

The Nevada Council on Food Security
[DRAFT] Minutes
April 18, 2023
1:00PM

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on April 18, 2023 beginning at approximately 1:07 P.M. held over Microsoft Teams video and teleconference.

Board Members Present

Chair Allison Genco

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

Dr. Pamela Juniel, Department of Education

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)

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

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

Lisa Swearingen, Deputy Administrator (DWSS)

Julian Goicoechea, Director of Agriculture

Board Members Not Present

Kyle Devine, DPBH Health Bureau Chief

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

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Family

Others Present:

Amber Bosket, CEO of Growing Gears

Charlotte William, Data Analyst, Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, CDPHP
Emily Sanchez, Program Support Staff, CDPHP
Kathrine Wright, Health Equity Evaluator, CDPHP
Kelcy Meyer, Rural Regional Coordinator, Aging and Disability Services Division
Linda Anderson, Policy Analyst, Nevada Public Health Foundation
Lisa Genasci, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, Chief Grants Officer
Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, CDPHP
Lynsie Hood, Office Manager, CDPHP
Michelle Harden, Section Manager, CDPHP
Mickena Butler, Health Equity Analyst, CDPHP
Patricia Segura, Wellness and Prevention Coordinator, CDPHP
Rebecca McKnight, Program Support Staff, CDPHP
Sara Anderson, RN, Renown
Sarah Rogers, DPBH Nutrition Unity Deputy Chief, CFCW

1. Call to order and roll call

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

Chair Genco called for public comment.

Amber Bosket, CEO of Growing Gears provided updates on the expansion for Urban Center for Advanced Agricultural Technologies in Northern Las Vegas, Nevada. \$1.5 million HUD community project funding Grant was received by the City of North Las Vegas. The project is located in the choice neighborhoods urban core, a federally designated opportunity zone for low income, low access food desert areas in Southern Nevada. Any questions can be emailed to contact@ucap.org.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Bosket and opened the floor for additional public comment.

Maurice Johnson provided an update on stating that 700 plus meals are served Monday – Friday at several libraries. Three Square Food Bank expects these numbers to reach 1000 meals by June 30, 2023. There has been a 16% uptick in support of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Chair Genco thanked Mr. Johnson and opened the floor for additional public comment.

None heard.

Chair Genco closed public comment and turned it over to Sarah Rogers.

2. Welcome new CFS Chair

Ms. Rogers introduced Allison Genco to the Board.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Rogers for the introduction and moved on to the next agenda item.

3. Approval of January 24, 2023, meeting minutes

Chair Genco addressed the board to determine if any corrections were needed on the January 24, 2023 meeting minutes.

None heard.

Dr. Osgood made a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 minutes. Marie Baxter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. Update on 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Toolkit

Ms. Rogers stated that the 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan is available and posted on the main page of the Nevada Office of Food Security website. **(INSERT LINK TO AGENDA ITEM HERE)**

Ms. Rogers stated that the Food Security Racial Equity Toolkit was put on hold but is currently being worked on.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Rogers for the update.

5. Council on Food Security Presentation to the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services on February 17, 2023

Dr. Osgood stated the reason the Council on Food Security Presentation is to give the new members of the legislature the information about the history of the Council on Food Security.

Kelli Kelly stated that Assemblywoman Sarah Peters reached out expressing interest in setting up a meeting to discuss emergency SNAP benefits and address food security. The meeting has not taken place, but several attempts to connect have been made.

Dr. Osgood asked if that conversation turned into any legislative action.

Ms. Kelly responded no action on a bill or any legislative action has been taken.

Dr. Osgood asked Marsha Blake if there were any updates.

Ms. Blake stated an e-mail was received approximately three weeks after the January 24, 2023 meeting stating the bill draft reviews were due before the meeting and there was no legislative action possible.

Dr. Osgood asked Deacon Tom Roberts if any correspondence was received.

Mr. Roberts stated that no response was received; however, efforts were being made in order to have a conversation with legislators regarding food insecurity. Mr. Roberts suggested that those who have a relationship with legislator, assembly, or senate leadership to leave them a message showing support.

Dr. Osgood asked Jenny Yeager if anyone reached out.

Ms. Yeager stated that no communication was exchanged after the presentation.

Dr. Osgood asked if Three Square Food Bank had any communication.

Maurice Johnson responded that there was no communication received.

Dr. Osgood asked for suggestions.

Ms. Blake asked how many people were planning on participating in nonprofit day at the legislature on April 20, 2023.

Ms. Yeager replied Ms. Yeager will be representing the Food Bank in Northern Nevada.

Ms. Blake asked Mr. Roberts if he plans to attend.

Mr. Roberts confirmed his attendance.

Ms. Baxter stated Ms. Baxter could not attend, but representatives from Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada would be present.

Ms. Blake stated that a presentation that shows facts, figures and shortages was put together and will be sent out to everyone that can be presented at the nonprofit day.

Dr. Osgood thanked the council and handed the discussion back to chair Genco.

Chair Genco thanked Dr. Osgood and asked for any questions.

None heard.

6. Feeding Our Community Survey

Charlotte Williams stated that the survey is a project that the University of Nevada, Reno, specifically the Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation and Statistics assisted with and presented the survey.

[FOCS Results \(nv.gov\)](#)

Ms. Williams opened the floor for questions.

Dorian Stonebarger asked if there was a way to allow the participants to include what days and hours would benefit the individuals.

Ms. William replied it was not an option due to the survey format, but data is being collected so that requests for appropriate changes can be made.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Williams and asked for any questions.

None heard.

7. Legislative Bills

Chair Genco opened the floor for discussion on legislative bills, starting with Senate Bill 341.

Ms. Yeager stated that the purpose of Senate Bill 341 is to assist both food banks and food purchase to address the challenges around the reduction in SNAP benefits.

Chair Genco asked the council if anyone has received any correspondence or heard of movement on Senate Bill 341.

Ms. Yeager responded although no correspondence has been received, once a response is sent the council will be notified.

Chair Genco asked if any additional bills are being tracked.

Ms. Rogers stated that **AB 109** is a Bill that establishes a healthy soil initiative. The goal of this bill is to promote regenerative agriculture practices and improve the soil health to increase the quality of food, food nutrients and improve healthy soil. This bill would also create an Advisory Board made up of nine voting members. One member from the State Department of Agriculture, one member from the division of Environmental Protection, one from the Division of Public Rural Health, and six other members. This would include a dairy farmer or rancher, especially crop or small farmer, an irrigation crop producer, a travel representative, and a person engaged in research related to agriculture and health.

Ms. Kelly stated that correspondence on the Soil Health Bill has been in progress since December **2022** with Assemblywoman LaRue Hatch and implied that the governor has indicated support for the bill.

Chair Genco asks the council for any additional updates.

Ms. Yeager stated that for Bill SB341, Economic forum must be met by the first week of May to determine how much money legislature can spend in the next biennium.

Ms. Stonebarger asked if any action was being taken on Bill 8319 regarding the School Lunch Program.

Ms. Kelly responded that because the bill was exempt, it had to pass by the Policy Committee by April 17, 2023. It is unlikely that it will continue to move forward.

Ms. Yeager stated that the bill did not get a hearing and the universal fund for school lunch ends in 2025.

Chair Genco asked the council for any additional updates.

None heard.

Chair Genco closed the agenda item.

8. SNAP Emergency Allotment Impacts

Chair Genco opened the floor for discussion on SNAP emergency allotment impact.

Ms. Blake stated that an emergency food program was started during the pandemic. In February and March, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley was able to help approximately 70 seniors through home

deliver groceries and 150 walk ins; These numbers in March increased to 130 home deliveries and 220 walk in clients.

