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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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The Nevada Council on Food Security

[DRAFT] Minutes

April 2, 2024

1:00 P.M.

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on March 2, 2024, beginning at approximately 1:02 P.M. via video and teleconference.

Board Members Present

Allison Genco, Chair
Dr. Pamela Juniel, Department of Education
Tory Lawson-Boffeli, United States Department of Agriculture
Deacon Thomas Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)
Vickie Ives, MA, Health Bureau Chief, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Kelly Cantrell, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger, Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada health District, Director of the Advisory board of Health
Dr. Sabina Malik, Public Health Nutritionist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Lisa Swearingen, Chief, DWSS
Marcia Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Maria Menjivar, Environmental Health Division Manager, CCHHS
Maurice Johnson, Three Square Food Bank

Julian Goicoechea, Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Jeffrey Duncan, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division
Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)
Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)

Others Present:

Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, DPBH
Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, DPBH
Delaney Geissinger, Chronic Disease Office Manager, DPBH
Patricia Hoppe, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, NDA
Jenny Yeager, Chief Operations and Programs Officer, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)
Paige Musser, Program Support Staff, DPBH
Amber Hise, Program Manager, DPBH

Board Members Not Present

1. Call to order and roll call.

Sarah Rogers took roll and determined quorum was met for the Council of Food Security Advisory meeting per NRS 439.518.

2. Public Comment

Chair Genco called for public comment.

Ms. Rogers let Council members know that there will be some food security presentations coming up at the next interim joint Standing Interim Committee on Health and Human Services meeting on April 8th.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Rogers for the information. She will be in attendance and will be presenting to the committee next Monday.

Ms. Taylor dropped in the chat a link to the 2023-2028 Silver State Health improvement plan that was released to the public.

Chair Genco closed public comment.

3. Approval of upcoming meetings.

Chair Genco and the Council discussed and confirmed the next meeting date of July 16, 2024, at 1:00P.M. in person at Carson City location at 4150 Technology Way in Carson City and explain the door buzzer entry system. The second location is in Las Vegas at 1501 Las Vegas Boulevard North, Las Vegas. A remote link will be available for the public who cannot attend in person. Chair Genco discussed and confirmed the meeting date of October 15, 2025, at 1:00 P.M., which will be remote only.

Chair Genco and the Council discussed the Council's presentation for the Joint Interim Standing Committee on the Judiciary that is scheduled on April 8th. A starting time of 9:00 A.M. was confirmed with no set time for the Council's presentation on food security.

No other issues discussed or heard.

Dr. Juniell, Thank you for the information regarding the meetings. Asked if October be in-person as well?

Chair Genco No, the October meeting will just be remote through TEAMS.

Dr. Juniell asked what time the food security presentations will be on April 8th.

Chair Genco The meeting starts at 9:00 for the Interim health Committee, unsure when our presentation is slated for, asked Ms. Rogers if they clarified a specific time?

Dr. Juniell, Thank you.

Ms. Rogers stated there was no set time.

Dr. Juniel, Thank you.

Deacon Tom clarified the meeting location for the July council meeting in Las Vegas should be 1501 Las Vegas Blvd North. And

Chair Genco, Thanked Deacon Tom and asked if there were more questions?

None heard.

4. Approval of January 16th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair Genco, opened the floor for recommended edits or questions. None heard.

Dorian Stoneberger motioned to approve the minutes. Marcia Blake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Certificate of Appreciation for Dr. Osgood.

Chair Genco and the Council recognize both Dr. Osgood and Jenny Yeager for their dedicated work on the Council. Dr. Osgood has served his full three consecutive terms and Ms. Yeager term has expired. Ms. Yeager wishes one of her colleagues the opportunity to participate. Both spoke about their history on the Council and were encouraged to participate as non-voting member.

Dr. Osgood provided a history of his time on the council and mentioned accomplishments.

Ms. Blake clarified she joined when there was a focus on seniors.

