

The Nevada Council on Food Security
Minutes
July 30, 2020

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on July 30, 2020 beginning at approximately 1:05 P.M. via video and teleconference. This meeting was held in accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

Board Members Present

Jennifer Ott, Director of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Beth Handler, Deputy Director, Programs, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), DHHS
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)
Dena Schmidt for Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Child Services
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District Board of Health
Homa Annoshepoor, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA
Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)
Jhone Ebert Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)
Joe Garcia for Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV)
Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)
Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Family

Board Members Not Present

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International
Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank
Michael Brown, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development

Staff Present:

Sarah Metcalf, MPH, NDTR, CLC, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Nutrition Unit, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Nutrition Unit, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH

Others Present:

Liz McMenemy, Vice President Government Affairs, Nevada Retail Association
Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

1. Roll Call

Chair Jennifer Ott 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) 439.519 § 2.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Ott called for public comment and there was none.

3. ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 7, 2020 MEETING MINUTES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. MARIE BAXTER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve recommendations for vacant Nevada CFS membership

Chair Ott called for recommendations for the open membership representing manufacturing that is not related to food. Hearing none, she asked members to send recommendations to Laura Urban.

Chair Ott asked Ms. Urban for CFS membership appointment updates.

Ms. Urban stated all pre-existing CFS members have been reappointed by Governor Sisolak. Only a few new CFS members are waiting on appointment including Liz McMenemy of Nevada Retail Association (NRA), Courtney Bloomer of Health Communities Coalition, and Jenny Yeager of the Food Banks of Northern Nevada (FBNN).

No action was taken.

5. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve CFS Policy Subcommittee budgetary policy recommendations

Homa Anooshepoor shared the [CFS Policy Subcommittee Budgetary Policy Recommendations](#) for the CFS's consideration. Ms. Anooshepoor stated the recommendations were established prior to COVID-19 and may need to be re-evaluated. Ms. Anooshepoor stated the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) must be consulted on policy recommendations around school health prior to CFS approval.

Dr. Aurora Buffington stated the University of Nevada – Extension (UNE) and Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) presented the school health recommendations. She requested UNE and SNHD be included in future discussions with NDE regarding these recommendations.

Chair Ott asked when the next CFS Policy Subcommittee is scheduled.

Ms. Urban stated the next CFS Policy Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020.

Chair Ott requested the CFS Policy Subcommittee re-evaluate the policy recommendations at their August 17, 2020 meeting. She stated the approval of the policy recommendations will be tabled until the October 6, 2020 CFS meeting.

No action was taken,

6. Present and discuss nutrition program COVID-19 response efforts

Ms. Anooshepoor presented the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), Food and Nutrition Division's COVID-19 response updates. Her report can be found [here](#).

Dr. Osgood asked how many homebound seniors were served.

Ms. Anooshepoor stated she did not have the senior program data on-hand. She asked if other CFS members had senior program data to share.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) is the largest Meals on Wheels (MOW) provider in Nevada. CCSN is currently serving about 2,100 seniors. At the start of the pandemic, the MOW waiting list increased by 2,500 within 30 days due to the pantry site closures. CCSN's addressed this increase through partnerships with Three Square and the Delivering with Dignity program.

Ashanti Lewis stated Three Square provided 3,545 home-delivered food boxes to seniors between March and June 2020.

Chair Ott asked if there were any more questions and there were none. Chair Ott introduced Dena Schmidt from Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD).

Ms. Schmidt presented the Nevada ADSD COVID-19 response updates. Her report can be found [here](#).

Director Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Joe Garcia from Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS).

Mr. Garcia presented on DWSS's COVID-19 response updates. His report can be found [here](#).

Dr. Osgood requested data on the number of children receiving SNAP benefits.

Mr. Garcia stated he will provide this information to Ms. Urban after the meeting to share with the CFS.

Director Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Candice McDaniel from the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

Ms. McDaniel presented on WIC's COVID-19 response updates. Ms. McDaniel stated with the help of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Western Regional Office (WRO), WIC received a number of waivers supporting the continuation of WIC services throughout the start of the pandemic. Ms. McDaniel thanked CFS member and WRO Regional Administrator, Jesus Mendoza, for his support, leadership, and diligent staff. Ms. McDaniel listed the waivers WIC received; all which expire September 30, 2020. She stated WIC local implementing agencies have been committed and flexible during this difficult time and have done an excellent job pivoting and implementing the new federal waivers to meet the needs of Nevada WIC participants. Ms. McDaniel stated currently the greatest barrier is increasing WIC benefit redemption rates. The Nevada WIC program has seen an incremental decrease in redemption rates since the start of the pandemic. The WIC program is exploring strategies to increase redemption rates, including online and curbside ordering. On July 29, 2020 the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approved Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security Act (CARES) funding for a WIC home-delivered grocery program. Ms. McDaniel stated partner subawards have been drafted for this new program. The CFS will be updated once program implementation begins.

Chair Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Shane Piccinini from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN).

Mr. Piccinini presented FBNN's COVID-19 updates. His report can be found [here](#).

Director Ott asked if the number of FBNN school pantries had increased over the last year.

Mr. Piccinini stated there has been a substantial increase in school pantries over the past year. FBNN is working to convert each school Backpack Program to a school pantry. FBNN is currently assessing strategies for reopening school pantries while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Mr. Piccinini stated there are only school pantries in Washoe County. FBNN is working to expand school pantry sites to select Rural areas.

Chair Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Ashanti Lewis from Three Square.

Ms. Lewis presented Three Square's COVID-19 response updates. Her report can be found [here](#).

Director Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Marie Baxter from Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN).

Ms. Baxter presented CCNN's COVID-19 response updates. Her report can be found [here](#).

Dr. Ott called for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Rebekah Stetson with Family and the Flint Street Farm.

Ms. Stetson presented her Family and Flint Street Farm COVID-19 response updates. Her Family report can be found [here](#). Her Flint Street Farm report can be found [here](#).

Dr. Ott asked for questions. Hearing none, she introduced Deacon Tom Roberts from CCSN.

Deacon Roberts presented his CCSN COVID-19 update. He commended Nevada ADSD, Three Square, HHOVV, and Delivering with Dignity for their hard work and thanked them for their partnership throughout the beginning of the pandemic. He stated CCSN's service numbers spiked when the pandemic began. CCSN also had kitchen staff infected with the virus, forcing CCSN to quickly pivot to secure and protect the food production for their Meals on Wheels Program. CCSN meal counts increased to over 1,000 meals a day. He thanked the resort industry, specifically MGM Resorts International, the Sands, and the Wynn, for providing food while CCSN adjusted and secured their kitchen operations. CCSN received CARES funding to implement an outdoor dining pavilion, which is currently under construction. The pavilion will also be used as a social services facility. The CCSN pantry has remained open throughout the pandemic. Like many food partners, CCSN had to pivot in order to maintain social distancing through a grab and go model.

Dr. Ott thanked the presenters for the information shared and commended all for their hard work and dedication in serving hungry Nevadans throughout the early months of the pandemic.

7. Present and discuss Proven Solutions to Food Insecurity in Nevada During Covid-19 and Beyond

Dr. Ott introduced Dr. Craig Gunderson.

Dr. Gunderson presented on proven solutions to addressing food insecurity in Nevada post-COVID. His presentation can be found [here](#).

8. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve CFS Food for People, Not Landfills baseline report

Chair Ott tabled this item until the October 6, 2020 CFS meeting.

9. Present update on the Research and Analysis Project

Dr. Osgood provided background on the Research and Analysis Project. He referred to his handout from the November 13, 2019 meeting, which can be found [here](#). He stated a summit will be scheduled to encourage enhanced collaboration among partner agencies serving older

Nevadans statewide. An update on the summit will be provided at the October 6, 2020 CFS meeting.

10. Public Comment

Miss Urban stated the Office of Food Security and the DHHS Nutrition Unit are developing a comprehensive report on food insecurity in Nevada post-COVID and partner response efforts between mid-March to the end of May 2020. The report will be shared with the CFS once finalized.

11. Adjournment

Director Ott adjourned the meeting at 3:00 P.M.