

The Nevada Council on Food Security
Minutes
July 13, 2022
1:00PM

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on July 13, 2022, beginning at approximately 1:02 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)

Kelly Cantrelle, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)

Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)

Kyle Devine, DPBH Health Bureau Chief

Dr. Pamela Juniel, Department of Education

Jenny Yeager, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington, University of Nevada, Reno

Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)

Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District, Board of Health

Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, Division of Food and Nutrition, NDA

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor, City Councilman Brian Knudsen

Maurice Johnson, Three Square Food Bank
Diana Jane in place for Marica Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

Board Members Not Present

Deborah Hassett, Department of Health and Human Service, Director's Office

James Humm, Diversify Nevada

Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Child Services

Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Family

Others Present:

Jeff Duncan, ADSD

1. Roll Call

Chair Jennifer Ott called the meeting to order at 1:02 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ott called for public comment.

None heard.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of the April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ott asked the council if the minutes were received. Chair Ott stated they were not available online or had been received by the council. It was determined the minutes would be approved in the next meeting.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Welcome new members:

- a. Kyle Devine, DPBH Health Bureau Chief
- b. Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor, City Councilman Brian Knudsen

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Update and discussion on Food Security Plan revision

- Lois Ann Porter, The Blueprint Collaborative
- Dr. Nancy Brune, Guinn Center

Dr. Nancy Brune presented the update on Pillars of the Food Security Strategic Plan. The final Strategic Plan timeline will be July 25th, 2022. It was determined a draft of three (3) documents will go to Office of Food Security, Internal DHHS Review in July/August, OFS sponsored event to roll out the Strategic Plan September/October.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked how to obtain a copy of the presentation.

Dr. Nancy Brune responded that the presentation would be sent out to the participants after the meeting, and that the full strategic plan is available with the meeting materials. Lois Ann Porter stated she would provide the link for the document.

Dr. Osgood recommended photos of children playing and exercising.

Dr. Brune agreed with Dr. Osgood.

Dr. Brune thanked the council for their assistance.

Lori Ann Porter stated there was feedback when the needs assessment was presented regarding level of engagement and attempts to engage with seniors and asked Dr. Brune to address the group.

Dr. Brune replied that the team is working with Three Square and have done a few reports on seniors. Dr. Brune mentioned drawing in specific information from the reports gathered, and that a focus group service provider sent out surveys to seniors with reminders.

Chair Ott asked for clarification from the last meeting regarding the concern of the lack of input from seniors, and asked if in the next steps there will be a DHSS document from leadership. Chair Ott asked for clarification on what buy-ins will be received when assigning owners and partners.

Dr. Brune responded there was an intense review a couple weeks ago with Homa Anooshehpour to share what the NDA was doing. Dr. Brune's understanding is there will be a conversation once a draft is created, and OFS has one-on-one conversations with NDA.

Chair Ott asked for elaboration on community organizations becoming part of the conversation, as well as the owners.

Dr. Brune responded that after the full Strategic Planning session, a goal setting session regarding the pillars was hosted. Dr. Brune explained the meeting was broadly open, with a mix of community partners agency representatives. Dr. Brune mentioned the intent was that the timeline or roadmap will more clearly identify owners.

Chair Ott added that a coalition is being formed of a group of industry partners and mentioned the addition of another unfunded coalition of the same group of people.

Ms. Porter stated that the intent of the group was to assess the ability of practitioners to be able to share information with one another, requested by the participants of the needs assessment.

Dr. Brune added that the conversation referenced two models: The Maternal Health Coalition and the Healthy Senior Living Coalition. Both of those are informal and are not subject to open meeting law.

Chair Ott replied that the legislative purpose behind the open meeting law is to ensure that the public can be involved in what the government is doing and making decisions on.

Sarah Rogers stated the OFS is mentioned in the Strategic Plan and won't be owned by OFS. Mr. Rogers stated it was heard from stakeholders that there was a desire to talk with one another and collaborate more.

Chair Ott stated that the first line on the PDF document states that DHHS Office of Food Security Strategic Plan is owned by DHHS Office of Food Security.

Sarah Rogers responded that it is, but expressed the desire to hear community partners voices on the topic.

Chair Ott asked for additional questions on the Strategic Plan.

Kathrine E. Wright, PhD, wrote in the chat: Participants mentioned that there are barriers to being a board member and participating in the CFS meetings. The coalition would help address these barriers.

Jenny Yeager asked about the feasibility of the Strategic Plan and who comments or edits could be addressed to.

Ms. Porter stated that the comments could be directed to Ms. Porter, Dr. Brune or Ms. Rogers.

Brittany Price asked why funding is never asked for since it is a zero funded committee.

Chair Ott replied the answer was unknown, but that the council does not have a budget account. Chair Ott asked Dr. Osgood for further clarification.