Dr. Osgood discussed needs based on population and age group as defined by former first lady Sandoval. Asked Deacon Tom about school population and reflected on when schools had to have different refrigerators based on SNAP requirements.

Deacon Tom agreed that there were a lot of discoveries in those early days.

Dr. Osgood confirmed Deacon Tom's comments and finished with discussing more of the history through the legislature and how different groups were addressed and barriers faced by SNAP.

Chair Genco, Thank you Dr. Osgood. Noted appreciation for his years served and encouraged him to continue to participate as a non-voting member.

Dr. Osgood added that he was willing to help with providing background information research as needed.

Chair Genco, Great. Thank you, Dr. Osgood. Asked for more comments.

Ms. Rogers recognized that Jenny Yeager's membership has also expired.

Allison Genco, recognized Jenny for her service to the council, asked if she wanted to make any comments?

Ms. Yeager stated that she loved her time on the Council. Mentioned that one of her colleagues will have the opportunity to participate. Finished by thanking the Council and that she will be available to help and answer questions.

Chair Genco, Thanked Ms. Yeager. Also, encouraged her to continue to participate as a non-voting member. No other comments or questions heard.

6. Recommendation to appoint Charlotte Williams for appointment to The Committee on Food Security to fill the position of "A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada."

Chair Genco, opened an agenda item by introducing a resume for Charlotte Williams to fill the position of a person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada. This position we would be replacing Ms. Yeager for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Asked if approval is needed to make recommendations for appointments?

Ms. Taylor clarified that there are two resumes for consideration. One resume is for Jill Moe to fill the representative of farms seat and the second resume is for Charlotte to fill Ms. Yeager's position representing the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Ms. Rogers, confirmed, added a majority vote is needed for these vacancies.

Ms. Taylor goes over a list of all current vacancies and mentions other members terms are coming up and they have been contacted to start the renewal process.

Chair Genco thanked Ms. Taylor and motioned for a vote on the two resumes.

Chair Genco is voting to recommend Charlotte Williams for the appointment to the Council, so will accept a motion on this. Dorian Stoneberger moves to approve Charlotte Williams to appointment. Dr. Juniel seconds the motion which passed unanimously.

Chair Genco recommends Jill Moe to fill the seat as Representative of Farms to the Council. Dorian Stoneberger moves to approve Jill Moe to appointment. Dr. Juniel seconds the motion which passed unanimously.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) presentation on SNAP updates related to Summer EBT and Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver.

Chair Genco introduces Ms. Cantrelle.

Ms. Cantrelle Presents information on DWSS projects, Summer EBT which provides SNAP benefits to children who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, \$40 per month for three months. Estimates Summer EBT will serve 350,000 children in Nevada. Added that Nevada qualified for another year of Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver. Reported that DWSS is looking at completing a waiver so that SNAP applications can be taken telephonically. Discussed possible adoption of the restaurant meals program. Clarified that they are not looking to partner with fast food restaurants but hope to partner with restaurants that offer healthier options. Added collaboration efforts with WIC to reduce gaps in program participation.

The Council discussed the importance of Ms. Cantrelle's work and the importance of collaboration among partners. UNR and DWSS to meet to discuss the program further and how to get restaurants healthier options with technical assistance.

Deacon Tom stated that Catholic Charities has a WIC clinic and a food pantry which see's 4,000 WIC clients a month and there are over 150 food pantry clients a day.

Ms. Cantrelle recognized that there may be push back on this program based on what happened in other states.

Ms. Blake added that Helping Hands of Vegas Valley has a home delivered meals rule program and would also like to have a conversation with Ms. Cantrelle.

Ms. Cantrelle adds that DWSS is seeking funding in the next Legislative session for this program and mentioned they will need help with public service awareness. States she is looking forward to collaboration.

Chair Genco asks for any additional questions for Ms. Cantrelle and asks Ms. Cantrelle if she would provide an update at the October meeting? in the October meeting just reporting back and just letting us know how that is going.

