

**Nevada Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee
Minutes
February 3, 2020**

The Nevada Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee held a public meeting on February 3, 2020 beginning at approximately 1:05 P.M. at the following locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way Room 303
Carson City, NV 89706

Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance
4220 South Maryland Pkwy, Suite 810
Las Vegas, NV, 89119

Board Members Present

Homa Anooshepoor, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Carson City)
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (Las Vegas)
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (Las Vegas)
Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (Carson City)
Diane Hogan, Community Nutrition Supervisor, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA (Las Vegas)

Board Members Not Present

Ex-Officio Members Present

Ashanti Lewis, Advocacy Manager, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)

Staff Present:

Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Carson City)
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

Others Present:

Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (Carson City)
Jodi Tyson, Chair, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)
Joe Dibble, RDN, LD, School Nutrition Supervisor, NDA (Carson City)
Devin Wilcox, Social Services Program Specialist III, Food Distribution Services, NDA (Carson City)

1. Roll Call

Homa Anooshepoor, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) Policy Subcommittee was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.519 §

2.

2. ACTION ITEM: Approve the Minutes from the December 4, 2019 Meeting

MS. ANOOSHPOOR ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2019 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MARCIA BLAKE. SHANE PICCININI SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Present update on Breakfast After the Bell (BAB)

Joe Dibble presented an update on Breakfast After the Bell, including a summary of the [2018-2019 BAB Final Report](#). His presentation can be found [here](#).

Ms. Tyson asked if NDA tracks the service models used among schools participating in BAB.

Mr. Dibble stated participating schools do specify their service model type in their annual BAB application, but this information is not tracked by NDA. Mr. Dibble stated his team will pull this information for the Policy Subcommittee to assess any trends per BAB service model.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Present on Trade Mitigation Summary and Outlook [The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)]

Devin Wilcox's presentation can be found [here](#).

Deacon Tom Roberts stated the impact of the trade mitigation on Nevada TEFAP has been extraordinary; it has greatly enhanced the amount and variety of food received by food banks and partnering agencies. Despite these benefits, the amount and type of product will cease once a trade policy is agreed upon. Clients have grown to rely on and expect this additional food. He stated Catholic Charities would like to collaborate with NDA and other partners to develop a plan to lessen the impact on clients once this additional food is no longer available.

Mr. Wilcox agreed and stated including as many stakeholders in the conversation as possible is key.

Ms. Anooshpoor also agreed. She stated conversations around next steps have already begun among NDA and the Nevada food banks. She stated it's critical to continue the conversation with all partners.

Mr. Wilcox verified the data provided in his presentation demonstrated more people had access to TEFAP, as TEFAP food was distributed through a number of new channels due to the large amount of product available. In some cases, TEFAP food was used to supplement or add to existing programs, including the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Ms. Tyson stated more southern Nevada agencies are receiving TEFAP than ever before.

Marcia Blake stated previously, due to the amount of product available, Helping Hand of Vegas Valley (HHOVV) was only distributing TEFAP product to their home-delivered clients. Due to

the increase in product, HHOVV has almost doubled the number of clients receiving TEFAP food.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Present update and discuss Senate Bill 323, regarding revising provisions governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

This item was tabled until the March 3, 2020 meeting.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Present and discuss Nevada Food Bank's policy priorities

Ms. Tyson stated both Three Square Food Bank and Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) will be presenting on their collective policy recommendations. Ms. Tyson presented on two policy recommendations for the subcommittee's consideration, including the creation of a State Food Purchasing Program and alignment of Medicaid services in both the Physical Disability and Frail and Elderly Waivers for home-delivered nutrition assistance. The handout for her presentation can be found [here](#).

Deacon Roberts asked if Three Square's operations and purchasing team is on board with the State Purchasing Program recommendation and asked if Three Square has been in contact with Pennsylvania and other states implementing similar programs to learn about effective, best-practice program models.

Ms. Tyson stated the entire executive team at Three Square Food Bank is completely on board with this proposal. This is one of Three Square's primary policy recommendations. She stated the funding available/allocated will dictate the program model used.

Deacon Roberts stated he is concerned there may be an unintended consequence where funding is diverted from one food security initiative, like home-delivered meals, to another priority, and that one initiative may be unintentionally sacrificed for another. He stated the importance of understanding the inner workings of a program/initiative before it is recommended by the Policy Subcommittee.

Ms. Tyson stated program details will be developed later in the bill draft request process. This is the time to recommend new investments, as well as ensure that existing initiatives continue to be funded.

Ms. Blake asked if Three Square Food Bank has conducted research to assess whether there is enough Nevada grown product to sustain a commodity purchasing program.

Ms. Tyson stated currently Three Square Food Bank is relying on the NDA and their relationships with Nevada farmers. She stated Three Square Food Bank does have data on the types of commodities grown in Nevada, number of acres per commodity, and yield. Mr. Piccinini presented the last three (3) recommendations of the Nevada food banks, including funding match for the Nevada Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) demonstration project; funding for technology alignment and improvements; and removing requirements restricting individuals committed of a drug felony within the past 20 years from receiving SNAP.

Mr. Piccinini summarized the recommendation to allocate funding to cover the match required for the Nevada SNAP Demonstration Project. He stated the FBNN and Three Square Food Bank are trusted partners for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) SNAP Demonstration Project, which allows both Nevada food banks to conduct the SNAP eligibility interview on behalf of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). While both food banks receive USDA funding to support the Demonstration Project, funding can only be used specifically for SNAP outreach. For instance, any staff time spent assisting clients with Medicaid applications cannot be allocated under the Demonstration Project funding. This funding is supplemented by both food banks. In 2019, Three Square Food Bank contributed \$380,000 in match and FBNN contributed \$130,000 in match. Previously, the FBNN received grant dollars from the Fund for a Healthy Nevada, however the grant program guidelines has since changed. Mr. Piccinini stated the recommendation is to ask the Legislature to cover the Nevada food banks SNAP match.

Mr. Piccinini summarized the recommendation to fund technology alignment and improvements among both Nevada food banks. He stated an investment by the state in technology solutions will help ensure all food security programs/partners are able to capture clients' use of resources and gaps in services.

Mr. Piccinini summarized the recommendation to remove requirements restricting individuals committed of a drug felony within the past 20 years from receiving SNAP. The white paper for this recommendation can be found [here](#).

7. ACTION ITEM: Present and approve future agenda items.

Ms. Urban stated the following presentations will be scheduled for the March 3, 2020 meeting:

1. Present on home delivered meal eligibility in the Medicaid Frail and Elderly Waiver;
2. Present Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada policy recommendations;
3. Present update on SB323; and
4. Present, discuss, and approve preliminary policy recommendations.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM