



**JOINT MEETING
WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
AND
CITY OF RENO SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Approved Minutes**

**Wednesday – July 6, 2016
3:00 P.M. - Washoe County Senior Center
1155 E. 9th Street, Reno**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm by Dr. Larry Weiss. Because Donna Clontz serves on both boards (as an alternate on the WCSSAB), she chose to represent the City of Reno CAC during this meeting. City of Reno and County of Washoe met a quorum.

Present: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Dr. Larry Weiss, Connie McMullen, Dennis Chin, Wayne Alexander
 City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Wendy Boszak, Robert Mulvana, Donna Clontz, Stan Dowdy, Mac Rossi, Marsy Kupfersmith
Absent: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Victoria Edmondson
Excused: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Gary Whitfield
 City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Vanessa Dixon
Staff Present: **Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board:** Ken Retterath, Amber Howell, Leslie Williams, Diana E. Carter, Joti Bhakta
 City of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee: Leslie Smith, Darryl Feemster
Guests: Jeanne Herman, Washoe county Commissioner, Christopher Hicks, District Attorney, Michelle Bays, DA Investigator Supervisor, Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney

2. **Public Comment** – Marsy Kupfersmith thanked the District Attorney for coming to the meeting to explain their programs and in particular, as they pertain to seniors.

3. **Approval of Agenda for January 6, 2016 Meeting:** Dennis Chin motioned for the approval of the agenda for July 6, 2016 for WCSAB and Wayne Alexander seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSAB. Wendy Boszak motioned for the approval of the agenda for July 6, 2016 for SCAC and Marsy Kupfersmith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC.

4. **Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2016 Meeting:** Donna Clontz motioned for the approval of the minutes as corrected for April 6, 2015 for SCAC and Mac Rossi seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC. Dennis Chin motioned for the approval of the minutes as corrected for April 6, 2015 for WCSAB and Wayne Alexander seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSAB.

5. **Presentation from the Washoe County District Attorney's Office:** Chris Hicks states he is the newly appointed DA and would like everyone to know that one of his priorities is to open up the office. He gave an overview of the history of Nevada district attorneys and his work and case history. His goal is to create a district attorney office that the community can be proud of and he is looking forward to speaking to people to know what it is needed from the DA. It was stated that they believe in aggressively prosecuting repeat offenders, but he does believe in rehabilitation. Also, one of their priorities is that their victims are taken care of. Their office also represents Board of County Commissioners, the county agencies, Social Services, and collection of child support. The budget is \$22.2 million, and grants help offset some of the costs. The major functions of DA's office: handle all criminal prosecutions, it could be misdemeanors or felonies and that occur out of city limits. They also handle jury indictments. In 2015 charged over 21,000 criminal charges (misdemeanors, felonies, etc.). There is also the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) that is dedicated to investigating abuse against children. In 2015 the CAC received over 30 life sentences against child sexual predators. DA is well aware of senior victimization and they are working in creating a specialized unit for elder abuse and exploitation. Question from Dennis Chin: What is the major drug problem in WC? Chris Hicks stated it would be methamphetamines and heroine. Question from Donna Clontz: How are they handling elder abuse cases? Chris Hicks stated that at the moment there is one DA that handles these types of cases, but domestic battery or exploitation cases can also be sent to general felony teams. It was asked what seniors could do to help get the elder abuse unit started up and going and Chris Hicks stated that at the moment, they could let people know that this is something that is needed. It was also stated that at the CAC, the building is set up in a way that sexual assault victims could come in through the back and into a friendly environment. It was also stated that it is agreed that when a senior is starting to lose their mental faculties, it is important to document it with a doctor to be able to prove they have been abused. Robert Mulvana asked why there isn't any reward signs posted for information on investigations at locations like bus stops. Chris Hicks stated he could talk to law enforcement about reward signs, but he can't make police or RTC put out reward signs. It was asked if difficulty was encountered for prosecuting cases of elder exploitation because the senior may not want to testify against family or they might pass away before the legal procedure was complete. Chris Hicks stated that is certainly a problem and part of the hurdles for elder exploitation cases. Donna asked if DA does trainings with bank employees so that they are able notice any exploitation on senior bank accounts. Chris Hicks stated the office does not do any training with banks. Donna Clontz stated that a similar program like the CAC would be a good idea, but for seniors. Chris Hicks agreed, but stated that unfortunately society is reactive instead of proactive. It was asked how forfeitures work and Chris Hicks explained that there is a forfeiture deputy that files a civil law suit to seize the funds and usually the accused doesn't fight it back and the money is then distributed to law enforcement. It was asked if the DA office would be looking into combining senior services staff and child services staff; Chris Hicks stated that he did not believe logistically it would work.
6. **Business:**
- a. *Update and discussion of Center for Health Aging VISTA Program – Donna Clontz and Larry Weiss
Larry Weiss stated that VISTA Volunteers are in the process of being hired. The Program Coordinator, Polly Pollock, has been hired; the Development Coordinator is still open. Starting next week there will be two major foci – helping the City of Reno develop its enhanced services and developing a senior health advocate program (volunteer) – Marsy Kupfersmith has already volunteered for being

an advocate. The advocates would assist in linking seniors with programs to assist them. Donna Clontz mentioned that there was an article in the Senior Spectrum about the VISTA program.

