members to review SB326.

6. **ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding wireless Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) for farmer's market.**

Aurora Buffington presented the [Nevada Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)/ Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\) Farmers' Market 2019 Update](#).

Amber Bosket asked for the number of farmers' markets currently accepting EBT.

Ms. Buffington stated very few Nevada farmers' markets are currently accepting EBT. There is a lot of confusion regarding EBT use at farmers' markets. SNAP recipients are largely unaware they can use EBT to make SNAP purchases at farmers' markets.

Ms. Bosket stated farmers' markets tend to be held in higher income areas, and farmers' market produce is expensive. She asked if there are other Nevada programs/strategies, like the Double Up Bucks program through the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) Grant Program, currently used to incentivize purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables statewide.

Ms. Buffington stated UNCE conducted a price comparison study to assess the price differences between produce sold at grocery stores and farmers' markets. The study found farmers' market produce prices are comparable, and sometimes cheaper, than grocery store prices for similar items. She stated the only other farmers' market nutrition incentive programs offered in Nevada are the WIC Farmers' Market Program and the Senior Farmers' Market Program, which offers farmers' market coupons to WIC participants and older Nevadans.

Chair Fisher stated the Fidelity National Information Services, which provides EBT services for DWSS, provides free EBT-only devices to Nevada farmers.

Ms. Buffington stated she was not aware of the free EBT device option.

Robert Thompson stated he is drafting a letter to update Nevada farmers regarding this opportunity.

Ms. Buffington asked whether the one (1) machine per EBT license requirement could be lifted.

Chair Fisher stated DWSS will ask the federal Food and Nutrition Services branch if this requirement can be lifted.

Chair Fisher asked when the FINI Grant funding for the Double Up Bucks program will end.

Ms. Buffington stated the funding for the Double Up Bucks program will end in September 2019. She stated she would like to see a statewide effort for future FINI Grant funding opportunities. Currently, the primary FINI partners are in Southern Nevada.

Deacon Roberts stated it is difficult to get fresh fruits and vegetables in food pantries. He asked if farmers would consider donating leftover/unsold produce from farmers' markets to food pantries.

Ms. Buffington was unsure but stated she will ask the farmers' market managers. She stated the biggest challenge of donating produce is transportation.

It was determined other states with wireless EBT machines at farmers' markets have a higher SNAP participation rate. Ms. Buffington has more information and can share as needed.

7. INFORMATIONAL: Update regarding two (2) GCFS Subcommittees: 1) Technology and 2) Research and Analysis

Chair Fisher stated Ms. Blake will provide the Technology Subcommittee update on behalf of Jodi Tyson.

Ms. Blake stated the Technology Subcommittee has held three (3) of the four scheduled (4) meetings and has heard presentations on seven (7) client-tracking database systems. The Technology Subcommittee cross-walked system presentations with a set of standards established by the Subcommittee members. Subcommittee member notes have been shared with Ms. Tyson and Ms. Urban for compilation. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2019.

Dr. Osgood stated Ms. Buffington has joined the Research and Analysis Subcommittee. He requested GCFS members send their programs' data system codebooks and variable lists to Ms. Urban, so the Research and Analysis Subcommittee can assess program and demographic data collected statewide.

8. INFORMATIONAL: Update regarding the Commission on Aging and GCFS joint Subcommittee addressing older Nevadans

Chair Fisher stated Cherie Jamason and Ms. Blake will represent the GCFS on the joint Subcommittee between the GCFS and the Nevada Commission on Aging (CoA) to address nutrition/food security issues among older Nevadans. The joint Subcommittee is expected to be discussed at the April 18, 2019 CoA meeting.

9. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding the 2018 Food Security Summit Summary and action items.

Ms. Urban presented the [2018 Food Security Summit Summary](#) draft. Once approved through Division of Public and Behavioral Health leadership, the summary will be presented to the Nevada Nutrition Assistance Consortium and shared on the GCFS website.

Deacon Tom stated collaboration around funding is critical and was pleased to see funding was a topic prioritized at the 2018 Food Security Summit. He stated it is important for agencies and partners to work together rather than compete with one another regarding funding.

10. INFORMATIONAL: Present, discuss, and identify 2019 GCFS priorities

Chair Fisher presented the [2018 Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action](#) (i.e. the Food Security Plan). He stated the GCFS is responsible for implementing the goals and activities of the Food Security Plan. Many Food Security Plan goals are in-progress, including: LEAD, Goal two (2) relating to supporting state and local policies that increase food security in Nevada; FEED, Goal two (2) relating to supporting client-centered strategies that increase access to nutrition programs and resources that address determinants of hunger; and DATA, Goal one (1) establishing evaluation and reporting processes to enhance data collection to drive future strategies and track progress in improving food security in Nevada. He asked GCFS members if there is a specific goal/activity or population the GCFS is interested in prioritizing.

Dr. Osgood stated when the GCFS first began in 2014, child nutrition was prioritized. Great strides were made through efforts like the Breakfast After the Bell program and legislation. He asked if there are still gaps in participation among nutrition programs for school-aged children.

Chair Fisher recommended NDA present on Child Nutrition Programs at a future meeting to help members accurately assess whether gaps in Child Nutrition Program participation exist.

Deacon Roberts requested a presentation on Home Delivered Meals. He would like Home Delivered Meals to remain a GCFS priority.

Ms. Blake requested a presentation on Congregate Meals, which are meals that help address isolation and lack of socialization, which is an issue of concern among older people.

GCFS members voiced interest in learning about Title One funds and additional funding available intended to support low-income/high-risk Nevada schools. Members voiced concerns that funding is no longer provided to high-risk schools once improvements in grades, absenteeism, etc. are made, making it difficult to sustain the improvements.

Dr. Osgood stated priorities can be more easily identified once a common platform for data collection is available to assess services gaps.

Ms. Buffington stated she would like to see FEED, activity 1.6 supporting the implementation and enforcement of the Nevada School Wellness Policy (SWP) prioritized. Efforts could include enhancing collaboration between the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the Nevada Department of Education, the two (2) State agencies responsible for supporting and enforcing SWP implementation.

It was decided identifying GCFS priorities will be an on-going discussion.

11. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and make recommendations regarding 2019 GCFS presentation schedule.

Chair Fisher presented the [2019 GCFS Presentation Schedule](#). This schedule was developed to plan GCFS presentations for the remainder of 2019 and ensure the presentations heard relate to and align with programs and issues prioritized by the GCFS. He asked GCFS members if additional presentations should be added.

Deacon Roberts reemphasized he would like to see a presentation on Home Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals for older people. He offered to present on Home Delivered Meals. He recommended talking to Ms. Tyson regarding a presenter for Congregate Meals.

Chair Fisher requested GCFS members send presentation requests for future meetings to Ms. Urban.

No action was taken on this item.

12. INFORMATIONAL: Update regarding 2019 Bill Draft Requests (BDR)/Bills related to food security, including: Assembly Bill (AB) 159, AB174, BDR 18-318, BDR S-580, and Senate Bill (SB) 178.

Chair Fisher presented the [GCFS 2019 Legislative Session Bill Tracking](#) document, which provides updates on bills/BDRs tracked by the Office of Food Security. Ms. Urban will continue to send legislative updates to the GCFS.

It was confirmed AB159, establishing the Governor's Advisory Council on Food Security, will likely not move forward in favor of SB178, which also codifies the GCFS.

Karissa Loper stated SB178, creating the Council on Food Security and the Food for People, Not Landfills Program, is moving out of the Senate Committee on Government Affairs with a friendly amendment.

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

Chair Fisher stated future agenda items were identified and discussed in agenda item eleven. At the May 15, 2019 meeting there will be reports provided by the Technology and Research and Analysis Subcommittees, and an item to continue discussion around GCFS priorities. He asked GCFS members to send additional agenda item requests to Ms. Urban.

No action was taken on this item.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Fisher asked for Public Comment.

Chair Fisher stated there is a proposal in the upcoming biennium budget to transfer the OFS and the Funds for a Healthy Nevada Wellness/Food Security monies into the DPBH Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Section Budget Account from the DHHS Director's

Office Budget Account. If the transfer is approved by the Nevada Legislature, the OFS will manage and administer the FHN Wellness/Food Security subawards. The OFS is actively working with the Office of Community Partnerships and Grants in the DHHS Director's Office to develop a transition plan. The GCFS will be updated once more information is available.

Ms. Blake shared public comment on behalf of Ms. Tyson. She stated Food Security Day at the Nevada Legislature will take place on March 27, 2019; she encouraged members to attend. A town hall dinner with speakers touching on the issue of food insecurity will take place that evening from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Additionally, the Nevada ADSD budget hearing regarding an increase in meal reimbursement rates for Home Delivered Meals will take place March 26, 2019. The budget hearing to increase meal reimbursement rates for Congregate Meals will take place in April 2019.

Deacon Roberts encouraged GCFS members to continue their support for increasing Home Delivered Meals reimbursement rates in Nevada.

Corrie Bosket stated there are funding opportunities available through the new Farm Bill that could support implementation of the Food Security Plan.

Chair Fisher requested Mr. Bosket share additional information with Ms. Urban for OFS review and dissemination, if applicable.

Ms. Buffington asked how the SNAP multiple issuance schedule will be implemented.

Chair Fisher stated the new staggered SNAP issuance is based on the last digit of the SNAP cardholder's birth year. For example, if the last digit of the cardholder's birth year is one (1), their SNAP benefits will be issued on the first day of the month. If the last digit is a zero, SNAP benefits will be issued on the tenth day of the month.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fisher adjourned the meeting at 2:55 P.M.