

**The Nevada Council on Food Security**  
**Minutes**  
**April 6, 2022**

Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on April 06, 2022, beginning at approximately 1:00 P.M. via video and teleconference.

**Board Members Present**

Jennifer Ott, Director of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

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

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)

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington, University of Nevada, Reno

Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV)

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

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Dr. Pamela Juniel  
Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

**Board Members Not Present**

James Humm, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development

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

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Family

Kelly Cantrell  
Nevada Division of Welfare and  
Supportive Services (DWSS)

**Staff Present:**

**Others Present:**

**1. Roll Call:**

Chair Ott called the meeting to order at 1:00PM

**2. Public Comment:**

Deborah Hassett -DHHS appointed

**3. For Possible Action: Approval or January 18, 2022, meeting minutes**

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2022, MEETING INUTES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. DR. PAMELA JUNIEL ABSTAINS FROM THE MOTION DUE TO HER NOT HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE MINUTES. CHAIR OTT ASKED OF ALL IN FAVOR, ANY OPPOSED. KELLY KELI AND KELLY CANTRELL ABSTAIN. CHAIR OTT STATES MOTION PASSED.

**4. For Discussion Only: Update and discussion on Food Security Plan revision.**

Lois Ann Porter, with BluePrint Collaborative, will be discussing the Food Security Plan planning efforts. This study was done by Dr. Nancy Brune from the Guinn Center, but she is not present to give the presentation. Lois Ann Porter discussed the findings of the surveys that were distributed and that were mentioned at the last council meeting. Today two things will be discussed, the road map for the strategic planning process and some highlights of the surveys that were conducted over the last few months. These slides will be emailed to everyone, if anyone has any specific questions, please send over to myself (Lois Ann Porter) or Sarah Rogers and we will get them to the Guinn Center. This is our plan for the upcoming months in terms of time frame for our focus groups interviews and strategic planning session, and a timeline for a draft strategic plan to be shared for feedback.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated that seniors are food insecure and not represented well at all, he asked if you've thought about ensuring a more lateral pool of information to include to seniors.

Lois Ann Porter stated that there was a great deal of outreach that was done across a very broad diverse set of organizations and access points to the individual both for provider surveys and the individual surveys. They sent out surveys to all groups, but these are the responses that they got. In terms of follow up I can't speak for the Guinn Center.

Sarah Rogers added one of the barriers to this was that it was online and a lot of the feedback we received is that seniors are not going to fill out anything online. They did provide hard copies and emails to the people and targeted as many age groups as possible, but we did not receive any of them back. I (Sarah) do agree that this an area that we have to work on.

Rique Robb stated that senior population was found to be in need especially since the pandemic. We do believe that we must find a way to do additional outreach and to get that feedback. Doing the surveys online really limits seniors that are isolated, and skews what the needs really are. We have found, especially during the pandemic, that they are isolated, so what are we going to do? Rique recommended it should be specified within the strategic plan that outreach to seniors as well as individuals with disabilities will be conducted further.

Sarah Rogers stated that supplying hard copies to those agencies that do serve the senior population was not a good reach either since we did not receive any back. So there definitely needs to be a better strategy there, maybe we need to give them more time or redistribute the surveys.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood suggested on having a sub meeting on how to address this and target this group. He added that this was the focus of our seminar 2 years ago and it took effort from Dr. Buffington's group to get any responses back. Dr. Osgood added that he would be happy to share how they did get those responses and what the department did to get that information.

Chair Ott suggested maybe its best if Nancy just contacts Dr. Osgood directly.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood stated that would be fine.

Chair Ott added we will have history on past council meetings when Dr. Osgood presented those results as well.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood stated that he would love to give recognition to the individual in Dr. Buffington's department that coordinated this, spend many hours recontacting a substantial number of these providers just to get some data.

Sarah Rogers said there have been some similar instances where we had some agencies that served seniors. These agencies stated that the seniors would not want to take the survey online, so I sent them hard copy surveys and got no response.

Dr. Pamela Juniel added she was unclear on time frames in the survey; for a month that recipients had access to fresh fruits was it 1-3 overall or per meal? She stated that she was just curious about that because she is aware that there were some issues with supply chain and other logistical issues about getting fresh fruits to individuals who need it.

Chair Ott requested that before Lois Ann addresses Dr. Juniel's question, were there more points or input regarding the senior contact discussion.

Kelli Kelly asked if there were any similar gap responses from provider organizations and who was targeting their services toward senior communities.

Sarah Rogers replied we did have a very low response rate from providers.

Lois Ann Porter stated both provider and end user surveys are anonymous. We have no way of knowing if it is a senior type of provider, or those are responses from people who might have seniors in their home. That was not a question that was explicitly in the survey.

Marcia Blake stated that from a provider standpoint their program has a vested interest in the response of seniors. Marcia Blake went on to share the numbers of meals they deliver in a week and the opportunities they have when interacting with people, they have a great pool in offering assistance in sharing those surveys with seniors.

Chair Ott added that she is not sure if Lois Ann can answer this question since it was the Guinn Center who conducted the survey. Were you the representative for the working group as well?

Lois Ann Porter replied that she only attended one meeting and that was it, she was not invited after that.

Steve Schmidt stated that he was on the planning working group for senior people.

Sarah Roger shared that all the council members were on the distribution list for the survey.

Marcia Blake asked for the client survey or the participant survey.

Sarah Rogers replied both. We sent out both in two separate emails and they came from me (Sarah).

Lois Ann Porter noted that as far as the working group membership, that membership was determined earlier in the year.

Chair Ott asked if there was any feedback on the senior portion that we need to work on a bit, any other comments.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked what is the next step is, would another conversation happen?

Lois Ann Porter replied to Dr. Osgood “First we are going to have Nancy Brune of the Guinn Center contact you to discuss this further.”

Dr. Kenneth Osgood replied okay great, Marci you may get a call and same to you Tom.

Deacon Tom replied that we would be happy to continue to discuss how to provide contacts for seniors as appropriate.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked if anyone had followed up with his suggestion and contacted 211. No response.

Lois Ann Porter replied I don't have a response I will forward that question.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood added you don't have to; we will discuss later.

Lois Ann Porter stated one of the things that does come to mind as you talk about this concentration, on seniors and the need to make sure that population is addressed, is that we do have the opportunity in April to convene smaller focus groups for this very conversation, by a particular area or on behalf of a particular population.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood noted that the reports that this council has made in the past, suggest that there may be over 100,000 seniors who are food insecure. Question is how many of those are being served.

Chair Ott added good ending point there and called for any other questions or comments.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked is there room for a second push on the survey? Or are we done with that portion and moving to the focus group.

Sarah Rogers replied we can do a push if it is focused on seniors, and we can push specifically to the senior organizations, and I can share the list that it was sent to. We can maybe highlight the groups we want to refocus on.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington stated that she does recall those emails, and that they possibly were overlooked. Dr. Buffington noted there are many contacts here, people that can make some contact and hopefully get some info. If we have a deadline, we will make a push.

Deacon Tom Roberts noted the surveys were put in the bags of food and at that time they were still under COVID restrictions, so they were not able to go into homes. That was one of the barriers and because of that we did not get many responses. I (Deacon Roberts) am willing to talk further about how to get better data on the surveys.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington stated that the QR codes on the surveys were still electronic, not a hard copy for seniors with instructions on how to return that hard copy. If that is a limitation that should be addressed.

Sarah Rogers stated that in the email we asked if you needed hard copies to request that. I am open to do a senior-specific push.

Chair Ott stated to Sarah Rogers and Lois Ann Porter, I think we know what direction we are going here so we have some calls and some outreach to do.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood stated that the council has focused intensively on school-aged children and the seniors, but we have not been focusing on the working group population. Dr. Osgood stated that obesity and uncontrolled diabetes is still an epidemic, and he would like to suggest to what degree that epidemic is and if there are any solutions to this problem.

Chair Ott said back to your question about fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Pamela Juniel asked about the logistics of the question, how was that question set up as far as how often they ate fresh fruits and veggies in a week?

Lois Ann responded strictly yes or no questions. The question was: Do you regularly eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Pamela Juniel also asked that when the words like regularly are asked sometimes there many need to add a numerical value to that.

Lois Ann added that she agrees and that this has come up and this was a discussion held in the working group. Lois Ann stated that the survey was initially long but was condensed in response to feedback and the fill-out ability was also condensed so that could have been more specific to help us.

Chair Ott asked Sarah Rogers to send Dr. Juniel the questions since she did not get them.

Sarah Rogers responded yes.

Kelli Kelly noted that in a previous survey we asked similar questions, but we specified not being able to afford eating balanced meals including daily servings of fruits and vegetables and ended up with 70% of respondents were not able to do that 50 % of the time. Kelly stated that adding that “at least one portion daily” significantly changed the responses.

Chair Ott asked Dr. Juinel would you like to follow up on that?

Marica Blake stated that she was intrigued by one of the survey comments that talked about educating school children versus treating poverty as a lifestyle choice. Marcia also noted that it is very important to teach children at the kindergarten and first grade level about basic principles of how to budget and sustain life, implementing that into curriculum.

Lois Ann Porter shared that she is working with another partner on another project, in terms of fresh food and gardening in some counties as well as childcare centers. Lois Ann shared that there is a gap between their ability to grow food and prepare and eat it, so there are some policies that need to be addressed to help these great ideas, so what comes first?

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked about the data on the vegetable and fruit discussion. Survey responses indicated 84% of participants said they ate regularly but then on the responses it said 900 responses out of 1000 people. Dr. Calvillo Buffington asked for clarification on if the respondents were allowed to respond to both questions whether they responded affirmatively or not on the previous question.

Lois Ann Porter responded that the first question was, “Do you eat regularly?”. Then there was a response of yes or no. A second question asked “If you do not eat regularly” as the next line of questioning.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington added that in slides they had 900 respondents to that second question.

Lois Ann Porter clarified that there could have been 900 responses with more than one response.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked if there will be an opportunity during the strategic planning session that the council members will be invited to discuss some of the resources that are available to help meet some of these needs?

Chair Ott asked if there are any other question or comments on this topic? Chair Ott asked Lois Ann to give us a timeline of when the slides can be sent out.

Lois Ann Porter stated Sarah Rogers has the slides, she will send them out quickly.

Sarah Rogers responded she will get them out now.

Chair Ott noted that adding them online would be easiest.

Lois Ann Porter apologized for Dr. Nancy Brune not being able to attend and her contact information is on the last page of the slides. Lois Ann will share all the notes of today and thanked everyone for their input and hopefully what everyone will see is a response to your concerns and next time we all meet you will see your fingerprints on progress today.

Chair Ott thanked Lois Ann Porter for that presentation and moving on to Item # 5.

**5. For Discussion Only: Update on the State Partnerships Improving Nutrition Equity (SPINE) project and SPINE ACTION Plan.**

Dr Kathrine Wright stated that this is a presentation on State Partnership Improving Nutrition and Equity (SPINE) action plan which the Office of Food Security will continue to seek guidance on and participate in for the next year. Dr. Wright stated the agenda for the presentation: I will give a short overview on the SPINE program, strategic action plan, required SPINE entities, and the SPINE action steps. She then proceeded with the presentation.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked about the present council and the statute of the composition.

Chair Ott responded that this council is set to statute.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington responded that this is wonderful that they want to diversify and to have representatives that have experience, but it is a challenge to people who aren't able to attend meetings during work hours.

Dr. Kathrine Wright stated that this would apply to open positions that we have and just making people aware of open positions. Simply doing more research on who we would want to be on the council who represents the seats set by the bylaws but can also add diversity, so not adding more positions or breaking bylaws.

Jesus Mendoza asked how we are going to incorporate tribal organizations and get their feedback.



Dr. Kathrine Wright stated that she has yet to reach out to Sarah Rogers, but Dr. Wright has worked prior with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe and has various connections to different reservations and tribes throughout the State of Nevada. Dr. Wright added that identifying that language to be able to make these positions well known on the council to these organizations.

Sarah Rogers stated that we have a couple of vacant positions that would be fitting for a Tribal Organization.

Dr. Kathrine Wright asked Marie Blake to speak more about the hot meals program.

Marie Baxter stated that part of the SPINE grant is to provide funding for a short-term staffing position to really look at what areas would benefit from access to hot meals. The second part of that is that we would be looking into identifying some additional areas where there are zero services.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated that that program is great. Deacon Tom asked Dr. Kathrine Wright, we talked about how the online program was ineffective for the senior population so that online component is something to keep in mind.

Dr. Kathrine Wright added that part two of the data collection is to conduct focus groups and town hall meetings and through that we can meet senior clients and do interviews and focus groups. Dr. Wright also added that with these groups talking to them, getting information about why this is important to them, building the partnership.

Deacon Tom Roberts stated that the focus group might be one solution and thanked Dr. Kathrine Wright.

Chair Ott asked if there any other questions and thanked Dr. Kathrine Wright for the presentation, please send over the slides.

Dr. Kathrine Wright responded that she would get those over.

6. **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:** Discussion on possible candidates to fill the vacant position for “one (1) representative of community-based services (rural Nevada)” as set forth in NRS 232.4966(1)(k)

Chair Ott asked if there are any names that want to go forth.

Kelli Kelly responded that Darcy from the Walker River Tribe would be a great candidate, I sent her the link to the application portal.

Marcia Blake added that Sarah from Sandy Valley, a provider who started a brand-new program and reached out to us for a senior meal program. I will reach out and give her the information.

**7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:** Present member updates

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington stated that on the Southern Nevada Food Council, I want to hear more back from the community. They have started conducting listening sessions and have invited members from typically underrepresented or marginalized groups in Southern Nevada. We just had our first listening session and invited Director Fuentes, so he came to talk about issues related to the Latino community. They have set aside 30 minutes to hear back from the community. Extension, considering applying for the farmers market promotion grant to promote farmers markets around the state. Dr. Calvillo Buffington also added that they have been trying to apply for this grant with a SNAP focus, if anyone out there has any resources or would like to partner with us let me know.

Chair Ott added that we certify all the farmers markets so reach out to us we can give you a list.

Homa Annooshehpour reports that they just released the Nevada Community Access Grant, it is \$500,000 dollars and it is open to community organizations, public and tribal entities. This grant is intended to enhance food distribution infrastructure and provide supplemental food to our households, rural, tribal and underserved communities. This Grant was released April 1st and is open until April 29<sup>th</sup>, this information is posted on our website.

Chair Ott had technical difficulties.

Sarah Rogers asked the council if there is anyone planning on applying for GusNIP Funding, Prescription Pantry or Double up Food bucks? This is something that our SNAP-ED agency has been looking at promoting and encouraging more agencies to apply for and pushing out information. People that would like more information we are going to bump that up at a state level and we would like to get more organizations interested.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington stated that they are interested they are just waiting on the request for applications or the request for proposals to see.

Marie Baxter added that they are interested.

Sarah Rogers stated that if they apply to notify them, they would like to keep track so that they can be more efficient with referring out. Nevada WIC program has received a grant to do improvements in WIC ordering, so we will be doing an online ordering WIC exploratory project data collection evaluation.

Dr. Pamela Juinel asked if there was any input or partnership with this entity with GusNIP?

Sarah Rogers responded that GusNIP, also known as the Double Up Food program, but they have a prescription pantry where they have it and does not require a state match or any match.

Sara Rogers to send the information to Dr. Pamela Juniel.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington stated that in the past the strengthening of school wellness policies in the Department of Education and the child nutrition programs since its funded and required to be done by child nutrition. We had followed up with this question over a year ago and we need to have this conversation with the Department of Education. Dr. Calvillo Buffington asked if we could continue that conversation in the future.

Dr. Pamela Juinel responded let's set up a meeting.

Chair Ott returned and reports that at interim finance committee the Nevada Department of Agriculture has funding up for approval, a food security item that is for several awards for infrastructure for building for the future, addressing and looking to support food distribution and our entities. We have funding for rebranding the Commodity Supplemental Food Program into senior program, adoption of the program does affect the funding that was received in subsequent years. It is very important for us to have anybody who needs food and is 60 years and older to take advantage of that program, it will provide us with the means to address that population. Supply chain side, we have funding for working and processing in this state especially for proteins, meat and cattle and chicken processing in this state, which really provides us with a healthier food system, we have a lot of great programs coming.

Chair Ott asked for any other updates.

8. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:** Discussion and possible action to authorize member of Council on Food Security to present on behalf of the Council to the Nevada Legislative Committee.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood stated that he has put together a 10–15-minute presentation for the Council on Food Security to the Nevada Legislature. Dr. Osgood stated that he was informed at the last meeting that there is a subcommittee on health that was created and if he could present to them to inform them of who we (the Council for Food Security) are and what the Council would like to move forward. He stated that at the meeting with Chair Ott and Sarah Rogers it was decided that we needed the input of the council, and then it would be decided when to present to the interim health committee.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked can we have a conversation if that is appropriate with Dr. Kenneth Osgood. There are a few things that we can partner on we should.

Chair Ott asked Sarah Rogers when is the next committee when we can ask for participation?

Sarah Rogers responded in July.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood stated that we must have everything prepared by July.

Chair Ott noted that if anyone has any information to add, we can get everything completed by the next meeting in June please forward to myself and Dr. Osgood.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked if we are going to do policy acts?

Chair Ott replied that the council per Nevada Revised Statutes does not have a budget account to accept funds, but is able to make recommendations to the legislature and the governor. If there was a recommendation of a bill that was put forth or a subject matter that was put forth, that might be something we should talk about a little but closer to the legislative session when we have defined subject matter experts that can weigh in. The last slide, rather than the specific topics we might want to bring up, generalized areas especially based on the strategic plan and information we are getting out of that which is continuing to work on infrastructure and continue to support transportation and those are just some key things. Chair Ott asked Sarah Rogers if it is okay to make a request for July.

Sarah Rogers replied yes, she will work on that. Ms. Rogers also noted that one thing that came from the strategic plan working group was thinking outside of the box especially when legislative session is coming up on other things that maybe indirectly impact food security.

Chair Ott responded that she would like to check the authority first before we start to get outside our lane.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington asked if the Council would have a policy subcommittee, are we doing that this year?

Chair Ott responded that in the past there has been policy subcommittees, or just brought forth to the full committee. So, in the interest of saving time if there are policies that need to be brought up to committee, they can just bring them forth to the full Council.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington replied that when Jody was active, she made sure we had a policy subcommittee.

Chair Ott noted that our staffing is in flux right now and the workload for those subcommittees fall to that staff.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington noted that we do have our agencies like Catholic Charities that do make policy recommendations.

Chair Ott replied that this does not preclude anyone from making policy recommendations from your agency or bringing forth those recommendations through the normal process.

Deacon Tom Roberts noted that we must “carry on our torches” and if the Council is able to closer to session provide recommendations and offer council support for certain policies.

Chair Ott added that we would adjust our meeting schedule so that we can capture those that are discussed in interest groups, legislatures that are looking for support if appropriate and if voted on by the council. Adjusting our meeting schedules so that we can properly speak to those is going to be key this year.

Marcia Blake asked how can we help legislators, how can we be involved in their process whether it’s giving opinions or connecting them or feedback, how do we become partners with them?

Marcia Blake noted that we can show them what we have been able to do, and lets work together to help accomplish what we can together.

Chair Ott responded we can be the resource for them to avoid the pit fall that tends to come up when bills are not vetted through all different eyes. That’s when it gets tough.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood asked when we can set up a meeting.

Chair Ott asked if everyone could get their recommendation by the end of April, would that be reasonable for everyone.

Dr. Osgood added to get their requests to Sarah, Jennifer, and myself to get a consensus.  
[Kenneth.osgood@att.net](mailto:Kenneth.osgood@att.net)

Chair Ott asked for any other comments or questions on this.

Chair Ott stated that this was a motion item, created a motion so that we have marching orders. If anybody would like to formulate a motion that would be great.

Marcia Blake stated that she would like to make a motion that we continue this conversation at our next meeting scheduled in June.

Deacon Tom Roberts would like to add an amended motion that everyone send their feedback to Jennifer, Sarah, and Dr. Osgood.

Chair Ott asked for a second on the amended motion.

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington seconded that amended motion.

Chair Ott asked all in favor? Motion passed.

## **9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and approval on future agenda items**

Marcia Blake stated that as agencies present to the council any legislative items that we have proposing as an agency that would affect this Council we should discuss it.

Rebecca Stetson asked what do we need to do to change the meeting schedule in anticipation of the legislative session?

Chair Ott responded that meetings can be called in 3 days' notice so we have flexibility, we can put that on the agenda.

Chair Ott asked any other agenda items.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Ott asked for public comments. There was none.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chair Ott adjourned meeting at approximately 3:15PM.