



MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

May 4, 2016

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room

- 1. Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Connie McMullen
- 2. Roll Call** – Connie McMullen asked for the roll call; Diana Carter took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

PRESENT

Connie McMullen
Dennis Chin
Wayne Alexander

Marsy Kupfersmith
Donna Clontz

Jeanne Herman, BCC

ABSENT

Victoria Edmondson

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Gary Whitfield
Dr. Larry Weiss

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Leslie Williams Ken Retterath
Kevin Shiller Amber Howell
Diana E. Carter

- 3. *Public Comment** – No public comment
- 4. *Member Items** – No member items
- 5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on May 4, 2016.**
Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz.
Motion passed unanimously.
- 6. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting on March 6, 2016.**
Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Closed Session for the purpose of hearing the appeal of the suspension from Washoe County Senior Services Sun Valley Senior Center by Kathy Fuller.

Open Meeting Law rules on entering a closed session were read by Diana Carter. Dennis Chin made a motion to open the closed meeting for the purpose of hearing the appeal of the suspension from Washoe County Senior Services Sun Valley Senior Center by Kathy Fuller. The motion was seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously. Kevin Schiller asked members of the public, Kathy Fuller and Bill Fuller and non-allowed staff to leave the room. Open Session was adjourned at 3:03 pm. Connie McMullen declared the session closed and the open meeting restarted at 3:50 pm.

8. Possible action on the appeal of the suspension from Washoe County Senior Services Sun Valley Senior Center by Kathy Fuller.

Donna Clontz made a motion to make a finding that the AB find that the dept followed the reasonable process in investigating the reports against Mrs. Fuller and that we uphold the suspension and subsequent not allowing her to be at the Sun Valley Center, but that she can attend the meal services at other sites and that she must continue to comply with the department's Code of Conduct; basically the findings that are in the letter of March 25, 2016. Dennis Chin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Fuller asked about the rules that state about returning in one year. Connie clarified that it's a review at that point.

9. *Strategic Plan Update

Kevin Schiller reports that the tentative budget recs have come out. The final has been submitted. There are two strategic plan subcommittees – one related to data and nutrition. There is a strategic plan, but where we target our business plan specific to those objectives base on budgetary compliance. From a budgetary perspective we have to concentrate our funding in primary areas – data, nutrition, mental health.

Amber Howell stated that with the merging of the departments, there's an opportunity to assess what programs we no longer want to continue to invest in or reallocate funds to some other place as the needs are assess across the entire department. The three items – mental health, data and quality improvement, and meals, not just numbers, but production, labor, and case management, the vehicles are the priority. We have had the opportunity to apply for is the state of Nevada was recently awarded \$17 million Victims of Crime Act Award (usually Nevada gets \$3 million) so staff put together a proposal targeting certain areas. Seniors are an underserved population under VOCA so the hope is to leverage some of those funds for case management, advocacy, and meals. We should have a response before the end of May; some of those dollars can offset some of the budget priorities. Also in talks with the state of Nevada regarding substance abuse and mental health block grant money that is still available. There are some good leads on looking outside the county for funds. The amount of VOCA monies requested was \$4.2 million for two years for Child Protective Services, adult and seniors, heavily weighted for children and seniors. There's another opportunity in January with the award of \$20 million.

Kevin stated that part of the strategic update is up to the commissioners as to where we want to head with funding priorities. The GST tax has been discussed; it's at the top level. We received \$180,000 in CIP requests specific to equipment for nutrition. We are evaluating the equipment in terms of creating additional meals. We have a small request for proposal to the grants manager in the

Manager's office in terms of strategic planning related to nutrition regarding the immediate need, along with the 2 and 5 year plan. Question is how to isolate the staffing for the equipment; either a second level of staffing or a second shift, how to store the meals. Connie asked if those funds will be spent on the strategic plan and Kevin stated that they are looking at spending it on a consultant to bring together some members of the business community to look at alternative ways to staff and use the equipment. And to look at perhaps getting in-kind donations to assist with some of that. Hoping to use some of the VOCA funds to get solutions going. Question about how to use the \$180,000 if we asked for four times that amount? The amount asked for was "in a perfect world" but the amount was broken down into segments that would meet our immediate needs. Key pieces of equipment can be replaced with modern equipment that will allow us to produce more meals in the short term. CIP funding is extremely limited, so getting more in following years may be difficult, with those funds needing to be spread across the entire county. We need to look at different ways of delivery for the nutrition program. The entire amount available county wide was \$3 million. Does the board need to advocate more or has the staff done as much as possible to advocate for funds? There may be funds in the indigent fund that we may be able to access by getting the BCC to approve the use of the funds through a staff report and then asking the liaisons on the board to help advocate at that time with the BCC.

10. *Budget update

a. Fiscal Year 2015/2016

Kevin – we are in the last quarter and are pretty much on track. We are not going to be in the red.

b. Fiscal Year 2016/2017

Kevin – Looking at the budget, across the county the majority of the positions were reclassifications of existing positions; new positions were very limited. There will be more detail in the next two weeks, because the final budget has to be submitted to the state upcoming. Presenting the budget as a powerpoint to the Board will become an annual event so the board can see what the budget look like. Where we need to do additional programming and where we want to access fund balance we will be seeing specific board items. It will create attention to what the needs are, for instance we are at capacity in less than a year on our meals so we can't wait six months to go to the board, so we will hopefully do that in August specific to what our action plan will be in terms of meals to access unrestricted funds.

11. *Senior Services / Integration Update

County Code drafts are circulating amongst county staff. The only component left is the code. Regarding the Board, potential options on meeting structure and concurrent meetings will be brought before the Board. The other discussion point is increased collaboration between Reno and Washoe County specific to how we crossover and do things together. Kevin spoke to Dr. Weiss and Donna about getting staff together and how we look at that structure. The code is being looked at so that it is not too limiting, but still has some structure. The budget was completed jointly. So if something comes in to Social Services that augments a fund that's already looking to be encumbered, we can free up those dollars and move them around to help the seniors. Also, there will be a more integrated human services lobbying effort in the legislature going into the session.

12. *Senior Services Program Updates

Kevin stated Advisory Board members will be assigned to different areas to advocate as a program liaison. Board members will give updates to the Board on their specific areas in this section of the agenda.

Amber stated they are looking at a “caring for you, caring for me” training which is free from the state. This is to train the staff and the public on training caregivers on how to care for their care recipients. It also includes a train the trainer component. This will start in June at the Sparks Senior Center. There is also a consultation hot line for struggling caregivers to call for support, respite. It’s available, but it’s through Las Vegas at the moment. We are looking at piloting the program here. we would need to train the person who would be dedicated to this. Unknown at this point if this needs to be staff or if it could be a volunteer.

Leslie spoke about Catholic Charities which has received funding to provide immunizations to seniors. We are building that program as part of our case management program.

There will be a big public information push on the Senior Ambassador Program now that all the collateral material is in place. Todd will be at the June meeting to provide the Board with an update.

Dennis mentioned that the blood pressure program. Leslie said that the clinic has been expanded to Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Reno Senior Center.

13. *Legislative Update

Connie reported that the Legislative Subcommittee met yesterday. Amber stated that the Commission on Aging went over the report they have been working on for most of the meeting. Amber and Leslie are looking at the list of meetings through ADSD, there are about ten and we don’t staff any of them presently. The list is being prioritized to see which to attend. Connie said the state needs to change the term for the advocates to four years instead of two because of the learning curve. One important item we are tracking is that the advocates are trying to discuss rate changes for providers. Connie spoke about putting in an increased rate request for the Personal Care Association and Medicaid accepted it and hopefully it will get approved in their budget. Increased rates were also submitted for Adult Day Health and residential homes. Leslie asked if there are committee meetings staff/board members should be attending. Connie listed Assembly Bill 9 – Veterans, Seniors & Adults with Special Needs, Acute Care Committee, Health Care Committee, Interim Finance Committee, both money committees, both committees on health, possibly the budget committees.

14. *Older Americans Month update

Donna reported on the Opening Ceremonies. Good lunch, light attendance, good attendance at the Info Fair, some people asked about volunteering. Leslie reported staff estimated we had about 450 people attend; about 390 people had lunch. Good feedback received from the seniors. Kevin stated that there were problems this year and the board needs to discuss how to improve the event next year. There were a significant number of people who had not been at the center before. Donna mentioned using the national slogan to get the word out earlier. Donna also talked about Baldini’s Health Fair – there were over 900 people attending, KOH was interviewing people. The Nugget Safety Fair is coming up and it’s a new event. Also there is a social media class coming up at the library.

15. *Emergency Assistance for available to seniors during an natural or manmade disaster – Dennis Chin

Kevin spoke about the need for a disaster recovery plan regarding nutrition and the need for storage capacity; this is a critical component. The County has a plan, but we need to work on carrying out the details.

Dennis mentioned that during an extended power outage the freezer (any freezer) will not be functioning. The need for backup power, generators, to be available for the storage of meals is critical.

Leslie spoke about the fact that Washoe County Senior Services has a continuity plan for meals and meal delivery, assisting seniors with necessary medications. The document is detailed and about 100 pages in length and very specific to each program. The continuity plan needs to be updated annually.

Kevin said that EOP/EOC is focused on assisting foster children and seniors first. Perhaps the Advisory Board would schedule a meeting at EOC to view the facility and see how it functions and have a presentation on the COOP.

Jeanne Herman stated that perhaps using refrigerated cargo containers for food storage would be something to look at. Diesel power is built in.

Dennis gave an example of the San Francisco earthquake of 1989, asking how people are to survive this kind of disaster and the need to be proactive in preparations.

16. *Senior Issues Forum discussion – Donna Clontz

Donna stated there was no report this month; Work will start after the primaries.

17. *Commission on Aging Update – Connie McMullen

Public hearing today (5/4/16) on their four year plan for the Older Americans Act money that goes off to the Center for Community Living. It's focused on staff; how are they going to implement person centered planning, it's slim on transportation and some benchmarks there. Guardianship Discharge Planners at the hospitals is a big issue; there have been public comments about problems with unsafe discharges. The report will be sent in by July.

Also there's a report called NRS439 on the tobacco settlement dollars, the Commission on Aging Grants Management Unit and Commission for Services for People with Disabilities. They did their report and it will go to the Strategic Planning Sub Committee and will come in to the new update. The tobacco settlement money is still available for some time.

The report from the Clark County DA was given by Mr. J. Raymond. There is an elder rights unit focusing on seniors that are passing away from elder abuse, people preying on them even guardians and those receiving hospice; they now want the coroner's office to examine the bodies because they are suspecting that some of the cases are murder. They want to form a team to examine these bodies because people just assume they dying of natural causes, but they are finding out that the victimized are passing away a few days later.

Donna – Chris Hicks, Washoe County DA will be asked to attend a future meeting and he can be asked about a similar team in Washoe County. Connie mentioned that she had asked Mr. Raymond if he had interfaced with the Washoe County DA and could she have a copy of the presentation for our DA and the Board.

Connie – February 23 is Legislative Update Day at the legislature and Jeff is still getting his report together. The Strategic Plan update, Social Entrepreneurs was hired (the only contractor out there). Should be done in January.

18. Agenda items for the next Board meeting.

Marsy – discuss the housing issue / shortage need to be addressed

Kevin – Tenant rights also needs to be discussed

Connie – The board has Lisa Howard from the Veterans Administration schedule for June

19. *Public comment.

Marsy - There were approximately 30 people at the Sun Valley Community Center on 4/29, with a live band and dancing. There were donated sodas, punch, casseroles. The people enjoyed the fact that there was something to drink besides milk.

There are empty barracks at the Stead Airport; perhaps working with the Air Guard and RTC, it might be place to look at for the housing problem.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.