Dr. Osgood replied that there was some funding to host the meeting at one time. Dr. Osgood mentioned that after the 2013 meeting, Governor Sandoval created this council, and the first project was attempting to get children who went to school food.

Ms. Price asked if there was one specific initiative that could be rallied around if there was a desire to pursue, and where the funding might be asked to come from. Ms. Price asked if funding was feasible and who to direct these questions to if so.

Dr. Osgood added that the last part of the PowerPoint presentation is what the council would like to present to the legislature, and that if there is a request for financial support, it can be asked at that time.

Jenny Yeager suggested including any other program or state agencies that are already working towards a goal on the plan to be added to the Strategic Plan. Ms. Yeager stated there should be clarity about the goals that are tied to specific dollars of funding, and if an agency already has funding in place for it. Ms. Year asked if there was new funding the council was searching for, or if the council is trying to determine if funding is already in place.

Chair Ott stated some of these things are happening and asked if that means this is a new initiative, and if efforts are being duplicated because lack of awareness.

Chair Ott asked for additional comments or questions.

None heard.

Ms. Yeager and Ms. Porter thanked the council for their participation and requested feedback by July 18th so it may be incorporated in the plan.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion regarding White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, convening in Las Vegas and possible action to submit input for the conference

Dorian Stonebarger delivered the agenda item and mentioned the presentation is regarding feedback that has been received at the meeting held at City Hall. Ms. Stonebarger mentioned it was announced that the White House will be hosting a conference in September, and it will be the first in 50 years. Ms. Stonebarger stated the goal of this conference is to support the effort to end hunger and to increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030.

Chair Ott added there are other agencies that have done this session and asked if anyone would like to share sessions are going.

Ms. Yeager stated session has not yet happened, but will be hosting two (2) sessions next week with community members. Ms. Yeager added the first event will be on the 19th at the B&G Club of Truckee Meadows; The B&G club is going to help recruit families and caregivers for that event. There will be two (2) facilitators for that event; One (1) Spanish speaking and one (1) English speaking. Ms. Yeager mentioned utilizing the questions from the same pillar and increasing access, and the second event will be held Saturday the 23rd at the B&G Club in Winnemucca; The outcomes for the meetings will be shared with the council.

Chair Ott mentioned her attendance to the White House update meeting and stated that although the deadline is the 15th, organizations still could submit after that date.

Marie Baxter added that Catholic Charities is facilitating these sessions and some of the national feedback was interesting when looking at what is happening beyond Nevada. Ms. Baxter mentioned that during COVID, the ability to have proxy shoppers for WIC was very impactful and asked how to utilize non-profit partners to continue shopping with SNAP or WIC cards to ensure nutritious foods to those who cannot physically get to a grocery store.

Ms. Stonebarger added that proxy shopper fits well into the service-based responses and that this information will be very specific to Southern Nevada, so it is known that it is not statewide.

Dr. Aurora Buffington agreed this was adequate.

Chair Ott asked if there were any other sessions the council would like to share and asked Ms. Stonebarger if she would like people to answer these questions.

Ms. Stonebarger responded that if anyone had responses to these questions, it could be stated or emailed to Ms. Stonebarger.

Chair Ott asked for any additional questions.

Dr. Osgood mentioned involvement with a group trying to make an impact with obesity and diabetes, but realized there were virtually no gains, except in pockets. Dr. Osgood stated this is in part because the tools the younger generation is utilizing were not available and suggested bringing up the subject regarding a communication vehicle that could be listened to instead.

Chair Ott asked for any other comments or answers.

Ms. Stonebarger provided her email address, dstonebarger@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Chair Ott thanked Ms. Stonebarger for the presentation.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Discussion on possible candidates to fill the vacant position for “one (1) representative of community-based services (rural Nevada)” and “one (1)

representative of manufacturing entity that is not related to food” as set forth in NRS 232.4966(1)(k).

Chair Ott asked for any suggestions from anyone who would like to propose a name to fill the vacancies.

Ms. Yeager asked if the recommendation could be a food pantry.

Chair Ott responded yes.

Ms. Yeager recommended Sarah Sanchez, the Director at Carson Valley Community Food Closet.

Chair Ott asked for any other suggestions.

None heard.

Chair Ott thanked everyone for their participation.

8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action to finalize Council on Food Security Presentation to Nevada Legislative Committee.

Chair Ott turned the presentation over to Dr. Osgood and provided an update. Chair Ott mentioned a conversation that was had with the legislative liaison with the committee and that it was being considered to schedule an early session slot.

Dr. Osgood provided the presentation and stated this was the same presentation the council had previously seen, with some additions. Dr. Osgood mentioned it is not completed and if anyone would like to add anything to let Chair Ott or Dr. Osgood know.

