

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

DRAFT OF MINUTES-VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Monday, August 7, 2023 @ 1:30 p.m.
WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL
ANIMAL SERVICES CENTER CLASSROOM
2825 LONGLEY LANE, #A, RENO, NV
~VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE~

MEMBERS

Naomi Duerr (Chair)
Paul Anderson (absent)
Julie McMahon (absent)
Mariluz Garcia
Trudy Brussard
Diaz Dixon
Jill Fisher

STAFF

Shyanne Schull (Director)
Tammy Jennings (Asst).

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jen Gustafson (Deputy DA)

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1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL [Non-Action Item]

The meeting was opened and a quorum was established. **Audio for roll call was cut off and transcriber not able to identify all in attendance.** Jen Gustafson, Shyanne Schull and Tammy Jennings present.

PRESENT: Naomi Duerr, Mariluz Garcia, Trudy Brussard, Diaz Dixon, Jill Fisher.

ABSENT: Paul Anderson and Julie McMahon.

CHAIR DUERR: Inquired of any other staff participating.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed there are guest presenters but no other Animal Services staff.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROVIDING PUBLIC COMMENT VIA ZOOM/ TELEPHONE [Non-Action Item]

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Read new open meeting law requirements based on last legislative session, which included how to participate in public comment. Provided instructions to all in attendance.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for any other instructions for people who want to make public comment.

MR. SCHLEY: Advised no public comment. Corrected, and invited Fran Apparones to provide public comment.

MS. APPARONES: (Audio issues). Discussed setting up a data base for apartments that would accept pets, including details of rental, required breeds, etc. Provided comments re: AB's efforts. Has concerns about the Professional Services Agreement. Feels the contract is null and void. Very one-sided agreement. Feels the AB does not have power. (3 minutes concluded).

CHAIR DUERR: Indicated the Professional Services Agreement will be reviewed with Directors. Should return to a future agenda item.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-action item]

MR. SCHLEY: Advised no additional public comment.

CHAIR DUERR: Reminded attendees that they can make public comment on items scheduled for action.

**4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW WCRAS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS
JILL FISHER AND DIAZ DIXON [Non-action item]**

CHAIR DUERR: Requested introductions.

MEMBER FISHER: Introduced herself as Jill Foxy Fisher. She is a vet technician. Is hopeful her experience can provide advice of what is happening.

CHAIR DUERR: Also mentioned Member Julie McMahan as a veterinarian.

MEMBER FISHER: Advised she is retired.

CHAIR DUERR: Introduced Diaz Dixon.

MEMBER DIXON: Has been in Reno for a long time and has run numerous programs. Does a lot of work across the country in animal welfare in various capacities.

CHAIR DUERR: Welcomed both of them.

5. PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS JILL DOBBS AND IRENE PAYNE [For possible action]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for Jill Dobbs and Irene Payne to enter meeting with speaking and video privileges. Read proclamation thanking both of them for their services.

MS. DOBBS: Thanked Chair Duerr and all members. Will still be staying involved with AB and looks forward to the future for Animal Services.

CHAIR DUERR: Acknowledged Irene Payne and how they met. Complimented her on her service on the AB. Read resolution for Irene Payne.

MS. PAYNE: Commented on her experience and appreciated everyone for the opportunity to be a part of the AB team. Will still keep in touch, and welcomed the new members.

CHAIR DUERR: Turned over to Director Schull.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Thanked both Jill Dobbs and Irene Payne. Presented paperweights for their desks.

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Also thanked them and advised that because it is a formal action item, requested public comment and that the Board do a formal motion to approve Proclamations of Appreciation for Service.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested public comment.

MR. SCHLEY: Advised there is no public comment at this time.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested motion.

MEMBER GARCIA: Moved to approve the Proclamation of Appreciation for Jill Dobbs and Irene Payne.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Seconded motion.

CHAIR DUERR: Called for vote.

ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed motion passed unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2023 AND MAY 15, 2023, MEETING MINUTES [For possible action]

CHAIR DUERR: Requested Member Gustafson to explain about voting on Minutes.

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Advised that abstention is disfavored. The only reason for abstention would be because of a conflict of interest.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested motion to approve Minutes of May 15, 2023, and requested additions and/or corrections.

MEMBER FISHER: Commented Member Anderson was not mentioned as in attendance, but commented.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested clarification if Member Anderson was in attendance.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Will review Member Anderson's attendance and will bring it back at next meeting for approval.

MEMBER McMAHON: Commented that Member Garcia was not present at the beginning.

MEMBER GARCIA: Commented that she was late to the meeting.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that all in attendance in the first portion of the meeting should be recorded in attendance. Other members that appear later should be noted on the record when they appear as it relates to other discussions and voting.

MR. SCHLEY: Recalled that he did mention when Member Garcia had arrived at the previous meeting. Will look into Member Anderson's attendance.

CHAIR DUERR: Wondered if it was noted when Member Garcia arrived at the meeting.

MR. SCHLEY: Commented he noted on the video when she arrived.

CHAIR DUERR: Wondered who is doing the transcription of Minutes.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Commented that a third-party vendor provides the Minutes.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested transcriptionist be advised of attendance issues.

Can item be continued or is a motion required?

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Commented that there are two different sets of minutes on agenda item; April 21, 2023 minutes and May 15, 2023, minutes.

CHAIR DUERR: Sought clarification.

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Has recent version.

CHAIR DUERR: Wanted to know who sends minutes out.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Confirmed Mr. Schley sends out all of agenda and supporting materials.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed April 21, 2023, asking if there are corrections to those minutes. Member Fisher is frozen and unable to comment on April 21, 2023, minutes. Will continue Item 6 for a few minutes. Member Fisher disconnected.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Received a message that former Member Dobbs was taken out of meeting and not able to log back in. She was removed from the meeting as a panelist and unable to log back in.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested that Ms. Fisher be able to log back in.

MR. SCHLEY: Not seeing either as attendees.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed Member Fisher has rejoined. Confirmed there are technical problems. Reviewing Item 6 re: clarification of April 21, 2023, minutes.

MEMBER FISHER: Commented on April 21, 2023, minutes re: Mr. Anderson.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed that both sets of minutes will have to be continued while the research is conducted into attendance. Asked Member Garcia if her attendance was recorded at May 15, 2023, meeting at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBER GARCIA: Doesn't have the minutes in front of her, but recalls Mr. Schley announcing her attending the meeting.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested if anyone has the minutes.

MR. SCHLEY: Commented he has the minutes but unable to confirm.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested additional review of previous minutes so they can be approved on further action item.

MEMBER GUSTAFSON: Advised no action needs to be taken and matter can be re-agendized.

CHAIR DUERR: Will pass on Item 6 and move to Item 7.

7. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR [For possible action]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked existing members if there is any interest in serving as Vice-Chair.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Commented if you didn't show up, you got elected.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Commented that the two members not present do have a longer history on the Board. Both are so well qualified.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed both are equally available and qualified. Commented that it can wait until both are present in another meeting.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: Agrees that it would be nice if either were in attendance to accept a nomination.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for Member Garcia's thoughts.

MEMBER GARCIA: Wondered if either reached out and expressed interest.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed they did not.

MEMBER GARCIA: Agrees this item should be tabled and obtain input at next meeting when everyone is available.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed Item 7 is tabled. Moving on to Item 8.

8. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON NEVADA HUMANE SOCIETY'S (NHS) 90- DAY ACTION PLAN AND PROGRESS ON REMOVING BARRIERS TO ANIMAL ADOPTION [Non-action item]

CHAIR DUERR: Introduced Jerleen Bryant from NHS.

MR. SCHLEY: Commented Trent Bingham will also be presenting with Jerleen Bryant.

CHAIR DUERR: Welcomed both to meeting.

MS. BRYANT: Introduced herself to AB to provide updates on NHS.

Just completed her tenth week at NHS, with no end in sight. Advised Trent Bingham will share power point.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested the power point be put on slide show version.

MS. BRYANT: Provided overview for NHS. NHS is the surrender facility for Washoe County and Carson City. So far this year, 1,141 animals have been received from the public for owned animals being surrendered and good Samaritan surrenders. Discussed the pet food pantry that public can access for pet food. Provides foster care and low cost vaccines to community members. Also has a full-service vet clinic for spay and neuter services for community cats. Also has TNR program.

Provided an update to the 90-day action plan. Commented that many areas of NHS do not fall within the 90-day action plan.

Commented that NHS is removing animal welfare as barriers to adoption, i.e., nap time (2:00 and 3:00 pm was closed to public). It was a barrier to adoption. It increased adoption hours by 17%. Adoption application has been moved to an adoption questionnaire. Questions were too restrictive.

A doctor's welcome has been introduced. Scientific studies indicate that restrictive adoption policies cost animal lives. Also have re-opened the dog adoption kennels to the public.

CHAIR DUERR: Thanked her for the information. Commented that the social media response has been overwhelming. Opening the kennels is significant.

MS. BRYANT: Commented that the nap time and closure of kennels were significant barriers to adoption. Feels the dogs are happy with all attention and changes.

Members of the public can come visit every day of the week from 11 am to 6:30 pm. This is phase 1. Four adoption areas. Additional phases and adoption areas will be open soon.

Overview of Reno of intakes year-to-date for 2023. Approximately 10,000 animals need care and services from NHS per year. 18,000 pets in the community are assisted with additional services. YTD for dog intake is up 11%. Highest intake is the first few months of the year. 65% of the animals NHS cares for come from WCRAS. Public surrenders is 20% of overall intake of dogs. 14% of transfers. Good Samaritan surrenders as NHS is the surrender facility for Washoe County.

MEMBER DIAZ: Asked about the specific number indicated on the charts and requested additional information.

MS. BRYANT: Suggested Trent Bingham comment.

MR. BINGHAM: Attempting to locate information.

MS. BRYANT: Commented there has been an increase in public surrenders.

MR. BINGHAM: Confirmed dog intakes re: owner/guardian surrenders in 2023 for Reno was 336. YTD for good Samaritan strays is 21. Transfer in from Washoe County is 1,094 YTD for Reno.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed if those numbers were for a seven month period through July.

MR. BINGHAM: Confirmed.

MEMBER DIAZ: Wanted to know if the number pulled from Washoe County is rising.

MR. BINGHAM: Number of total dog intakes as gone up 11% YTD compared to last year. Number from pulling from Washoe County is up 5% YTD. Last month it went down, but still up YTD.

MEMBER DIAZ: Asked the question because he knew WCRAS facility is full. Wanted to know what the plan is going forward.

MS. BRYANT: Is hopeful the communication between the two organizations has improved. Has been making every effort to be good partners. It's only been 10 weeks. Has been very busy assessing protocols. It is a work in progress.

The goal is to be more selective as far as behavior of animals bringing into facility which will allow a shorter stay and move out to adoption which will allow more animals to come from WCRAS.

MEMBER DIAZ: Agreed that by opening the kennels, the viewing kennels that were opened to the public provided some of the longer term dogs go home. Animals are going out quickly and allows more animals to be brought in. Is very optimistic going forward that this approach will work.

CHAIR DUERR: Indicated there would be a number of questions from different people on this topic about how long animals are staying, taking animals in from Washoe County. She raised concerned that being more selective will leave more animals at Animal Services and potentially puts them at risk. Not positive about the policy.

Wants to make sure there is enough time for questions to address properly.

MS. BRYANT: Commented that would be available to be transferred than NHS has the capacity to take because of limits, and more than the community is able to adopt. Indicated that the reason would allow them to pull more animals to transfer more, not less.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed that this discussion may have to be had later in the meeting. Commented on the facility being a no-kill shelter unless animals were at end of life or so injured. Feels that the community has adopted and they haven't euthanized for space. Wants to probe more on WCRAS and NHS euthanization rates and have an additional conversation.

MS. BRYANT: Has 2022 to compare 2023. Big increase in public surrenders in July. It was restructured on how public surrenders were being handled. Shifted internal staff and client service reps are now fielding phone calls and assisting the community with resources. It's always hopeful to keep the animals in the homes and they won't be surrendered.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed that part of the problem has been frustration over inability to surrender and negative outcomes when people surrender.

MS. BRYANT: Confirmed internal SOP was updated for determining ownership of animals which allows an easier time for owners to surrender.

MR. BINGHAM: Confirmed that the increase is part of the reason the intake is up and is a larger chunk of animals getting in. Animals getting surrendered are not able to be selected with and usually have behavioral issues and will stay longer. A longer stay reduces capacity to care.

MS. BRYANT: Commented that adoptions are stable. Kitten season will cause numbers to increase. Adoptions in peak kitten season time will increase to 600 adoptions from April to October. Capacity for adult cats is at a maximum.

MR. BINGHAM: Also discussed that the late winter/spring delays kitten season and may skew the numbers a little bit.

MS. BRYANT: Adoptions for dogs are strong and averages 175-200 adoptions per month. Last two months have been fee waived adoption specials. This year is strong as compared to last year.

Discussed other categories of animals. Recently moved small animal housing from back of shelter to front of the shelter. Will be improving small animal housing.

Commented on foster family program providing care to animals on a temporary basis which is essential. Has approximately 250 families that foster for NHS.

MR. BINGHAM: Commented that the foster program is like an entire food campus of animals that are provided medical care and food, etc. Working on adult dog behavioral foster program currently.

MS. BRYANT: Foster animals is about 1,200. There are 333 animals out in foster care currently, majority is cats.

Vet clinic services. Has a full medical team that provides medical care to the animals that come into services. NHS will address medical needs when necessary. There are three full-time veterinarians and hope to add one more. Has 24 medical staff. Performs surgery five days a week for Reno and Carson City.

Discussed public spay and neuter services. Intends to re-establish for dogs and owned cats. Will be looking at holding MASH clinics for the community in the spring. Also provided overview of clinic services.

Discussed 90-day action plan. The full assessment from the Dave & Cheryl Duffield Foundation was completed and presented to NHS in June of 2022. The assessment had never been effectively rolled out. A lot of progress in the last 10 weeks which includes: the adopter's welcome, fear free certification programs, updated cleaning protocols and procedures, included more enrichment opportunities for animals, implemented daily population rounds, daily pathway planning, assessed organizational structure.

Progress in housing areas has been made to support the 5-freedoms.

CHAIR DUERR: Thanked them for a great presentation.

MEMBER DIXON: Asked how hiring has been impacted across the board.

MS. BRYANT: There are staffing struggles. Working on improving the on boarding process, assessing salaries and increasing benefits. Actively interviewing and hiring.

MR. BINGHAM: Commented that the structure is aligned to what people are doing to provide the best pathway for animals. There are areas to look at and perhaps doubling the size of the dog care team.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked how many staff are at the Reno facility.

MS. BRYANT: When fully staffed, there are 120 for both organizations. Right now, it's about 105. For Reno, it is 65-70 staff members.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked what the vacancies were in Reno.

MS. BRYANT: Advised they are in the final stages of reorganizing the organizational chart. There are new positions to be hiring for that have not been positions.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for an example.

MS. BRYANT: Discussed the position of transfer coordinators that would be responsible for the intake of animals in the Reno facility.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked about volunteers and status of same.

MS. BRYANT: Agreed there is a great dedicated group of volunteers. Currently there are about 300-400 active volunteers. Feels there are the same 25 she sees frequently.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for more information about volunteers.

MS. BRYANT: Indicated the volunteer program is very stable. There is now a new volunteer manager that started in June.

MR. BINGHAM: Also commented on working the volunteer participation in the dog care portion.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed the volunteers are taking on more responsibility. Commented that adoptions were down for both cats and dogs in July, as compared to June, as well as the smalls. Fosters were down also. Wanted comments on the relationship and how the adoptions are handled.

MS. BRYANT: Agrees with the correlation. Adoption numbers down in July, but owner surrenders were up.

MR. BINGHAM: Discussed the 11% increase in dog intake at the same time as seeing the dip in adoptions. Community is cautious in adoption and worried about providing proper homes.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented on the length of the meeting and if there are questions, to please ask. Asked about ordinances that prohibit discrimination of dog types and the community adopting.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Commented that there is a breed prohibition on a state level, but it doesn't eliminate or prohibit HOA or developments to have further limitations. Local jurisdiction ordinance may be different than an HOA's ordinance. Animal Control does not enforce. HOA's will enforce limits, sizes, restrictions, etc., because there are opportunities to have limits in apartments or HOA developments.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for clarification about prohibiting breeds and that the HOA's can still prohibit breeds and numbers of dogs.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Isn't positive on the HOA and their regulations. There are definitely size restrictions. Unknown about particular breeds.

CHAIR DUERR: Thinks this discussion should be on a future agenda item to discuss further if the City or Washoe County can assist with as it would be helpful in understanding the aspect of the adoption issues.

MEMBER GARCIA: Inquired about progress on 90-day action plan where it discussed multi-departmental meetings. Wanted to know what the goal or path moving forward to maintain good communication with Director Schull and other members of the County.

MS. BRYANT: Confirmed that the teams meet weekly. Throughout the week, Director Schull and Ms. Bryant also discuss issues. Mr. Bingham leads animal care and communicating daily with WCRAS on NHS capacity.

MR. BINGHAM: Concentrating on getting all the information out, incorporating feedback. Trying to find what metrics that WCRAS needs to know and get a feeling about capacity of care. Email goes out every morning and continue communication. Working on criteria that will be used when viewing WCRAS animals, and communication continues to handle the animal's needs accordingly.

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for comments from Director Schull.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Agreed to provide update on strategies that all teams have been working on. There is a lot to work on, but communication is number one priority to streamline to work through operational challenges. Great progress has been

made. More room for improvement and are working towards that. Meeting weekly is helping. Need to focus on carving out more time because the one hour a week is not enough time. Continuing to refine and work on.

CHAIR DUERR: Offered advice as to how to better streamline communication. One communication model is to meet every day when the day starts. Other example of meetings throughout the day and join together. Suggested to challenge each other to look for ways to make sure check in occurs and touch base daily. Very frequent communication is key.

MEMBER DIXON: Works with 221 shelters across the country. There have been a number of shelters with the same problem. Asked if they are pulling the same metrics/data when giving one report, speaking the same language. Need to be transparent.

MS. BRYANT: Commented that she feels the same data is pulled between the two agencies to a certain degree. NHS receives two reports a day from WCRAS re: capacity. NHS sends a report every morning that tells WCRAS what NHS capacity is at that moment for dogs and cats to receive, what adoptions were day before, how many public surrenders received, how many appointments are expected and/or scheduled. NHS population of animals is very fluid. WCRAS receives that information in a report from NHS every morning.

MEMBER DIXON: Commented that it is a systemic problem. Needs to figure out how to do it the exact same way.

MS. BRYANT: Commented that WCRAS report is directed from Chameleon software program. NHS doesn't use Chameleon and uses Shelter Love. They don't report exactly the same.