Ms. Cantrelle replies, yes.

Chair Genco thanks Ms. Cantrelle for the update and states the Council can help advocate for more resources.

Ms. Cantrelle thanks Chair Genco.

Chair Genco closes the agenda item.

8. For Discussion: Home Feeds Nevada Presentation, Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Chair Genco introduces the agenda item eight and Patricia Hoppe for the presentation.

Ms. Hoppe herself as the Division Administrator for Food and Nutrition with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). Provided verbal report on Home Feeds Nevada. Updated for the time period 10/1/2022-

9/30/2023 food acquisition costs were approximately \$2,167,474, transportation costs \$10,430, and wages \$12,022. Pounds of food delivered was 1,543,460.

- Products from producers (farmers, ranchers, and processors) statewide
 - Meat/Proteins- 105,000lbs at \$490,000
 - Fluid milk- 70,867lbs total \$266,000
 - Fresh farm raised honey- 6,836lbs at \$52,000.
 - “Good” cheese (shredded and one-pound block)- 57,000lbs at \$161,000
 - Fresh Produce- 670,000lbs at \$1,070,583
 - Recognized that fresh produce is needed by food banks and Home Feeds Nevada has been able to provide.

NDA will be providing a written report to the Council going forward.

Chair Genco asks if NDA plans to ask for additional funding.

Ms. Hoppe responds, NDA is working on that. Two funding sources right now, ARPA, which is set to expire June 30, 2024, and federal funding from the USDA, Local Food Purchasing Assistance program (LFPA). On the lookout for additional funding sources.

Chair Genco responds that this was helpful. Recognizes that programs are in the middle of budget building and will keep a look out for other sources.

Ms. Hoppe confirmed that those budget conversations had not started yet.

Chair Genco Thanks Patricia for the information and asks for any additional questions.

Mr. Johnson adds he is thankful for the program, especially the proteins and fresh produce. Hope the program can continue.

Chair Genco closed agenda item 8 and moved forward to agenda item nine.

9. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to determine future presentation topics by priority.

Chair Genco defers to Ms. Taylor and Ms. Rogers.

Ms. Taylor reminds the Council of the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) timelines, requirements and presentations needed. Mentioned another presentation ask of NDA, Community Food Access Grant and referred to Ms. Hoppe.

Ms. Hoppe indicated she was not sure what was meant by the Community Food Access Project has two funded programs right now for Community Food Access through ARPA and they report quarterly to the Governor's Finance Office.

Ms. Rogers reminds the Council of WIC presentation slated for July 2024.

Chair Genco agrees with Ms. Hoppe and corrects that it is the grant not the project. Confirming that they have asked a lot from their department. Indicated a possible need to shift some presentations. Asked if presentations from each of the food banks should be added to the October meeting to help plan for 2025 priorities.

Ms. Taylor also reminds the Council of the deadlines for the CFS Annual Report. The draft is due for approval in July 2024 meeting and finalized at the October meeting. This will ensure the report is ready to submit by January 31, 2025.

Chair Genco thanks Ms. Taylor for the information and opens it up to the Council for comment.

Ms. Blake confirmed presentations from the food banks would be helpful and would help the Council during the Legislative session.

Chair Genco agrees and asks to move priorities.

Ms. Blake agrees if it can be added to the July meeting instead of October to stay ahead of the election.

Deacon Tom agrees with Ms. Blake. Highlights the needed support from the food banks but also the need to target priorities to better understand the end user.

Chair Genco confirms the food banks will present on needs at the July meeting. Clarifies with Deacon Tom if other programs should also be presented?

Deacon Tom responds that it would be helpful to hear from the food banks to hear what their focus will be and will let other programs know where they can help. Continues that end users would benefit from the food bank presentations in July.

Chair Genco agrees and mentions upcoming presentations to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services can be helpful in communicating priorities.