- b. Discussion regarding candidate forums and advocacy for senior issues with policymakers including identification of issues, candidates and dates for forums – Donna Clontz said that it was time to start planning the forums. Candidates who will be invited would be ones who would have an impact on senior issues. It was planned to split the forums according to areas – city, county, state, federal and ballot questions. It's planned to hold the forums in late September to mid-October. The planning volunteers are Stan Dowdy, Marsy Kupfersmith, Wendy Boszak and Connie McMullen.
- c. *Update on Commission on Aging meetings – Connie McMullen reported that July 19th is the next meeting. The Strategic Plan Sub-Committee is going to start updates on the strategic plan. The state wants to do an update on their Olmstead plan. They want to require the advocates to do some actual advocacy in the community to serve. They are trying to get advocates to be able to serve for a longer time on the Commission – it's now a 2 year term with one re-up, with the Governor appointing members. The Committee on Post-Acute Care had their work session and came out with a bill to raise the Medicaid reimbursement rates. The chairman recommended Medicaid rates be reviewed regularly. Another bill is to tie personal care in any residential facility, that personal care people can do vital signs. This would be important in the rural counties more than in Las Vegas. The State Ombudsman is the one who advocates for the needs of nursing home residents and there is a BDR requesting more funds to acquire more ombudsmen.
- d. *Update and discussion on Stuff-A-Bus – Joti Bhakta reported on the results of the recent Stuff-A-Bus activity (see attached for list). She also stated that having the Elder Gap funding available to assist seniors has been great; she listed some of the items that have been purchased/paid. The donations were significantly less than the activity in the fall; it also included a bunch of used items that we couldn't use and were donated to St. Vincent's. Some of the items, such as cleaning supplies and hygiene items are useful for our clients. Donna Clontz mentioned that most of the items are currently stored in a closet in the Reno Center's Multipurpose Room. She mentioned the generosity of the people who donated. She spoke about the barrels out in the community, perhaps having a shorter list of needs, and what would make it easier on both groups to collect and be helpful for the seniors. Joti Bhakta mentioned that needed items would be Wal-Mart gift cards, no medical equipment (Care Chest handles those items), cash donations (for instance to help pay a power bill so it doesn't get shut off), bus passes and such less specific items. Larry Weiss mentioned that the Santa for Seniors program has been successful because they ask the client directly to find out what they need most. Joti mentioned the number of clients (300-500 congregate clients) and the inability to ask them for their needs individually, unless they contact us. There was a discussion on the types of items that are most needed; the list includes cleaning supplies, diapers, hygiene items, and gift cards.
- e. *Report on 2016-2017 Reno Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Strategic Plan – Donna Clontz handed out copies of The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee Strategic Plan for 2016-2018 (see attached). This is info for the discussion in #6g. She stated that the main items that are to be focused on are transportation improvements, enhanced communication methods for seniors, and expanded resources for seniors.
- f. Discussion of frequency and topics for future joint meetings (For possible action)– Donna Clontz spoke to the idea of joint topics/projects, for instance, last April's meeting and this current meeting and the idea of choosing topics to further the separate agendas of Washoe County and the City of Reno and to provide information. As an example, October could be the topic of housing for seniors. Robert Mulvana spoke about the transportation needs between Carson City and Reno and how the transportation service is not doing a very good job of being readily available. Larry Weiss mentioned three main areas to look at – transportation, housing, and advocacy and after these, they can look at having an educational session of mismanagement of medication . Dennis Chin mentioned that one area that hasn't been looked at is prescription drug abuse and how it seems seniors might be taking less prescription medicine because they cannot easily afford it. Larry Weiss stated that if anyone

knows someone that takes 5 or more medications, to refer them to a geriatric pharmacist. Connie McMullen with WCSCAB made a motion to move forward; Dennis Chin seconded the motion; it passed unanimously. Stan Dowdy with SCAC made a motion to move forward; Donna Clontz seconded the motion. There was a discussion about the number and frequency of the joint meetings. After the discussion the motion passed unanimously.

- g. Update and discussion and possible approval of shared goals and objectives between the Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board (For possible action) – Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz

7. **City of Reno Staff Report** – Darryl Feemster reported on the Senior Games. Reno Tahoe Senior Summer games registration is open and the games will go on for 2 weeks. Last year they had a success financial year and are looking forward for more programs and services.

8. **Washoe County Staff Report** – Ken Retterath reported that the code change is still going through. The building for the TADS (Temporary Aid to Displaced Seniors) program on the NMS campus is coming along. VOCA grant was awarded. This will also fund a new position in the Nutrition Program.

9. **Member Announcements –**

Marsy Kupfersmith stated that The Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale this weekend (July 9-10)

Donna Clontz announced that Commissioner Jung gave \$9500 of her discretionary fund for a study for tracking/training Washoe County employees who are caregivers; \$7000 to the Sanford Center; and \$3000 to County Parks to do some senior activities.

Mac Rossi urged those members living in the city limits to attend their local NAB meeting.

Connie McMullen mentioned that the senior (85+) and children less than 14 suicide rate is increasing at an alarming rate and is the highest in the state. Ken stated that Washoe County has the highest suicide rate in the state.

10. **Identification of Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Donna Clontz requested that senior housing be the topic for the next joint meeting

Wendy Boszak suggested that isolation be discussed

Requested a report on the suicide rate of seniors at a future meeting

11. **Public Comment** – There was a reminder that the next joint meeting will be in October.

12. **Adjournment-** Dennis Chin motioned for Adjournment for the WCSAB and Connie McMullen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the WCSAB. Donna Clontz motioned for Adjournment for the SCAC and Mac Rossi seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously for the SCAC. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.