MEMBER DIXON: Commented he has a bias of Shelter Love for the size of the NHS organization. Shelter Love does not make sense that there are two different systems.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that it's not so much the reports, but the data. You have to have the same accurate data.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Agrees to continue to work on communication strategies and the data is a center of the communication. The data tells a lot of what is being done operationally. Need to do a better job in creating a centralized source of data.

Feels there is a much more effective way to share data. Needs to have a better understanding of how animals are moving through both shelters.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested both NHS and WCRAS address the data issue and frequency of communication. Try to act as one organization. Realizes the time constraints in scheduling meeting. Commented about the length of the meeting. Communication needs to be improved.

Discussed policy of being more selective of animals and how does it affect WCRAS.

MS. BRYANT: Doesn't feel it should affect in a negative way, but positive. It will allow to have shorter length of stay which allows to take a greater number of animals from WCRAS.

CHAIR DUERR: Inquired if it should continued to be discussed. Any concerns?

MEMBER DIXON: Commented that length of stay is tricky depending on the type of dogs pulled.

MS. BRYANT: Being selective addresses dogs with behavioral issues and they aren't safe. Not candidates for adoption. Barrier reactivity is also common. Some dogs do better going to foster when there's no kenneling for the dog.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Commented that the new assessment criteria was just shared with her and her team on Wednesday of last week. Feels very concerned about what the assessment will reveal through the process. Kennel presentation is an issue and evaluating on kennel presentation raises concerns. WCRAS decisions are based on NHS decisions and criteria.

CHAIR DUERR: Acknowledges this topic will require a lot of conversation. Asked for zoom attendees interest in commenting.

MR. SCHLEY: Indicated only one attendee with comment.

MS. GOFF: Rebecca Goff, Nevada State Director for The Humane Society of United States. Commented on breed restrictions and offered to do research to see what she can find.

CHAIR DUERR: Agreed that would help. Thanked everyone for attending. Closed agenda item at this time to move on to others.

MS. BRYANT: Thanked the AB for the opportunity to share the updates.

CHAIR DUERR: Will discuss AB schedule and may shorten time period for next meeting, maybe October. Looking forward to new updates re: increasing pay of staff.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Looking forward to a good working relationship. It will take a lot of time and there are a lot of changes happening.

CHAIR DUERR: Wants the relationships to continue. Agenda Item 8 is closed out and will be continued.

Reminded that one of the Board Members needs to leave at 12:50 pm (not named).

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that Ms. Gustafson scheduled Open Meeting Law Ethics Training today and requested to reschedule.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Want to confirm that the two new Board Members would be present at next meeting. Important for everyone to get Open Meeting Law update, but particularly new members.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Recommended taking an item out of order and consider calendaring and/or changing next meeting. Next meeting is calendared for October 20, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

MS. SCHLEY: Corrected that the October meeting is in the afternoon.

CHAIR DUERR: Opening Item 11 (**taken out of order**).

11. ESTABLISH ASAB MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR 2023/2024
[For possible action]

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested October 17th or October 19th.

MEMBER GARCIA: Commented that BOCC meets on Tuesdays at 10am. Second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month.

CHAIR DUERR: Suggested October 12th and October 19th.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Either dates work for her.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Requested October 19th.

MEMBER FISHER: October 19th is okay.

MEMBER DIXON: Not available on the 19th, but is on the 20th.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Commented about Member McMahon's schedule being available on Mondays for 2024 with advance notice, but is unavailable other days of the week.

MEMBER BRUSSARD: She is available.

MEMBER GARCIA: Available the 13th and 20th of October.

CHAIR DUERR: Requested to keep dates open until confirmation can be obtained with Member Anderson and Member McMahon. Holding dates.

MS. GUSTAFSON: Cannot due the entire week of the 12th.

CHAIR DUERR: Attempting to schedule for October 20th. Moving back to Item 9, Director's Report.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT [Non-action item]

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Provided additional slides for new Board Members.

WCRAS is one of 24 county departments. Recognizes the importance of Animal Services. Commented on the various priorities that are focused on with 43 full-time employees and a \$5.5 million dollar budget. NHS focuses on further adoption and outreach, fostering, resources, etc.

Discussed animal welfare calls and investigations. Last FY there were over 2,000 animal welfare calls. Loose animals was 9,720. Animal bites/quarantine. Cats and dogs returned home is at 43% in 2023 FY. 2,248 of dogs were reunited as result of microchip and 161 cats.

Discussed rabies education and enforcement. Last FY, there were 1,192 bite reports.

Emergency response. Responds routinely for animal evacuation and also sets up emergency sheltering. Most common is responding to fires.

Regulation enforcement. Animal Control Officers can issue Notices of Civil Penalties and Citations. Doesn't have the ability to cite gross misdemeanor or felony charges. NCP's are mostly issued for animals at large, failing to license dogs, no rabies vaccination, unlawful tethering.

Doesn't typically handle surrendered pets. They go to NHS. WCRAS animals are mostly trying to be reunited, on a case hold, or on a quarantine. Handles 12,000 animals annually which includes live and deceased.

Feels strongly about outreach in the community to bridge the gap. Discussed various programs to aid the community.

Reiterated that field services are available 365 days a year, open and responding. Has an on-call officer after 10pm. Lobby hours are 8am to 5pm M-F, Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

Quarter 4 of last FY. Took in over 1,400 cats and over 1,500 dogs and 231 other animals. Strays are the number one type of intake. Quarantine is a frequent occurrence. Wildlife calls have decreased. Doesn't have the staff and/or expertise to handle wildlife and is working with NDOT to aid the animals.

Five year look. Has largely maintained number of animals. Dip in 2020 and 2021 because of COVID. Numbers are starting to come back up. Seeing more cat intakes this year. Spay and neuter resources need to come back to the community to contain the number of cats that are reproducing.

Commented on Quinn Sweet's project to refine data. New information presented that highlights increases/decreases related to animal outcomes. Keep focus on data and what's important.

Commented on year over year outlook and highlighted increases/decreases in areas that are tracked. Nothing notable from 2023 over 2022. Up a bit in transfers to rescue partners.

Presented chart that indicated total number of cats and dogs available for each month in the last five years. Slides provided appropriate information. 2023 indicated increase over 2022 in number of cats transferred over this last FY and over year prior. 2023 was one of the highest years for cat transfers between WCRAS and NHS.

In 2023, 2,008 dogs have been transferred to NHS, which is more transfers to NHS than in the last five years.

Highlighted adoption partners and efforts being made. Other partners have really stepped up in 2023. Some animals need specific needs and the foster program works for them.

Length of stay is being looked at for AS side of the building. In 2019 to 2023, chart presented reflecting length of stay, and numbers skyrocketed in 2023 FY. Huge concern. Animals staying longer develop behavioral challenges and barriers to adoption. Also having challenges with capacity for care.

Presented five year overview. AS riding on capacity line for months. Team is tired. Animals and care suffer when the capacity is challenged. 8.9 days is average for a dog, but many have been there for weeks. It is not in their best interest with that length of time and not a positive outcome. Had originally developed a plan of 80% capacity, but has had to move back to 70%. If 77 kennels are occupied, they are at capacity even though there are 110 kennels.

Discussed the most common types of calls for Q4 FY over FY. Took in almost 600 calls for welfare; 345 unrestrained calls; and just over 2,000 stray/loose animal calls. More noise complaints this last quarter than in previous four years.

Year over year look of all service calls. Not a huge change. Lower for service calls than in 2019, but will see increase as community grows. Officers have success in reuniting loose animals in the field and not impound in shelter.

All animals returned in field reunifications. Numbers are down a little bit from last year. Will continue to see correlation with decrease in reunifications. Suspects that many of the animals that come into care that don't get reunified don't have owners that are looking for them. May see trend continue.

Animal welfare cases and calls. A lot of factors get grouped into other outcomes. Punitive approaches is an option. Had 64 NCP's in 2023 for welfare cases.

Trending downward in 2019 in unfounded calls of 44%. Attributes to doing a better job at taking calls, screening information and asking questions, but has a Dispatch Supervisor who provided proper training and screening to assist staff.

Presenting on Quinn Sweet's behalf who is on vacation for the outreach programs. Collar and tag program was instituted this last fiscal year and there are no measurements year over year re: performance. Issued 24 free collars and 34 free pet ID tags in Q4 versus none last year. Program is very successful. Received grant to purchase collars and tags.

Care support referral program assists partners in the community that house homeless with pets. Assist in vaccinations and medical needs. In Q4, there was 104 CARES requests over 112 requests last year. Program has grown and put a strain on staff in keeping up with referrals.

Commented on senior pet food distribution that happens once a month. 234 seniors have received pet food. Vaccination clinics are also provided to community members. Seeing more pets served this last quarter.

Indicated Ms. Sweet will provide updates at the next meeting on pet food distributions, vaccine clinics, responsible pet ownership presentations. Attended Art Paws and Ms. Sweet will provide statistics.

Upcoming updates: Off leash calls and outcomes and code amendment updates. The BOCC heard first reading of amendments re: variance permit code. Second reading is scheduled for August, 2023. Hoping to work on cruelty and welfare codes. Not successful in the legislature and will work on it through local ordinances.

MS. JENNINGS: Confirmed the code amendment will be heard on August 22, 2023.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Concluded presentation.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented on the charts and the presentation. Hard to read. Need to understand the messages. Asked Board Members of any questions.

MEMBER DIXON: Asked about training for exotic animals.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Advised there are several staff members who are very proficient in specific breeds or species of animals. Have been focusing on creating internal training for the team. Working on standardized presentations for staff.

MR. SCHLEY: Commented that Mariluz Garcia left the meeting.

CHAIR DUERR: Confirmed she left at noon and other members need to leave. Wrapping up items. Thanked Director Schull for fantastic report. Wondered if annual report will be provided.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: It's a bi-annual report. Won't be doing one until next year. It goes to BOCC.

10. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON WCRAS's DISPATCH PHONE SYSTEM
[For possible action]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for this agenda item. Don't have the recording of the calls. Requested presentation on procedures and have Board discussion to determine any changes. Holding off on presentation.

12. OPEN MEETING LAW AND ETHICS TRAINING AND WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES' (WCRAS) ORIENTATION
[Non-action item]

CHAIR DUERR: Discussed scheduling restraints. Trying to avoid Fridays. Member McMahon has commitments on other days except Mondays or Fridays. Asking everyone about Mondays to conduct meetings. Deferred for now.

MEMBER FISHER: Commented that Mondays are challenging but she can move things around.

MEMBER DIXON: With enough advance notice, Mondays can work.

CHAIR DUERR: Commented that meetings will be charted out. At the October meeting, a proposed schedule of meetings will be compiled. Requested Director Schull about six meetings instead of four on a bi-monthly schedule, just for this year. Need more meetings for the time being. Also, need to plan if starting at 9:30 am, to go to 1:00 pm.

13. WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-action item]

CHAIR DUERR: Asked for any comment. Asked for comment on animal discrimination. Need to explore what the legal requirements are so recommendations can be made. Next meeting would probably be from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Will check on availability and provide snacks.

DIRECTOR SCHULL: Wanted to confirm time/date for October meeting.

CHAIR DUERR: Discussing schedule. Would like WCRAS meeting to start at 1:30 pm and go to the end of day. Will confirm with Board Members.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT [Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Called for final public comment.

MR. SCHLEY: Advised no public comment at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT [Non-Action Item]

CHAIR DUERR: Declares meeting adjourned. October 20th next meeting.