

From: [Jill Vacchina Dobbs](#)
To: [Animal - Advisory Board](#)
Subject: WCRAS Advisory Board Meeting Response
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:30:23 PM
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Dear WCRAS Advisory Board,

At this time, I'm not responding to Jerleen's entire letter recently posted. Rather, I want to clarify and refocus on the legitimately requested information and concerns in my email, dated February 21, 2025.

My February email was directed at WCRAS Advisory Board (AB) and Washoe County (WC) leadership, not NHS. It is this body and WC leadership that needs to please respond. I'm trying to get basic levels of communication that WCRAS isn't provided by their allegedly "close partner" and therefore can't answer, which remains deeply troubling.

I'm sorry I wasn't clear in my email that I'm expecting the WCRAS AB and WC leadership to address my questions and concerns. I don't need more NHS adoption stats obfuscating issues and obstructing the public's input on the PSA revisions. Our regional animal welfare community's daily realities working with the vague terms in the PSA and correlating lack of NHS accountability are challenging enough.

Actions speak louder than words. Instead of writing marketing gaucherie trying to gaslight me and our regional animal welfare community, an organization actually committed to transparency, collaboration, and partnership would respond to my multiple meeting requests.

I think it's clear that NHS gets far more from its arrangement with WCRAS than Jerleen's letter acknowledges under the Lease and Professional Services Agreement (which is functionally an independent contractor's agreement with subjugated responsibilities, not a co-ownership agreement).

Yes, my email was sent in frustration because lives are at stake and pets are needlessly suffering. And frankly, WCRAS staff is obstructed from fulfilling their duties because of vague PSA terms that enable a dysfunctional relationship with NHS leadership. There is far more involved beneath these convenient adoption numbers that are intended to invalidate legitimate concerns from every animal welfare professional and organization in our region,

except for NHS. Isn't that curious?

The public and I want to know what WCRAS and WC leadership are going to do about it. We all know the PSA needs to be revised. I believe that is currently happening without public input, which is unacceptable. Our community has a right to be involved. Our community will have to live with this PSA agreement, its intended and unintended consequences on vulnerable lives, for decades. Washoe County citizens and the animal welfare community deserve answers to these important issues, so that we can do the lifesaving work that our community expects and entrusts us to do. So yes, my tone is one of frustration and impatience. This shouldn't be this hard.

Nor is there a legitimate transfer agreement between NHS and WCRAS, which is required under the PSA. I'm requesting WCRAS AB and WC leadership answer these important, appropriate questions. Why is WCRAS staff not being supported in holding NHS accountable to create these vital process documents?

Lastly, my email was written months ago on February 21st when no information about the S/N grant had been shared, other than the amounts awarded to Options and NHS. With SPCA-NN's emergency temporary closing of our facility and one of our affordable spay/neuter programs, I was trying to get information to respond to the hundreds of communications from our public who was rightfully in a panic about where to get their pets sterilized since even fewer SPCA-NN appointments would be available, and Options' waiting list was over 1,000. Since it was taxpayer ARPA funds, it wasn't reasonable that WCRAS didn't have any information because their "close partner" NHS hadn't thought it appropriate to update them. This shouldn't be this hard.

Reading Jerleen's email that NHS now has a community spay/neuter program for dogs and cats (for the first time since 2019) is fantastic! We've been the only provider of these affordable community services since 2019, along with Options since 2020, and I'm beyond relieved to finally have NHS helping provide spay/neuter in our community. It's certainly worth celebrating that these public funds had the intended result of getting them to re-open this program. These updates were the simple information that I requested and WCRAS couldn't provide, which is indicative of an ongoing lack of a functional "partnership" with NHS. **And that should concern all of you.**

Unfortunately, I'm unable to attend the AB's meeting on May 16, but I will watch the recording with great interest...and hope.

If WCRAS AB would like more information, please feel free to request me to present at a future meeting.

Thank you,
Jill

Jill Vacchina Dobbs

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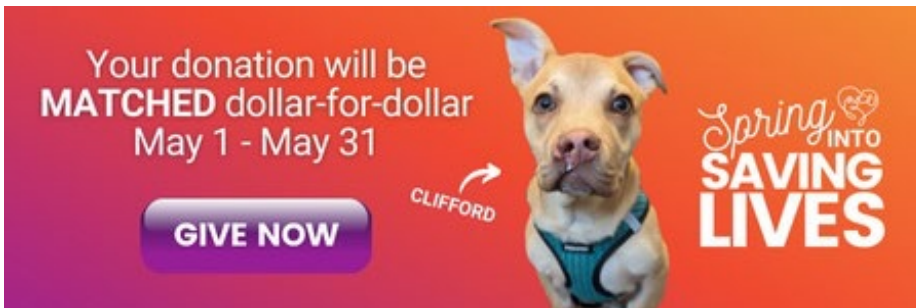
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- *Helped 231 pets stay with their families through Todd's Medical Assistance Fund.*
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