Ms. Baxter stated that Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada is now allowing seniors to come in twice a month starting April 1st, 2023.

Mr. Roberts stated that SNAP will be reducing the average person benefits to \$82 a month or \$6 a day. The Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada met with legislators and Congressional Delegation, in order to share the impact.

Kelly Cantrelle stated that as of March 2023, there was a 8% increase in SNAP applications at the Welfare Division.

Ms. Yeager added that Food Bank of Northern Nevada is tracking changes throughout the next few months to further understand how the reduction of benefits impacts individuals.

Chair Genco asked when the farm bill will be presented.

Ms. Yeager responded that The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is working with a federal delegation on things that would like to be seen updated in the Farm bill, specifically around child nutrition programming.

Ms. Kelly stated that Senator Cortez Masto was in Churchill County on April 12, 2023 to discuss the farm bill. Ms. Kelly has the contact information of participants working on the farm bill on the agriculture side who will be attending the farm bill meetings, working on the nutrition side of the bill. The bill is expected to see passage by the end of the year.

Chair Genco opened the floor for additional comments.

None heard.

Chair Genco closed the agenda item.

9. FHN Overall Annual Report, Presentation, and current FHN Funds

Chair Genco opened the floor to Elleni Riojas to present on Fund for Healthy Nevada Annual Report and current funds.

Ms. Riojas presented the report. [Fund for Healthy Nevada \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/fund-for-healthy-nevada)

Ms. Riojas asked for any questions.

None heard.

Chair Genco closed the agenda item.

10. Present member updates

Chair Genco opened the floor for updates.

Ms. Yeager provided an update on the Rural Food Access Grant. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is working on a gap analyzing to determine what is unavailable in the region and is working on scheduling the community listening session in Elko county. There are three phases to the project; First being gap analysis and assessment component, the second phase is building a plan and phase three is implementation.

Ms. Yeager asked for any questions.

Jeffrey Duncan asked for partners working on this project so a cross reference can be made for funding.

Ms. Yeager responded a list can be provided to Mr. Duncan and that The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is focused on partner agencies that provide food assistance.

Dr. Pamela Juniel stated that as Department of Education is looking at how to provide program stability between partners.

Ms. Kelly offered assistance with coordinating those efforts with tribal entities in Churchill County. Chair Genco asked for any other updates.

Dr. Osgood mentioned the district has spent a substantial amount of time addressing obesity issues in Southern Nevada and stated that healthy foods is a critical piece to reduce the issue.

Ms. Blake stated that Helping Hands of Vegas Valley received funding in 2022 to continue the Home Delivered Ruled Meals Program, ending in April. Clark County will continue the program through The American Rescue Plan Act funds that will also be funding Helping Hands of Vegas Valley. This program would allow seniors to be picked up from their home and brought to congregate meal sites, where free meals will be received and provide much needed socialization. Chair Genco asked for any additional updates.

None heard.

11. Discussion and approval on future agenda items

Chair Genco stated that an additional update on the SNAP emergency allotment impacts for discussion would be put in the agenda, as well as updates on legislative session for the next meeting on July 18, 2023.

Chair Genco opened the floor for discussion on future agenda items.

Ms. Yeager requested discussion regarding the funded FHN partners to determine how those funds are supporting the current strategic plan.

Dr. Osgood asked Ms. Yeager if the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis would be completed for the counties to determine what gaps are missing.

Ms. Yeager stated that information can be shared.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Yeager and Dr. Osgood and asked if anyone had any additional items to add to the agenda.

None heard.

Chair Genco called for a motion to approve Snap EA impact legislative session, funding for FHN partners and Food Bank of Northern Nevada swap analysis.

Ms. Stonebarger motioned to approve the agenda items. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

12. Public Comment

Chair Genco called for public comment.

None heard.

13. Adjournment

Chair Genco called for a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Janelle motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Stonebarger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM