

The Nevada Council on Food Security
Minutes
April 6, 2021

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on April 6, 2021 beginning at approximately 1:00 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

Jennifer Ott, Director of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)
Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Child Services
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District Board of Health
Homa Annoshepoor, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA
Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)
Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub
Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV)
Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)
Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Family
Jenny Yeager, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)
Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Staff Present:

Sarah Metcalf, MPH, NDTR, CLC, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Nutrition Unit, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security (OFS), Nutrition Unit, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS
Cathy Wright, Administrative Assistant III, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), CFCW, DPBH

Board Members Not Present

Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank
Michael Brown, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
Jhone Ebert Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

1. Roll Call

Chair Jennifer Ott called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.519 § 2.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Ott called for public comment and there was none.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of January 12, 2021 meeting minutes

Dr. Aurora Buffington stated she is not listed in the “Board Members Present” section of the agenda. She was present at the January 12, 2021 meeting.

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. DEACON THOMAS ROBERTS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present and discuss legislative updates on Senate Bill (SB) 370, SB297, SB25, and SB124, relating to agriculture, food policy, and food security

Laura Urban provided an update on 2021 Nevada Legislative Session bills related to food insecurity, including: [SB370](#), revising provisions relating to food policy; [SB297](#), revising provisions relating to agriculture; [SB25](#), revising provisions governing the determination of whether food for human consumption is subject to sales and use taxes; and SB124, revising provisions governing the eligibility of certain convicted persons for public assistance. Her update can be found [here](#). The CFS had approved support of two (2) bills, SB370 and SB124, via recommendation by the CFS Policy Subcommittee at the October 6, 2020 meeting.

Robert Thompson stated [AB138](#) has replaced SB124.

Members voiced concerns regarding the CFS’s inability to support additional bills, including SB297 and SB25, at the April 6, 2021 meeting. CFS members requested a special meeting be scheduled to review and approve support for additional bills related to food insecurity.

It was confirmed additional CFS meetings can be scheduled as deemed necessary by the chair per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 232.4966.

Chair Ott stated an additional meeting will be scheduled for the week of April 12 – 16, 2021 to review and approve next steps regarding new legislation related to food insecurity. CFS support policy support strategies will be reviewed and approved by the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) to ensure appropriate action.

Ms. Urban stated she will share information regarding scheduling and preparation required following the April 6, 2021 meeting.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present on and discuss the Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) Home Delivered Grocery Program

Sarah Rogers presented on the Nevada Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Shopping and Delivery Program. Her presentation can be found [here](#).

CFS members commended Ms. Rogers and the Nevada WIC team on the success of the WIC Shopping and Delivery Program.

6. ACTION ITEM: Present and discuss the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Economic Analysis Report

Dillion Davidson and Brandon Bishop presented on the NDA Economic Analysis Report. The complete NDA Economic Analysis Report can be found [here](#).

Rebekah Stetson requested additional data regarding fruit and vegetable production and producers in Nevada.

Mr. Davidson stated he will provide Ms. Urban with this data following the April 6, 2021 meeting.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present and discuss food insecurity 2020 projections and member updates regarding COVID-19 response efforts and the American Rescue Plan (ARP)

Ms. Urban summarized projection data released by Feeding America. Her on-pager, including projected overall food insecurity rate per Nevada County and projected child food insecurity rate per Nevada county can be found [here](#). Ms. Urban stated the projected increase in Nevada counties for the overall food insecurity rate range from 16% (in Esmeralda and Mineral Counties) to 57% (in Clark County). The top five (5) counties projected to experience the highest percent increase in overall food insecurity include: Clark County (57%), Washoe County (39%), Storey County (38%), Douglas County (37%), and Elko County (32%). The projected increases in Nevada counties for childhood food insecurity rate range from 17% (Mineral County) to 76% (Clark County). The top five (5) counties projected to experience the highest percent increase in overall childhood food insecurity include: Clark County (76%), Washoe County (51%), Douglas County (43%), Storey County (39%), and Lyon County (38%).

Jenny Yeager stated the Feeding America National Office (FANO) has released updated data, including 2021 projections. She will send to Ms. Urban to share with CFS members.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present member updates

Aurora Buffington stated the Food Solutions New England 21-Day Race Equity Habit Building Challenge is hosted throughout April. She encouraged CFS to participate.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Present and approve future agenda items

Chair Ott stated the July 2021 meeting will be dedicated to discussing revision of the CFS Strategic Plan.

10. Public Comment

Chair Ott called for public comment; there was none.

11. Adjournment

Director Ott adjourned the meeting at 2:55 P.M.