

THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

Meeting Minutes-July 18, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on July 18, 2023, beginning at approximately 1:03 p.m. via video and teleconference.

Council Members Present

Chair Allison Genco, Office of Governor Joe Lombardo, Public Health Resource Officer
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)

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

Jeffrey Duncan, Aging and Disability Services Division

Cody Phinney, Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Dr. Pamela Juniel, Department of Education

James Humm, Diversify Nevada

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

Dr. 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)

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Lisa Swearingen, Deputy Administrator, Division of Nevada Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)

Dr. Julian Goicoechea, Director of Agriculture

Maria Menjivar, Environmental Health Division Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Family

Council Members Not Present

Marcia Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley

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

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

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Others Present

Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator for Washoe County Region, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)

Carissa Pearce, Childrens Advocacy Alliance of Nevada

Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Emily Sanchez, Program Support Staff, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Gabby Everett, Director of Advocacy & Research, Three Square Food Bank

Holly Rincon, Executive Assistant, Department of Agriculture Jazmin Orozco, Reporter for KFF Health News

Linda Anderson, Policy Analyst, Nevada Public Health Foundation

Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Lynsie Hood, Office Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Patricia Segura, Wellness and Prevention Coordinator, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP)

Sabina Malik, Assistant Professor Extension Specialist, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)

Dr. Stephanie Pocchia, Doctor of Public Policy

Tai McIntosh, Director of Distribution, Three Square Food Bank

MEETING NOTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

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

Chair Genco called for public comment.

Maurice Johnson welcomed two new members to Three Square Food Bank. The new CEO of Three Square Food Bank is Beth Martino. The new research and Advocacy Director is Gabby Everett.

Chair Genco thanked Marice Johnson and opened the floor to additional public comments.

None heard.

2. For Discussion Only - Welcome Sabina Malik

Chair Genco introduced Sabina representative to the Board as taking over for Dr. Buffington. Sabina Malik was asked to give a quick introduction.

Sabina Malik, identifies as a faculty member at the new University of Nevada (UNR) Cooperative Extension UNR. She explains she works in the health and Nutrition Department in the Food Systems Arena with a background in public health and obtained her PhD in public health at UNLV (*University of Las Vegas*) and did a lot of program evaluation, especially in school garden health impacts and community involvement and engagement.

Chair Genco thanked Sabina Malik

3. Approval of April 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Genco addressed the Board to determine if any corrections were required for the April 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

Dr. Kenneth Osgood requested that paragraph 5 be amended to reflect the purpose of the presentation to give new members of the legislature the information about the history of the Council on Food Security, previous legislative action, contributing or reducing the problem, and suggesting legislative action.

Chair Genco asked Sarah Rogers if that amendment could be made. Sarah Rogers stated that the Board must vote to make those changes.

Chair Genco asked for additional updates.

None heard.

Dorian Stonebarger moved to approve the agenda, except for Dr. Osgood's corrections.

Dr. Pam Jannelle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. For Discussion Only-State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

Presentation

Chair Genco introduced Megan Comlossy, Associate Director from the Center of Public Health Excellence at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), to present on the 2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).

Megan Comlossy stated that UNR is working with the Department of Public and Behavioral Health to help facilitate accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. As a result of the process and collaboration with DPBH, the University of Nevada, Reno is developing Nevada's first State Health Improvement Plan.

Megan Comlossy presented Nevada's 2023 – 2028 State Health Improvement Plan, which provided key priorities, areas of focus in the SHIP, and what to expect soon.

Megan Comlossy opened the floor for questions.

Dr. Osgood asked if the accreditation process would make DPBH and UNR eligible for grants from all around the country.

Megan Comlossy states that the hope is that because the division is accredited, it will give the division an advantage in funding applications.

Dr. Osgood requested how funding would be allocated so the Council could make suggestions. Megan Comlossy deferred to Cody Phinney for guidance.

Cody Phinney stated that the State Health Improvement Plan will act as a guide to allocate funding. Cody Phinney asked if there were any specific questions.

Dr. Osgood asked if the Council could provide input on what members of the Board deem high priority for funding.

Cody Phinney stated that the Council would be informed.

Chair Genco closed the agenda item.

5. For Possible Action: SHIP Food Security Action Plan

Sarah Rogers presented the plan Food Security Goals and Objectives Food Security Goals and Objectives 6.20.23 (nv.gov).

Jeffrey Duncan asked if the Council would be allowed to talk with teams and partners to help push the objectives.

Sarah Rogers responded that there would be an opportunity to collaborate. Chair Genco asked Sarah Rogers to share the matrix.

Sarah Rogers stated that the Council would need to wait for the next open meeting for everyone to collaborate on the document to comply with open meeting law. Sarah Rogers recommended that those with suggestions work on the document individually and send

the updates to Lori Taylor or Sarah Rogers. to discuss those recommendations during the next meeting.

Jenny Yeager asked if a separate meeting could be held for those individuals working on the document to allow the Council to brainstorm ideas as a group before the final voting meeting.

Chair Genco responded that there is an option to call for a special meeting to discuss specific items, adding a group poll would be taken to ensure a quorum will be met.

Dr. Osgood suggested that the Council be divided into subcommittees of two or three people.

Kelli Kelly expressed support for a special meeting in order to be able to make progress on the goals and objectives.

Chair Genco asked for additional questions or suggestions concerning the special meeting to collaborate on goals and objectives.

Dorian Stonebarger asked whether there is a representative or if one needs to be established on the second objective.

Sarah Rogers responded that one of the strategic plans mentioned was to add representation to the Council for people in one of those sectors. The strategy included adding someone from housing and transportation and possibly two or more individuals with lived experience to be presented on the Council. Sarah Rogers added this would be an NRS change. In addition, the second objective will focus on adding new partnerships with the transportation sector, housing sector, and energy assistance programs and focusing on keeping a referral system for resources for community members.

Dr. Osgood explained that when the Council broke up into subcommittees, the subcommittee was part of bringing in the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and senior management to assist with planning to avoid violating open meeting law.

Chair Genco thanked Dr. Osgood and stated we can look at it and determine who can oversee those responsibilities, complete the transportation action steps, and present to the Council if needed. In the meantime, the Council agreed to work on individual templates and convene a special meeting for a work session in October.

Sabina Malik asked if there was action being taken on the Strategic Plan or if the purpose was to put those items into action. She noted that one of the goals was to host an annual meeting, which aligns intending to improve collaboration and information sharing. Sabina Malik asked when the work begins to start planning for the annual meeting if the goals are to be aligned.

Megan Comlossy stated that the State Health Improvement Plan runs from mid-2025 to mid-2028.

The timeline is a five-year action plan in terms of action plan, with the goal being to have a one-year build-out.

Sarah Rogers stated that the plan was to remain open with no deadline, adding that some items allow partners to go in and identify timelines for each strategy that the Council decides to work on.

Sabina Malik stated that there were some goals that the Southern Nevada Food Council would like to start working on and asked what is required to start working on the goals and objectives.

Sarah Rogers explained that the Strategic plan is for the ecosystem, not for anyone to go forward with. The goal is to use it to identify areas to work on that have been identified as a need and to have partners working on it separately or together.

Cody Phinney stated that the division supports local communities in improving their goals and objectives.

Sarah Rogers said that the state plan should be utilized and worked on so there is only one overarching plan.

Cody Phinney agreed and stated that The State Plan should emphasize any of the Council's plans.

Chair Genco asked for any additional questions.

None heard.

Chair Genco asked for a motion to approve the agenda item.

Dr. Osgood entertained the motion to approve. Dorian Stonebarger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. For Discussion Only - Legislative Bills and Legislative Session

Chair Genco provided a verbal update on bills regarding Food Security. Senate Bill 341, which focused on assistance with food banks and food purchases to address the challenges around Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit reduction, was passed; the governor signed the bill on June 15. Assembly Bill 109 regarding the Healthy Soil initiative, which focuses on promoting regenerative agriculture practices and improving soil health to increase the quality of food and nutrients and improve healthy soil, did not make it through the legislative session. The governor vetoed Assembly Bill 319 regarding the universal free breakfast and lunch bill. Chair Genco added that there is no update on the Farm Bill but that the deadline is in September.

Julian Goicoechea added that the Farm Bill is still being worked on, and the House has no final language yet. Once that is finalized, the group will have it.

Jenny Yeager shared that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada is working with Feeding America, the focus being to prevent any further changes related to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, increasing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

(TANF) funding and options, and increasing access to Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and SNAP to tribal communities. Jenny Yeager adds that although the Universal School Meal Bill was vetoed, The Department of Agriculture did find funding for the 2023-2024 academic school year Assembly Bill 319 (1).pdf (nv.gov).

Dr. Julian Goicoechea stated that the funds would be tight, but funding for school meals for the 2023-2024 school year has been secured. Julian Goicoechea added that the priority will be for the Council to work collectively to determine what next year's funding will look like.

Gabby Everett thanked the Department of Agriculture for finding funds and pointed out that Three Square has been working with State Legislators to figure out how to fund school meals past 2024. Clark County will be covered until 2025 due to a USDA approval of a district-wide Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP).

Chair Genco asked for additional comments.

None heard.

7. For Discussion Only - SNAP Emergency Allotment Impacts

Chair Genco opened the floor for discussion on SNAP.

Kelly Cantrelle from Division of Welfare and Support Services (DWSS) shared that there has been a slight increase in SNAP applications, so there has not been a noticeable impact due to losing those benefits that SNAP provided.

Jenny Yeager stated that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada saw a significant increase in the number of people looking for assistance through food pantry partners and direct service distribution programs towards the end of April, with a 15% increase in May. Jenny Yeager added that the pantry partners reported increased people visiting the pantries due to the loss of SNAP benefits. There has been an increase in both Produce on Wheels and Wellness programs, formerly CSP, focusing on senior-related programs.

Sarah Rogers provided an update for WIC regarding SNAP, noting there has not been a noticeable increase in applicants.

Chair Genco opened the floor for additional comments.

None heard.

8. For Discussion Only - Updates on the Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Awards for SFY24-SFY25

Lori Taylor provided FHN updates. FHN Strategic Plan Analysis (nv.gov)

Chair Genco opened the floor to questions.

None heard.

9. For Discussion Only - Analysis of how the FHN partners are contributing to the current 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan.

Lori Taylor presented the highlights for the pillars in the Strategic Plan FHN Strategic Plan Analysis (nv.gov).

Chair Genco opened the floor for questions.

Jenny Yeager asked Lori Taylor if the list of 11 providers would be made available to the Council.

Lori Taylor stated that the same providers will be from fiscal year 22-23. No new partners have been taken on.

Chair Genco asked for any additional questions.

None heard.

10. For Discussion Only - Updates on the Food For People Not for Landfill (FFPNL)

Lori Taylor provided the updates for Food For People, Not for Landfill. In 2019, FFPNL was turned into a subcommittee of the Council of Food Security. The subcommittee members selected the Council of Food Security members to serve on the FFPNL from 2019 until October 2021. In October 2021, the subcommittee was dissolved due to funding. Lori Taylor added that recently, DPBH has applied for State Physical Activity and Nutrition Grant (SPAN) and the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health Grant (REACH), beginning on August 30, 2023.

The goal is for SPAN and REACH to continue to help support the FFPNL Program. Before the subcommittee was dissolved, the FFPNL created a template for the program; The Office of Food Security (OFS) is taking action to restart those efforts. OFS is currently waiting on the Director for preference to administer the program. For further information, the Council is welcome to look up NRS 232.4969.

Chair Genco thanked Lori Taylor and stated that an agenda item to touch base for the next CWCD meeting would be appreciated.

Sarah Rogers mentioned that under NRS 232.4969 Bill, the Director is the administrator for FFPNL. DPBH did meet with the Deputy Attorney general to get ideas on how to run the FFPNL program, with one option being to become a subcommittee. Another option is to write it into the bylaws of the Council of Food Security, or FFPNL can become a subcommittee within the Council of Food Security instead of having a separate subcommittee. Sarah Rogers added that other ideas can be explored when the Council meets.

Jenny Yeager inquired how much funding is required to operate the FFPNL Program.

Lori Taylor stated that it ranges from \$100,000 to \$250,000, depending on the direction the Director decides to take.

Sarah Rogers identified some costs for the FFPNL; One of the goals in the NRS is to create a seal or branding for the program to make it recognizable for the community. Sarah Rogers added that the Toolkit was also deemed necessary and part of the identified costs.

Chair Genco asked for any additional questions.

None heard.

11. For Discussion Only - Reminders of CFS Future Focus Goals for 2023

Lori Taylor provided a recap of the goals of the Council of Food Security. The October meeting will be the last opportunity to provide the Council with the annual report. The Council was encouraged to look at the bullet points to see if the goals are still the focus and possibly provide guidance or direction on items to include in the Council of Food Security annual report.

Chair Genco opened the floor for suggestions.

Dorian Stonebarger raised the concern that the second bullet in the Annual Report requires outsourcing for food; that brings up concerns regarding the School Lunch Program and asked if it could be its bullet.

Jenny Yeager agreed that the bullet points should be separated in addition to focusing on distribution, support, and needs for general food access.

Chair Genco opened the floor to additional comments.

None heard.

12. For Discussion Only - Present Member Updates

Jenny Yeager provided Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) updates regarding Home Feeds in Nevada. Home Feeds in Nevada focuses on trying to source locally grown products to help try to increase access to locally grown food and give access to food banks that can

administer the food back into the community. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada has received 140,251 pounds of food. That food has been distributed to 83 different partner agencies. It has gone through 38 mobile distribution sites and seven Senior Nutrition and Wellness sites. Jenny Yeager added that Food Bank of Northern Nevada is partnering with newly established farmers named Curve Farms from Las Vegas, Alan Farms from Fallon Region, Pacific Cheese, and Wolf Pack Meats.

Maurice Johnson provided updates for Three Square's last quarter, about 166,000 pounds of food was received and distributed. The Senior Hunger team developed a program to support seniors in need. Approximately 30,000 bags have been packed for those with one day's worth of food supplies. The bag has roughly eight items and ranges from peanut butter to chunk chicken, nutrition bars, and shakes. Maurice Johnson added that Three Square focuses on the Senior Lift Program that allows seniors to get a ride to and from a grocery store up to twice a month.

Jenny Yeager provided updates on Summer Meal Programs. FBNN was able to add rural distributions to Winnemucca, Elko, Wells, Fernley, and Walker River Paiute Tribe. The Department of Agriculture provided a waiver to allow FBNN to utilize a multi-day meal distribution in rural communities. For Wells, Elko partners distribute seven breakfasts and seven lunches at a time. In Washoe, Saturday distributions have been added for Summer Meal Programs. Jenny Yeager added that FBNN is working on providing seven refrigerated vans to partners to increase the amount of food they are picking up from grocery stores and vendors. The vans will also be used to drop off meals for those who do not have the means to drive to the facility.

Chair Genco asked for any additional updates.

None heard.

13. For Possible Action - Discussion and Approval on Future Agenda Items

Chair Genco opened discussion for future agenda items. It was recommended that feedback on the goals and the funding for FFPNL be put on the agenda for the next meeting, along with the discussion on the Farm Bill.

Sarah Rogers recommended that the Council decide a time and date for the special meeting. Chair Genco recommended Friday, August 18, at 1:00 p.m.

Lori Taylor asked if the special meeting specifically discussed SHIP and FFPNL.

Chair Genco responded yes and asked for additional comments.

None heard.

14. Public Comment

Chair Genco opened the floor to public comment.

Pamela Juniel stated that the Nevada Department of Education received approval for a contract to build a statewide app to aid children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Chair Genco asked Pamela Juniel if she could present what the app looks like. Pamela Juniel provided the link in the chat.

Autumn Blattman introduced herself to the Council as the Regional Coordinator for Aging and Disability Services.

Chair Genco thanked Autumn Blattman and asked for additional comments.

None heard.

15. Adjournment

Chair Genco called for an action to adjourn.

Dorian Stonebarger moved to adjourn.

Jenny Yeager seconded, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.