

**The Nevada Council on Food Security**  
**Minutes**  
**January 24, 2023**  
**1:00PM**

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on January 24, 2023 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**

Julian Goicoechea, Director of Agriculture

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

Jeffrey Duncan, Aging and Disability Services Division

James Humm, Diversify Nevada

Marcia Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District, Director of the Advisory Board of Health

Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor

Maurice Johnson, Three Square Food Bank

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

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

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Maria Menjivar, Environmental Health Division Manager, CCHHS

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

**Board Members Not Present**

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

Kyle Devine, DPBH Health Bureau Chief

Dr. Pamela Juniel, Department of Education

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

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Family

### **Others Present:**

Dr. Stephanie Pocchia, Executive Chair, Slow Food Vegas  
Lynsie Hood, Office Manager, CDPHP  
Emily Sanchez, Program Support Staff, CDPHP  
Rebecca McKnight, Program Support Staff, CDPHP  
Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, CDPHP  
Patricia Segura, Wellness and Prevention Coordinator, CDPHP  
Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, CDPHP  
Kathrine Wright, Health Equity Evaluator, CDPHP  
Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unity Deputy Chief, DPBH

#### **1. Call to order and roll call**

Emily Sanchez took roll and acting chair Sarah Rogers determined quorum was met for the Council of Food Security Advisory meeting per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518.

#### **2. Public Comment**

Ms. Rogers called for public comment.

None heard.

Ms. Rogers stated there would be another opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

#### **3. Approval of November 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Director Julian Goicoechea requested an edit on item 11 paragraph seven on the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes. Mr. Goicoechea stated it should read Home Feeds Nevada opposed to Home Safe Nevada.

Marcia Blake stated she was in attendance of the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and requested Diana Jane in place for Marica Blake be removed.

Jenny Yeager requested Rebekah Stetson's credentials be added.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood requested Dr. Osgood's title be changed to Director of the *Advisory* Board of Health of the Southern Nevada Health District.

Ms. Rogers called for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes with the changes suggested.

**Dr. Osgood motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Yeager seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Update and discussion on Food Security Plan**

Ms. Rogers provided an update on the Food Security Strategy Plan and stated the plan has not been finalized yet. Ms. Rogers added that Director Ott approved the Food Security Strategy Plan in November, and the plan is with the editor for final stylization edits.

#### **5. Recommendations and updates to the Council on Food Security Presentation to the Interim Committee on Health and Human Services**

Dr. Osgood presented the presentation provided in the packet regarding the Council of Food Security duties. ([Council on Food Security](#))

Dr. Osgood requested assistance from the council regarding the wording and information presented on slide 24: Recommended Legislative Actions. Dr. Osgood stated that those asking for increase funds for the home delivered meal program or the Nutrition Education Program should reach out to Ms. Rogers, Dr. Osgood, and their legislative staff contact stating their name and approximately how much they are requesting in order to be able to draft a law for the program.

Dorian Stonebarger asked if the Home Feeds Nevada program passed last session and if additional support will be necessary.

Dr. Osgood confirmed the Home Feeds Nevada program was passed last session and that increased support will be needed.

Marcia Blake asked Deacon Thomas Roberts if there was a dollar amount that would work for everyone.

Mr. Roberts replied that in the past each meal was done on a per meal basis, approximately \$.50 to a dollar and noted that others affected by the rate may talk offline.

Kelli Kelly questioned what the parameters were for the food desert map.

Dr. Osgood responded that the parameters were based on distance.

Ms. Kelly added that the food bank in Fallon was not reflected in the map.

Dr. Osgood stated that piece of information would be added. Dr. Osgood recommended Jeff Duncan, Ms. Blake and Mr. Roberts collaborate on the wording for recommended legislative action slide.

Mr. Duncan expressed concern about open meeting law.

Ms. Rogers clarified that the open meeting law is not violated, so long as there is no more than seven people present.

Jenny Yeager asked for clarification regarding the funding of SNAP-Ed and if state funds would be compensating the loss in federal funds.

Dr. Osgood stated that the wording can be changed on slide 24 to include the information.

Ms. Yeager mentioned a need to determine how much funding was lost before determining the amount being requested.

Dr. Osgood asked Ms. Yeager to determine that amount.

Ms. Yeager asked if the council would include a permanent request for Universal Free School Lunch.

**Dr. Osgood made a motion to make this request permanent. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Dr. Osgood added the last slide will need to be amended with updated contact information.

#### **6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Legislative Bills**

Ms. Rogers opened the floor for discussion on upcoming or proposed legislative bills.

Ms. Yeager asked if the Office of Food Security was moving under the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Sarah Rogers stated that was not happening as the bill draft request was pulled back.

Mr. Goicoechea stated that there is nothing that warrants conversation.

Ms. Rogers closed the discussion.

#### **7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Finalized Nevada Office of Food Security Racial Equity Toolkit**

Lori Taylor stated that the tool kit is not yet approved but should be by the next meeting.

#### **8. Approval on the Finalize CFS 2022 Annual Report**

Ms. Taylor referred board members to the meeting packet for the report. ([Nevada Council on Food Security 2022 Annual Report](#))

Ms. Taylor asked for any comments or questions on the report.

Ms. Yeager requested that page 13 be adjusted to just a one-year survey noted rather than the five-year needs assessment that was noted.

Ms. Taylor responded the adjustment would be reflected and asked for other questions.

None heard.

Ms. Rogers asked the council if The Council of Food Security 2022 Annual Report was approved with the pending correction from Ms. Yeager.

**Ms. Stonebarger made a motion to approve The Council of Food Security 2022 Annual Report with the pending corrections. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **9. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present member updates**

Ms. Rogers opened the floor for updates.

Kelly Cantrelle requested a conversation regarding the end of the supplemental emergency allotment.

Ms. Cantrelle stated there will be a \$43 million decrease in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits per month; 59% of the households are single person households. Ms. Cantrelle added there is approximately 139,000 single person households that would have been eligible for as little as \$23 a month and seniors with unearned income are receiving \$281 a month with SCA that will go back to \$23 a month starting in April 2023.

Marie Baxter noted that the council should consider the impact on the food pantries to see if there is any capacity to increase purchasing power for food pantries.

Ms. Yeager stated that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada has seen a steady increase in individuals looking for assistance since July, directly reflected in the food pantry support. Ms. Yeager noted the caseload for Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is being reduced in caseload as a state; this may be problematic due to timing. Ms. Yeager mentioned the seniors will no longer be receiving maximum benefit on SNAP will be looking to go back on CSFP, which may be challenging to accommodate those individuals. Pantry utilization will be important to assist those individuals.

Dr. Osgood asked if the council wanted to include a study of how seniors are being affected and include an analysis on immediate and long-term impact in the presentation for legislative action.

Mr. Roberts stated the program is already seeing 125 – 150 families a day and this number been increasing since COVID-19. Mr. Deacon added that the Home Delivered Meals Program will also be affected due the reduction, so these concerns may be difficult to reflect in the report since it has not occurred yet.

Ms. Blake stated that seniors are in a unique position because of illnesses such as diabetes or heart disease that are highly related to diet. The SNAP dollars allow individuals to make those active decisions, but the food pantry will restrict elderly as to what is offered. Ms. Blake mentioned a consideration for the council is how those individuals will get the food required for their diet.

Dr. Osgood restated that this will be on the slide for legislative action and those concerned about SNAP dollars must reach out to Dr. Osgood, Ms. Rogers and the legislative contact to submit the phrasing for the slide.

Ms. Blake asked Ms. Yeager if the decrease in Emergency Food Assistance program (TEFAP) has been kept track of to obtain a better understanding of those dollars.

Ms. Yeager responded yes, and that the levels will be going back to the 2018 TEFAP levels.

Maurice Johnson verified that Three Square is experiencing the same situation and will trending toward 2018 or 2019 levels as well.

Ms. Blake stated that Home Feeds Nevada and The Local Food Purchase Program is a source that may be able to mitigate some of the losses from TEFAP.

Ms. Rogers asked if there is a resource list.

Ms. Cantrelle stated that there is a resource list that can be provided to clients.

Ms. Rogers asked for any additional updates.

Mr. Duncan stated the program will be dropping Meal and Home Delivered Meals effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Ms. Yeager asked how to share Feeding Our Community survey with the board members.

Ms. Rogers stated it could be added to the April meeting.

Dr. Osgood asked if the rest of the meeting dates have been decided.

Ms. Rogers responded that based off the trends, the next three meetings will be April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, and October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

## **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Rogers opened the floor to public comment.

None heard.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Osgood motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Duncan seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm**