



MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

August 3, 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

Jeanne Herman, BCC

Donna Clontz, At-Large

ABSENT (EXCUSED)

Gary Whitfield
Dr. Larry Weiss
Marsy Kupfersmith,
Alternate

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Amber Howell
Ken Retterath
Diana E. Carter

ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Victoria Edmondson

3. *Public Comment –

Dennis Chin spoke about the San Francisco Chronicle's article regarding the homeless population in the bay area. He asked about the homeless population in Washoe County and what proportion is classified as seniors and why are they homeless? Amber Howell replied that there is a report recently done by the State of Nevada Housing Division which lists by county the homeless population rate and lists age by percentage; the rates for seniors is increasing. Some of the reasons include the increase in rental costs, seniors are being displaced from abuse and exploitation.

4. *Member Announcements –

Donna Clontz spoke about the group of seniors playing beanbag baseball at the senior center and will be participating in the Senior Games. The group would like to teach seniors at the nutrition sites if they would be interested. Ken suggested that they go to the sites at lunchtime.

Connie McMullen announced that Senior Fest will be on September 6 from 9-2 at Reno Town Mall. It's free and open to the public.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on August 3, 2016.

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on June 1, 2016.

Motion to approve the Minutes as corrected (#15 – Jane's last name is Gruner) was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Special Meeting on July 6, 2016.

Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

8. *Strategic Plan and Budget Update – Amber Howell

Amber Howell reported that the budget went in at the end of June. Social Services was awarded the VOCA grant in the amount of \$1.7 million; a portion of that will fund a Senior Nutrition Program Coordinator, who will supervise the congregate and home delivered meal program, including eligibility, the wait list, and case management. Also received was seed money from the VOCA grant (\$48,000) for mental health assistance at the 9th street center. The state awarded \$47,000 for seed money for mental health assistance, for a total of about \$100,000 total. There will be a provider agreement template so the client can go wherever they want without a wait list. We will be able to respond to the immediate need. We would probably look at hiring MFTs (Marriage and Family Therapists) for individual counseling and referrals.

9. Discussion and assignment of Advisory Board liaisons to Senior Services programs and initiatives

Amber Howell asked about the liaison sign ups. The board replied that they were waiting for the list to sign up. Donna Clontz stated that she had not received any information from the groups she had signed up with last June. Amber stated that a list will be put together so that the Advisory Board will have a better idea of what is involved with being liaisons to the different programs.

10. *Senior Services / Integration Update

Amber Howell stated that the code changes are done, but they still need to go before the Board of county Commissioners twice to be voted on. Hope to wrap it up in August or September. Connie McMullen asked how it was going so far. Amber replied that staff and funding mergers were being worked through. Connie asked about Leslie Williams' transfer; Amber explained that she has taken a promotion into the fiscal unit that supports Social Services. The Director position was reclassified to a Coordinator position. Ken Retterath will be the Division Director for Seniors and Adult Services. Leslie's old position will be reclassified to a Grants Coordinator to assist both divisions.

Dennis Chin requested a flow chart of the organization be given to the Advisory Board once the integration is complete.

Donna Clontz asked for clarification of Leslie Williams' new and old positions. Amber stated that Leslie's title is now a Fiscal Manager; her old position is being reclassified to a Grants Coordinator.

Dennis Chin asked about the role of the Advisory Board once the integration is complete. Amber stated that the board will still function as it does now; just the staff will be different. Connie McMullen asked about replacing positions that were cut; Amber said the department needs to see where the gaps are once the integration is complete. Dennis asked if there were plans to increase the cost of the meals. Ken and Amber said that there were no current plans to look at the rate structure change. What needs to be looked at is the size of the facility, mostly the kitchen, with the needs of the nutrition programs.

11. *Senior Services Program Updates

Amber Howell stated that the Sun Valley site participation is increasing. Ken Retterath stated that the sign at the site is being worked on. The county changed the sign ordinance and the County is still working on it, and the Sun Valley GID now has the sign design and is researching where to put it. Donna Clontz asked if staff is still meeting with Sun Valley seniors and Sparks seniors. Ken replied that staff needs to go out to Sun Valley, but everything seems to be running smoothly; there have been no complaints. Amber stated that with staff out there full time, past problems should be able to be avoided.

Connie asked about the TADS building. Amber stated that approval was given by the BCC to move into the property. The furniture and furnishings have all been purchased; Crossroads clients are cleaning up the landscaping and painting. There are sixteen beds. The roof has been replaced at no cost to the County. It is in a quiet area off by itself.

Donna Clontz asked about the award received by Crossroads. Amber stated that the award should go to Kevin Schiller, Deputy Marston, and Ken Retterath for heading up the Crossroads project. The award was given by NACO; Crossroads received the Health and Human Services Achievement Award, out of hundreds of entities. Adding the senior component is a timely necessity; that's where the age group is going.

Dennis Chin spoke about the homeless in New York getting assistance at the New York State Government Building, and the fact that group all seemed to know and look out for each other. He asked about the Reno area homeless. Ken Retterath said the local homeless, smaller groups of them. Seem to know each other and where the resources are. Amber Howell spoke about the police/sheriff calling about where to take the seniors that they are called out about and the fact that there are just not enough beds/places to safely put the seniors in need. Dennis asked about homelessness caused by drugs. Amber stated that there are no certain answers; whether drugs or mental health issues cause the homelessness or the other way around. Usually they are co-occurring.

Donna Clontz stated that October Joint Meeting will be focusing on housing and homelessness. The board will want to think about who they want to come and speak to the board about the homeless senior population (50+). Amber suggested that the October meeting be held at the TADS facility. Donna asked for 2-3 speakers for that meeting and suggestions on how the board can help with the problem. Dennis asked about having the press at the October meeting; Connie asked if everyone would be comfortable with that. Ken suggested that the board doesn't have the solutions; the problems are complex, it might not be the best time to invite the media to attend. Amber suggested having the media attend the opening of the TADS facility. There was discussion on the increasing rents, sewer costs, and business taxes in the local area; along with the increase in the population.

12. *Senior Issues Forum Updates

Donna Clontz went over the draft flyer that she handed out (attached) regarding the schedule for the candidate forums to be held in September and October. Invitations are being sent out. Gerlach and Incline GIDs have candidates, but since they probably won't come into town for a forum, local races were concentrated on. Ken asked if staff was informed. Donna said that all of the sites had been approved. Discussion on number of candidates, amount of time for the forum, and locations was done. Donna said that the flyers will be printed on 8/5/16 and sent out. An issue sheet with bulleted facts will be handed out at the forums, along with follow-up activities for senior advocates to attend.

13. *Commission on Aging Update

Connie McMullen stated that they are working on the white papers and issues. The legislative sub-committee meeting is coming up soon. Most of the issues will be discussed on February 23rd at the Commission on Aging Legislative Forum Day at the legislature. A room is rented, food is available and legislators are invited to stop by and are handed a copy of the white paper with 5-6 issues, what we are asking for, and why we are looking for their support. The advocates that meet with the legislators need to be reminded to stick to the issues on the white paper. Donna said that the Reno Senior committee is working on a legislative day and is working with RTC to have vans available to take seniors to the legislature on a more regular basis when there is a bill hearing on senior issues. Ken said the advocates need to be trained on how to testify.

14. Agenda Items for the next Board meeting.

Donna - Update on Candidate Forums for September
Items for 10/5 Joint Meeting – housing / homelessness
Donna - Advocacy Forums
Connie - Agenda items #8-11 should be standing items
Dennis – Report by the HOPES nurse on activities

15. *Public comment.

Augustine Jorquez reported on the fire out near Red Rock / Sutcliff / Hungry Valley and the affected residents and their needs. There were no fatalities, but much damage to people homes and properties. Dennis asked about items from Stuff-A-Bus; Connie told him to speak to Joti Bhakti.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.