Chair Genco motions to restructure priorities to have Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square moved to one and two and then Community Food Access Grant to number 3. Ms. Blake made the first motion Deacon Tom, seconded the motion. Motion passes unopposed.

Allison Genco closes out agenda item 9 and moves on to agenda item 10.

10. For Discussion: Nevada Revised Statutes ([NRS 232.4969](#)) Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) Subcommittee Updates – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security

Ms. Taylor introduces Food for People not Landfills as a standing item on the agenda. Indicates that time and capacity within the Office of Food Security has been limited. Working on hiring staff.

Chair Genco asks if there are any questions. None heard.

Allison Genco closes out agenda item ten and opens agenda item eleven.

11. For Discussion: Finalized Annual Reports, 2023 CFS, 2023 Food for People Not for Landfill (FFPNL), and SFY23 Fund for Healthy Nevada (FHN) Annual Report – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security

Ms. Taylor reviews the SFY23 FFPNL, 2023 CFS, and the SFY23 Annual Report provided in the attachments.

Dr. Stoneberger asks clarifying question on reporting period being from January 1st or January 31st>

Ms. Taylor clarifies it is the calendar year for the report, January the 1st, 2023 to December the 31st, 2023 is due on January the 31st, 2024.

Dr. Stoneberger, thanks for the clarification.

Chair Genco asks for any additional questions for Ms. Taylor.

Deacon Tom thanks Ms. Taylor for the report. Adds on the landfill issue, that there was traction prior to the pandemic with some larger resorts with untouched food from conventions being harvested and chill blasted. Would like to see work reengaged since convention business has returned and overages in food is happening again.

Ms. Taylor responds by thanking Deacon Tom for the feedback. Adds that she will present this information to the subcommittee.

Chair Genco asks for any additional questions. None heard.

Chair Genco closes out agenda item eleven and moves on to agenda item twelve.

12. For Action: Review and possible recommendations on State Health Improvement Plan Action Steps and Objectives – Allison Genco, Chair

Chair Genco goes over objective one strategy one. Stated the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services reached out to the Council to present on Monday, completes this objective. Asks Council members if they would like to present her.

Ms. Blake asks what time?

Chair Genco answers the meeting starts at nine, plan to be there most of the day.

Ms. Blake mentions she will let Chair Genco know her availability.

Chair Genco adds she will reach out to make sure it's ok and will send Ms. Blake the slides and coordinate. Moved on to the food conference work group. The group consists of Chair Genco herself, Dr. Malik, Ms. Yeager, and Dr. Stoneberger. Met recently to develop a survey to disseminate to partners. Indicated interest in adding individuals to the work group.

Dr. Stoneberger agrees and adds the potential of planning a Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada one in separate years. For 2025 Northern Nevada and then in 2027 for Southern Nevada.

Ms. Yeager agrees with Dr. Stoneberger's statement.

Chair Genco clarifies if eleven surveys will be sent out?

Dr. Stoneberger answers yes and probably another survey in 2026.

Chair Genco agrees and states to reach out to Ms. Taylor if they would like to participate in the work group.

Ms. Taylor adds the goal is to have the survey to the work group by this Friday. Plan to send it out by the end of May.

Chair Genco asks again for those interested to reach out the Ms. Taylor.

Chair Genco presents strategy two, objective two. Due by December 31, 2024. Tasks this strategy and objective to the working group.

Chair Genco went over the rest of the strategies and objectives in the SHIP, stated the Council is making good progress.

No additional comments/questions made.

Chair Genco closes out agenda item twelve and moves on to agenda item thirteen.

13. For Discussion: Remaining 2024 CFS Goals – Allison Genco, Chair

Chair Genco went over the remaining 2024 Council on Food Security goals pulled from the 2023 annual report.

Ms. Blake stated the home delivered meals program is not sustainable due to costs. Wanted to focus on how food insecurity is being addressed for seniors in hard-to-reach areas/food deserts.

