

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

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on November 1, 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. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District, Director of the Advisory Board of Health

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

Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor, City Councilman Brian Knudsen

Maurice Johnson, Three Square Food Bank

Marica Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

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

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

Board Members Not Present

James Humm, Diversify Nevada

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Family

Jeffrey Duncan, Aging and Disability Services Division

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

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

Others Present:

Lynsie Powell, Office Manager, CDPHP

Emily Sanchez, Program Support Staff, CDPHP

Rebecca McKnight, Program Support Staff, CDPHP

Dr. Kathrine Wright, PhD, MPH, Food Security Coordinator- CDC Foundation Contractor, CDPHP

Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, CDC Foundation Contractor, CDPHP

Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, CDPHP

Maria Menjivar, Environmental Health Division Manager, CCHHS

Lily Helzer, MPH, Section Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Manager, CDPHP

1. Roll Call

Lynsie Powell took roll and Chair Jennifer Ott determined quorum was met for the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Chair Ott called for public comment.

None heard.

Chair Ott stated there would be another opportunity at the end of the meeting for public comments as well.

3. Approval of April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ott requested an edit on page twelve of the April 6 meeting minutes. Chair Ott stated it should read “does *not* have a budget account to accept funds...” rather than does have a budget.

Director Ott called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Marcia Blake motioned to approve the minutes with Chair Ott’s corrections.

Jenny Yeager seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of July 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Chair Ott asked if members had any edits for the July 13 meeting minutes.

None heard.

Chair Ott called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

None heard.

Jenny Yeager called a motion to approve the minutes.

Deacon Tom Roberts seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. For Discussion Only: Welcome new members

Chair Ott mentioned Jeffrey Duncan could not join the meeting.

Sarah Rogers stated Dr. Aurora Buffington recommended a replacement for her vacant seat, Cooperative Extension representative, that person has submitted an application which is still with boards for approval.

6. Update and discussion on Food Security Plan

Ms. Rogers presented the update and mentioned updates are still in progress. Ms. Rogers anticipated a completed plan will arrive winter of 2022/23.

Chair Ott called for any questions or comments.

None heard.

7. For Discussion Only: Updates and edits for the Nevada Office of Food Security Racial Equity Toolkit

Dr. Kathrine Wright presented a PowerPoint that will be send out to members after the meeting. ([Racial Equity Toolkit Overview](#))

Chair Ott called for any questions or comments.

Ms. Yeager commended Dr. Wright for the work put into the project thus far.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked how the tool will be used and what the next step is once it is approved.

Ms. Wright responded the toolkit does not need approval by the council and that it provides a document for organizations to make recommendations.

Dr. Osgood asked if the council is the vehicle for making other organizations aware of this or if there was another agency that handles this.

Ms. Wright responded it would be published on the on the DHHS website or Office of Food Security page.

Chair Ott thanked Ms. Wright and asked for any additional questions or comments.

None heard.

8. For Discussion Only: Discussion regarding White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health

Ms. Blake shared that the conference was geared toward kids and families and mentioned the lack of funding and access for seniors was talked about during the breakout session. Ms. Blake added that food insecurity was discussed, and experiences were shared among participants.

Ms. Blake mentioned that a big theme of the conference was innovation, meaning that some program regulations needed to be revised in order to allow the agency to investigate what is best for those being served in rural areas of Nevada.

Chair Ott added there was a recognition of the farm bill is coming up and ready for negotiation, as well as recognition of the upcoming budget cycle being incredibly important for some of these programs.

Ms. Blake added there is a call occurring next three Thursdays that is open the anyone to discuss rural state holders.

Chair Ott added if there is anyone looking at programmatic changes that required a farm bill change to reach out to Chair Ott for further discussion.

Chair Ott asked for additional questions or comments.

None heard.

9. For Possible Action: Addition of CFS meetings

Chair Ott asked council members for any suggestions regarding how to tackle meetings in February during legislative session.

Deacon Thomas Roberts agreed with the addition of a CFS meeting to discuss if there are bills for the council to support.

Dr. Osgood supported having a meeting in January to present proposed budgets.

Chair Ott concluded a meeting in January was desired and mentioned a Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine a date for the next meeting. Chair Ott asked for a motion to schedule an additional meeting in January.

Dr. Osgood entertained a motion.

Dorian Stonebarger seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Update and edits for CFS 2022 Annual Report

Lori Taylor presented the report ([2022 CFS Annual Report Draft](#)) and asked council members for the location of the community gardens and urban farms that was missing from the report. Ms. Taylor provided her email address in the chat for a point of contact.

Ms. Taylor mentioned the emergency food plan location information was needed to be added to the report, as well as expanding on the future focus of CFS.

Ms. Blake stated a future focus should be the current economy and the inability to have items sourced that have been in the past. Ms. Blake mentioned Three Square Food Bank has been having to outsource more than normal and discussion on the impact this will have on the school lunch programs for 2023 should be had.

Ms. Yeager agreed and mentioned cost of transportation has increased dramatically. A focus of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and council members of CFS should be to gather an understanding of what other resources from federal programming standards or policies could allow access to resources in a different way.

Ms. Yeager added there is work to be done as a state around better supporting our underrepresented communities such as bipod communities, LGBT communities and unhoused communities. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is currently conducting an Equitable Access grant survey with Feeding America to better understand who and why are people food insecure not accessing services. Ms. Yeager stated this should be a future focus as well.

Chair Ott asked for any questions or comments.

Mr. Roberts mentioned the increase in cost and decrease in availability that broadens the brush for need of increase of funding for these services.

Dr. Osgood brought attention to the difficulty in determining who is in need and suggested the continuation of determining who needs assistance with surveys.

Chair Ott agreed and mentioned the Department of Agriculture is working through some American Rescue Plan Act funds is about to issue a Request for Proposals for an entity to do just that.

Ms. Yeager asked if a revision could be made to the 3rd bulletin point on page nine to state that the program distributes groceries and then individual organizations that administer the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) an add additional resources to that. Ms. Yeager stated the way it was written made it sound like the program provided meals and not groceries.

Chair Ott asked Ms. Taylor when the edits are due.

Ms. Taylor responded November 30th would be preferred so finalizations could be made and prepared for legislation in January.

Chair Ott asked council members to review the document over the next month and provide updates or recommendations and asked for any other questions or comments.

None heard.

Ms. Taylor thanked the board for the recommendations.

11. Present member updates

Ms. Blake commented last fiscal year, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley received a grant to provide a congregate meal in west Las Vegas. Sixty-two seniors are joining on Wednesday evenings for a meal and activity and a space to continue that meal is being searched for.

Ms. Stonebarger asked what type of space is being looked for.

Ms. Blake responded the need for a space that can house about a hundred people in the area west of Las Vegas.

Ms. Stonebarger asked if a kitchen was needed or if meals are brought in.

Ms. Blake responded either; there is staff that can utilize the kitchen or a company that can bring in meals.

Maurice Johnson added the program is expanding the senior program by working with DoorDash on a project called Project Dash that has dashers come to Three Square to the senior campus, providing prepackaged meals to seniors. Mr. Johnson stated Michelle Beck and Jody Tyson are the CEO and COO in the interim while the food bank works to identify new members.

Chair Ott provided an update for the Department of Agriculture that Home Feeds Nevada has gotten off the ground and delivered some fresh product and are pivoting to focus on protein suppliers. Chair Ott added the Department of Agriculture has an open board position for a person with supplemental nutrition experience and if anyone is interested, they can utilize the boards and commissions website for the posted position.

Chair Ott asked for any other updates from council members.

None heard.

12. Discussion and approval on future agenda items

Chair Ott addressed the board to ask if there were any future agenda items that should be included in the next meeting.

Mr. Roberts praised Chair Ott regarding the conversations had today regarding the underrepresented demographic groups.

Dr. Osgood asked if a subcommittee meeting could be held for those who participated and created some of the surveys in the past to share experiences.

Chair Ott responded yes, but a Request for Proposals must be issued first and then the selection of an entity to oversee collecting the information.

Chair Ott asked for any additional updates.

None heard.

13. Public Comment

Chair Ott asked for public comment.

None heard.

14. Adjournment

Chair Ott asked for a motion for adjournment.

Ms. Blake made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Yeager seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 2:14pm