Dr. Osgood discussed the Council on Food Security duties to hold public hearings, review, comment on proposed regulations and advise or inform the Governor of Nevada on food policy. Dr. Osgood added one of the duties is to submit an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before January 31st of each year. Dr. Osgood stated he will ask Ms. Rogers to share this with everyone and would like the council to go through it to see what additions could be suggested.

Chair Ott addressed the council and asked if time is still needed to review and obtain feedback, or if it could be approved today.

Chair Ott entertained a motion to approve the agenda item.

Dr. Osgood added that suggestions could be directed to Chair Ott or Dr. Osgood.

Chair Ott asked for additional feedback or edits.

Ms. Yeager added in the chat: We have data from Feeding America that indicates the total excess healthcare cost associated with food security is \$518,266,000 in Nevada and asked if it would be helpful to include this information.

Dr. Buffington responded with a recommendation to add a screen shot of the map slide to help justify that addition.

Chair Ott responded that was the original intention and thanked Ms. Yeager for the mention.

Dr. Buffington added that Dr. Pamela Juniel suggested a correction to the word ‘determinants’ and agreed with the correction. Dr. Buffington suggested a screenshot of the map and including it to the received legislative actions slide as a picture, and to update the language on the Food Security Plan to include a link.

Dr. Juniel added it would be helpful to see how those stores have changed since the council was formed versus now. Dr. Juniel mentioned this is where suggestions could be added, because remote and rural communities still have needs with some of the stores being shut down during COVID.

Chair Ott asked for additional comments or questions. Chair Ott also asked what the comfort level of the council is for approving the agenda item with the changes mentioned today, or if the council would like to see another version at the following meeting.

None heard.

Chair Ott entertained a motion to approve the presentation to the legislature with the changed discussed today.

Ms. Baxter made a motion to approve the presentation with the changes.

Ms. Stonebarger seconded the motion.

Chair Ott asked for any further discussion regarding the motion.

None heard.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present member updates - Jennifer Ott, Chair

Chair Ott asked if anyone wanted to share any updates.

Dr. Buffington shared she will start a new position with the food and nutrition service and added the need to leave CFS, as Dr. Buffington is an extension representative.

Chair Ott congratulated Dr. Buffington.

Ms. Baxter shared about her attendance of a session with Truckee Meadow’s Tomorrow & United Way and added the link to the chat containing health and wellness information that is relevant to this committee. Ms. Baxter encouraged all entities to utilize that as common data for discussions if providing

presentations to the state legislature or writing grants. Ms. Baxter added the desire for everyone to understand that there is momentum using this data at www.nevadatomorrow.org.

Chair Ott asked for any other updates.

Maurice Johnson added the Senior Hunger Program has been doing a lot locally in Las Vegas and Moapa. Ms. Johnson mentioned the programs involvement in a meal program for seniors, a relationship with libraries in Clark County, and that the program is trying to cast a broader net to support seniors through the program.

Ms. Yeager added a reminder to everyone regarding the summer food program. Ms. Yeager mentioned wrapping up the Feeding the Community Survey to better understand food and security as it related to community members in Northern Nevada. Ms. Yeager stated the partnership with the University of Reno is hoping to have results shared in a formal setting with the community by the end of July to be added to the agenda.

Chair Ott mentioned the NDA has started to release some RFP's and opportunities for funding that hit some of the needs that have been discussed today, as well as some of the programs. The council released the Community Food Access grant that is \$6 million dollars to food security organizations for opportunities to invest in infrastructure for the future. Chair Ott stated the council is looking to assist food security organizations to be able to have the necessary tools to continue.

Chair Ott added there is another RPF that was released called the Rural Food Hub Grant, a \$3 million dollar grant that will address food insecurities for rural communities and tribal entities that will be released at the end of August. Chair Ott mentioned the legislatures approval of the Universal Free School Meals plan at the beginning of August for the next school year.

Chair Ott went on to add that the council will continue to work with the food production side and have hired a project manager for the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program to help boost meat and poultry process in Nevada. Chair Ott mentioned the releasing of the Home Feeds Nevada Program and is anticipating an additional \$4 million dollars from federal sources to procure fresh fruits and vegetables and proteins from Nevada's farmers and ranchers and deliver them to food banks. Chair Ott shared about an upcoming data project and procuring funding to be able to look at statewide data.

Chair Ott asked for additional questions or updates.

None heard.

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and approval on future agenda items

Chair Ott called for any comments.

None heard.

Chair Ott added that this is not last call and if there are any items that come up in the meantime, please reach out as the council builds the agenda for the next meeting.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ott asked for public comment.

None heard.

12. Adjournment

Chair Ott adjourned the meeting at 2:39 PM.