Allison Genco agrees and thinks with the emphasis on transportation the Council should start looking at food deserts.

Dr. Malik adds focus on distribution and support for general food access and food distribution and support for general food access is on here a few times and that seems to be the biggest burden on our agricultural community. They are growing all this food, but they cannot get it out to retail environments and they need support such as Home Feeds Nevada. Asked for this to be a focus.

Allison Genco asks if these are goals, we should focus on right now and if anything needs to be pushed off for now.

Ms. Blake responds with at home delivered meals program is a finance situation and would need to start talking about funding now prior to session. Would like to address home delivered meals for seniors and food waste.

Chair Genco agrees, put as 2025 goals, advocate for them as part of advocacy strategy going into the legislative session.

Ms. Blake referred to Deacon Tom on home delivered meal and congregated meal programs.

Deacon Tom agreed that home delivered meals are not sustainable but is needed. Has communicated with Legislative leaders on the issue. Mentioned it costs more for seniors to prematurely go into assisted living than it does to get home delivered meals. It is a good investment.

Chair Genco recognizes Deacon Tom's efforts last session and asks if he could remind her what dollar amount was asked for, for meals on wheels.

Dr. Osgood discussed last year's presentation and brought up the slide and we were asking for a reauthorization of the current funding of \$3.4 million for home delivered meals and congregate meals. Asked for an increase of \$8 million because of the loss of federal funds, inflation, and anticipated increased demand and we got less than half of that.

Ms. Blake adds Ms. Yeager may be able to speak to the situation in Northern Nevada, knowing that some senior centers did not reopen after the pandemic so may be able to shed some light on that situation in Northern Nevada.

Ms. Yeager adds to her knowledge all our senior centers have reopened in the North. Their capacity was impacted and some not operating at full capacity. A challenge is getting seniors back into the senior centers. When the pandemic level SNAP benefits ended, saw a huge influx of seniors almost immediately coming back to both senior centers, and other food security programming.

Dr. Malik asked – Is this funding dependent on the Farm bill?
Nods from the group, yes.

Ms. Blake clarifies partially it is also funded through Title 3 – The older Americans Act, which Nevada doesn't get.

Dr. Malik mentioned access to grad students who can potentially help and if we need to help legislators understand the programming.

Deacon Tom mentioned they got the first level of state funding increase when they showed the ranking of the state of Nevada's funding for Meals on Wheels as a it compared to other states in the nation, last.

Dr. Malik responded thank you.

Ms. Taylor Addresses duties into the chat, reminded the Council that recommendation to the Legislature is an allowable activity of the Council and can be added to the annual report.

Chair Genco confirmed that home delivered meals and addressing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas will be goals for 2025 and priorities going into session.

Dr. Stoneberger agreed.

Chair Genco asked for any additional comments or questions. None heard.

Chair Genco closes out agenda item thirteen and moves on to agenda item fourteen.

14. For Possible Action: Future agenda items – Allison Genco, Chair; Standing Agenda Item – FFPNL, Standing Agenda Item – SHIP Action Steps, Presentations – WIC, 2024 CFS Annual Report Draft

Chair Genco goes over standing agenda items. Asks if any others should be added.

Ms. Rogers asks if there is anything specific the Council would like to hear from the WIC presentation in July. Adds that we hope to have more updates on the WIC DWSS collaboration Ms. Cantrelle mentioned.

Chair Genco adds the 2024 Council annual report draft as an agenda item. No other agenda items heard.

Chair Genco closes out agenda item fourteen and moves to public comment.

15. Public Comment: Allison Genco, Chari

Chair Genco calls for public comment.

No public comment was heard.

Chair Genco, seeing no public comment closes out public comment and opens agenda item sixteen adjournment.

16. Adjournment

Chair Genco will accept a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stoneberger moves to adjourn. Marcia Blake seconds. Chair Genco calls for vote. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 P.M.

DRAFT