

**The Nevada Council on Food Security**  
**[DRAFT] Minutes**  
**August 23, 2021**

Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on August 23, 2021 beginning at approximately 1:11 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)  
Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International  
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)  
Jhone Ebert Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank  
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)  
Jenny Yeager, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

**Board Members Not Present**

Candice McDaniel, Health Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), DHHS  
Michael Brown, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development  
Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Farmily

**Staff Present:**

Pierron Tackes, Deputy Attorney General, DHHS

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

**1. Roll Call**

Chair Jennifer Ott called the meeting to order at 1:11 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 April 6, 2021 meeting minutes**

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 6, 2021 MEETING MINUTES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. MARIE BAXTER SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Approve Maurice Johnson to fill membership representing a food bank serving southern Nevada**

Chair Ott stated Mr. Johnson was recommended by CFS member, Jodi Tyson, to fill the membership representing a food bank serving southern Nevada in her place. Ms. Tyson will be submitting her resignation to the OFS. Mr. Johnson's resume can be found [here](#).

Dr. Aurora Buffington and Deacon Thomas Roberts stated Mr. Johnson is a great partner and they support the recommendation.

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF MR. JOHNSON TO FILL MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTING A FOOD BANK SERVING SOUTHERN NEVADA. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. BUFFINGTON. DR. KENNETH OSGOOD SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Discussion and possible action to make recommendations for open memberships, set forth in NRS 232.4966 - Jennifer Ott, Chair**

Chair Ott stated there are currently two (2) open CFS memberships, one (1) member who is a representative of manufacturing that is not related to food and one (1) member who is a

representative of retailers of food.

There were no recommendations proposed. Chair Ott requested CFS members contact Laura Urban directly with recommendations.

**6. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action to make recommendations for the 2021 Annual Report**

Chair Ott stated per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) an annual report shall be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Director of DHHS by January 31, outlining the accomplishments and the recommendations of the CFS concerning food insecurity.

Dr. Osgood asked Ms. Urban what she plans to include in the report.

Ms. Urban stated she intends to include a summary of the 2021 Nevada Legislative Session; the latest food insecurity data and projections per Feeding America; and an update on COVID-19 response efforts.

Dr. Osgood asked that information related to the 2020 survey assessment for services addressing hunger among older Nevadans and outcomes be included, if not included in the 2020 CFS Annual Report.

Additional recommendations shared included expanding on the impact of COVID-19 on hunger services in Nevada, including emergency response-related funding; innovative initiatives; and collaboration between state and community-based organizations.

No action was taken.

**7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Presentation on the Open Meeting Law (OML) and CFS role in policy support**

Ms. Pierron Tackes, Deputy Attorney General, presented on OML and expanded on the CFS's role in policy support. Her presentation can be found [here](#).

Chair Ott reviewed the roles and duties of the CFS, per NRS 232.496. She encouraged CFS members to review the NRS to ensure are familiar with the updated responsibilities of the CFS.

**8. ACTION ITEM: Discussion and possible action to approve next steps regarding CFS NRS strategic planning**

Ms. Urban introduced Gretchen Bietz of the Blueprint Collaborative, who summarized the Blueprint Collaborative's history and previous work. She then introduced Lois Ann Porter, who summarized the scope of work for the strategic planning process. The scope of work one-pager presented can be found [here](#). Ms. Porter stated there are three (3) deliverables: update the existing food security plan; create an implementation guide; and create an evaluation plan. The strategic planning process will conclude in July of 2022. There will be touch points with the CFS throughout, to ensure CFS members inform the strategic planning process and

receive updates on progress. Ms. Porter stated the Blueprint Collaborative will provide overall project management, including facilitation of the process and timeline; while the Guinn Center will lead and manage all aspects of the needs assessment, data analysis, and report development. She then introduced Dr. Nancy Brune of the Guinn Center.

Dr. Brune summarized the history and previous work of the Guinn Center, then provided an overview of the methodology to updating and revising the food security plan. She stated the data analysis will be comprised of a needs assessment, including a data analysis; one-on-one interviews with CFS members; a survey targeting partners and key decision-makers within the food security network; and committee meetings comprised of community members and partners. She stated the questions developed for the interviews, survey, and committee meetings will be informed by the data analysis. Dr. Brune stated she will also work with the OFS to schedule a meeting to review and discuss the progress of the existing plan, to assess which goals/activities have been accomplished and which remain unaddressed.

Ms. Porter stated to guide and inform the strategic planning process, a working group will be developed. The working group will be comprised of members recommended by the CFS. She requested CFS members share their recommendations to Ms. Urban by August 31, 2021. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for the first week of September 2021.

Ms. Porter asked if the CFS had any questions.

Deacon Roberts requested examples of similar work/projects executed by the Blueprint Collaborative and the Guinn Center. He also asked about how the CFS can ensure the working group has the appropriate level of expertise.

Ms. Porter referred to Dr. Brune for Deacon Robert's first question and Chair Ott for the second.

Dr. Brune stated while the Guinn Center has not worked on projects related to food insecurity, the Guinn Center has worked on similar projects, specifically regarding workforce development. The Guinn Center also contracted with the Nevada Department of Education to conduct a needs assessment and a strategic planning process. Dr. Brune stated she will draw from this experience for the food security strategic planning process. In addition, the Guinn Center excels at collecting and synthesizing data, as well as leveraging the expertise from partners, to inform all projects.

Ms. Bietz stated from the Blueprint Collaboratives perspective, they are currently working to develop the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The process implemented for the SCORP will be comparable to the food security strategic planning process, as it involves gathering and synthesizing various data sets and working with statewide partners to finalize a thorough plan that accurately represents the goals and priorities related to improving and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

In response to Deacon Roberts second question, Director Ott stated the CFS will be intimately involved throughout the strategic planning process. She expects there to be robust

conversations at future CFS meetings regarding progress and priorities related the food security plan. Engaging other key partners is key to ensure other voices within the food security network are heard.

No action was taken.

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

Chair Ott asked for CFS member updates.

Ms. Tyson thanked the CFS for their great work over the years. She stated she was thrilled to “pass the torch” to Mr. Johnson.

Ms. Tyson also encouraged CFS members to visit [NevadaRecovers.com](https://NevadaRecovers.com) and recommend food insecurity as a priority area for American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.

Ms. Baxter agreed – she encouraged CFS members to submit priorities and participate in Nevada Recovers round tables.

Cortney Bloomer stated Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC) acquired a new building in February 2021, allowing for the infrastructure to produce food for local food pantries and farmers markets. Ms. Bloomer stated HCC also received a \$100,000 Gus Schumacher Nutrition Invention Program (GUSNIP) grant to launch a pilot program in Lyon County to encourage fruit and vegetable purchases using Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) benefits at local convenient stores. This project will be implemented in collaboration with CFS members Kelli Kelly and the Fallon Food Hub, which will provide produce, and Dr. Aurora Buffington, who will be creating and implementing the evaluation processes for the project.

Dr. Buffington thanked Ms. Bloomer for her update regarding the GUSNIP award and expressed her excitement. She stated Together We Can is another GUSNIP recipient. Together We Can will implement GUSNIP initiatives in Southern Nevada and Northern Nevada, targeting farmers markets and local corner stores.

Dr. Buffington also provided an update on the Southern Nevada Food Policy Council (SNFPC). She stated the SNFPC is working with Southern Nevada Health District to improve food access in Searchlight Nevada. She requested CFS members contact her with any programs and/or resources in Searchlight Nevada.

Ms. Blake stated Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV) has received funding from Aging and Disability Services (ADSD) to collaborate with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN) to alleviate the Meals on Wheels (MOW) waitlist. HHOVV will be working to provide meals to individuals on the waiting list until they can participate in the CCSN MOW program.

Kelli Kelly stated the Fallon Food Hub hosted a round table discussion for the Nevada Recovers listening tour on August 11, 2021. The discussion addressed supporting young

farmers, farmers who grow food for people, and organizations at the intersection of food insecurity and agriculture. About 25 individuals participated, including CFS members Ms. Bloomer and Rebekah Stetson.

Jenny Yeager stated the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) is halfway through a statewide senior hunger campaign, which is in partnership with Three Square Food Bank. The campaign is intended to enhance awareness around the issue of senior hunger and to promote the nutrition programs and resources available for this population. The campaign is taking place through both traditional and social media. Thus far, the response has been positive, as both FBNN and Three Square are receiving more calls and inquires regarding programs for older adults. She also shared FBNN is making great progress in enhancing collaboration with tribal communities. Currently, FBNN has formal partnerships with about eight (8) tribal nations in Northern Nevada. Initiatives include supporting tribal communities establish their own food pantries to enhance food sovereignty. This is a result of collaboration between the FBNN and various partners. In addition, the FBNN has acquired additional funding to support expansion of their prescription pantry programs. In closing, Ms. Yeager stated it would be helpful to create a structure outlining the various funding streams, particularly emergency response funding, and to discuss the funding as a Council. She stated this could be a helpful tool in the strategic planning process.

Chair Ott stated she believes the review of funding is the intention behind the Nevada Recovers tour, to assess currently funding and assess how ARP funds could be best utilized. She is happy to provide any information related to funding received and distributed through the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Homa Anooshepoor stated the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided an option to extend the Seamless Summer Option, allowing all children to receive free breakfast and lunch throughout the 2021-2022 school year. She added NDA is also working to assess protentional project for ARP funding.

There were no other updates presented.

#### **10. Present and approve future agenda items**

Chair Ott stated there will be presentations by Ms. Urban regarding the CFS 2021 Annual Report and the Blueprint Collaborative and Guinn Center regarding status/updates on the food security plan revision.

Ms. Tyson recommended a discussion regarding CFS accomplishments and priorities, and authorizing CFS members to present on these items to the Nevada Interim Committee on Health.

Ms. Yeager requested a presentation and a discussion regarding the 25% SNAP increase.

Robert Thompson stated the 25% SNAP increase is an average of \$26-\$30 a day. He is happy to share additional information at a future meeting. He can also speak to the changes within the SNAP Thrifty Food Plan.

Dr. Osgood requested more information regarding on the reimbursement rates for Federal Nutrition Programs.

**11. Public Comment**

Chair Ott asked for public comment.

Natalie Mazzulo shared information regarding the University of Nevada (UNR) Healthy Aging Department’s monthly Healthy Living While Aging newsletter. She stated CFS members can reach out to her directly to be placed on the email list.

There was no additional public comment.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Ott adjourned the meeting at 3:10 P.M.

DRAFT