



## MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 7, 2016

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

- 1. Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Connie McMullen.
- 2. Roll Call** – Connie McMullen asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

### WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

#### PRESENT

Connie McMullen  
Marsy Kupfersmith  
Barbara Korosa  
Dennis Chin

Donna Clontz, Alternate  
Wayne Alexander  
Garth Elliot

#### ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)

Dr. Larry Weiss \*  
Gary Whitfield\*  
Sandra Dexter\*  
Ken Romeo\*  
Stan Dowdy, \* Alternate

### WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Ken Retterath  
Sandra Vasquez  
Abby Badolato  
Leslie Admirand

### ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Victoria Edmondson

### 3. \*Public Comment –

Sarah Deardorff from the public stated she is from Sierra Senior Services; they are the Meals on Wheels provider for Incline Village and North Lake Tahoe region. She expressed her thanks for providing services to the community for the past 3 years and stated there has been over 50 participants and currently there are 33 volunteers. The program is about the medical need for services for individuals who aren't able to stand and fix their own meals. Hot meal delivery is from Monday through Friday, weekends, holidays, and as needed. This year they will over serve their budget and perhaps in the next cycle they might be able to talk about possibilities to increase the needs for the seniors in the area.

Dennis Chin commented he heard on TV that Olive Garden announced they will deliver phoned in orders to homes.

Garth Elliot commented that Meals On Wheels in Gerlach is something of life or death since it's so small and with minimal services, the delivery of Meals On Wheels makes a big difference to the community.

Marsy Kupfersmith commented she would like to introduce Donald Abbott, the new Sparks City Councilman. Donald Abbott commented he tried to look for the meeting minutes of previous months, but he was not able to get them. Connie McMullen and Ken Retterath stated they will check on the posting of the minutes.

#### **4. \*Member Announcements –**

Donna Clontz announced the City of Reno monthly calendar of events (see attachment) welcomes everyone and people can call to be added to the electronic distribution list. There is also a guide for elder services (see attachment) which was produced through the Vista Grant. Polly Pollack (from public) added to Donna's announcement that Dr. Weiss wanted her to share about the advocacy program where there will be educational sessions for seniors to help them navigate resources in the community. This will be launched in January and any volunteers or seniors that need the advocacy program are welcome.

#### **5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 7, 2016.**

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Garth Elliot with change to #15 from Marsy Kupfersmith to Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 2, 2016.**

Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. \*Introduction of Abby Badolato**

Abby stated she has worked for the county for 13 years at Children Services and worked on almost everything in the department and she is happy to learn about Senior Services. Donna Clontz asked about Abby's location in case someone needs to find her. Abby stated she is mostly housed at Adult Services and sometimes she's at the senior center office and other times at the different senior centers; but it is easier to reach her by email.

Donna stated to the board that where Abby's main office is at Adult Services, the senior social workers are also located in the same area.

Dennis Chin asked if a senior needs services, do they need to go to Adult Services, Ken Retterath stated they do not, social workers can go to senior services to provide assistance and the front desk staff is also good at providing service information.

#### **8. \*Update and Discussion Regarding Setting the Board Agenda – Ken Retterath**

Ken stated he set up a meeting with the chair and the vice-chair because that's what the by-laws say. During the last process there were emails going out with different people and they have to be careful with that so that there is no violation of the open meeting law. He talked about how to set up the Board Agenda, part of it starting with the current meeting; everyone as a public meeting and a public body can have their input on board items when the item for 'Agenda Items for Next Meeting' comes up. Members can also talk to the chair, the vice-chair, Marsy and

himself and ask if something can be put on. What cannot be done is to get a group of people that go outside the By-Laws to do that. He would like for everyone to stay within the Open Meeting Law and the Board meeting is a good place to talk about upcoming agenda items. Donna Clontz asked that if there was an email about the agenda and the chair made sure only 4 on the group were giving feedback, then there wouldn't be a violation of the Open Meeting Law. Leslie Admirand replied that technically there wouldn't be a violation, but there are different scenarios that could happen that can spiral out. Ken stated there is a set meeting for the Monday the week before the meeting day to set the agenda. Donna asked that because the chair, Dr. Weiss, asked her to participate in the meeting to set the agenda and as long as a quorum is not present, then it's technically not a violation of the Open Meeting Law. Ken stated while the scenario does not violate the Open Meeting Law, they would still need to be careful because anyone in the group may also ask to be included in the meeting, he would like to have what is being done to be transparent and okayed by the members. Donna stated she would like to discuss in the future the issues that are associated with the By-Laws; she also asked if a motion can be made to allow the chair to add a person to the agenda setting meeting, Leslie Admirand stated that is not something that can be done at this meeting.

**9. \*Report and Update from Todd Acker on the Volunteer Ambassador Program for the Senior Nutrition Program**

Todd is out ill; item will be postponed until next meeting.

**10. \*Update and report from WCSSAB members on liaison assignments**

Ken Retterath stated that if this is something that is going to be done, then they need to figure out how to do it so it's useful. For example, the concept would be to bring back materials from meetings such as the Mental Health Coalition and if someone had an update then it could be put on the agenda. Ken believes part of the idea was also to get members out in the community and learn about the different areas. Marsy Kupfersmith suggested that maybe they could invite people as guest speakers, instead of them going out to meetings. Donna Clontz stated her understanding of this item was that each member would be signing up in a program and actually go and be a part of the coalition and become advocates and be more effective. Ken and Connie agree that if someone has something to report, then they can report under member announcements. Donna stated she would like to bring back this item in a later meeting after everyone has had time to think about it because her concern is that reports will get lost under member announcements. Dennis Chin commented that mental health is something that is needed in the community because many seniors have depression problems.

**11. \*Discussion and possible approval for joint programs with Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, such as Stuff-A-Bus, Senior Day at the Legislature, Older American Month, Co-Sponsorship of seminars on affordable housing and financial security, transportation, and other topics**

Donna stated Stuff-A-Bus ends that day, flyers were handed out (see attachment). RTC provides a bus and the community is asked to go and stuff the bus and then delivers the bus full of items to the WCSS. She would really like to see a joint effort from city, county, and school district employees to join in and make this event more effective. Ken agrees that there is opportunity to make it happen and have more people join this event.

Donna stated Older American Month is coming up in May and the Administration for Community Living comes up with a theme and the logos. There is a joint arrangement and volunteers from the city and county are needed. Connie said this can be worked on after the first of the year. Connie stated Senior Day at the Legislature is the Commission On Aging Day and there is training going on but it's not really designed for it to be everyone's platform to speak. In the previous year there were a lot of voices, but none were reflective on Commission On Aging and the event needs to be better organized, Donna agrees. Donna handed out a flyer (see attachment) titled Speak Out For Seniors 2017 and stated it is a draft and is looking for the "okay and agreement" from the WCSSAB, SCAC, and Senior Coalition. Ken asked if the joint meeting is to talk about advocacy and Donna replied that the joint meeting will be a training about advocacy and the speakers will be providing the training to the committees and the programs. Connie has concerns with training people that don't have public speaking. Leslie Admirand stated this item is an action item and action can be taken. Connie asked if there is a motion for approval of participating in the joint programs of this item; Marsy Kupfersmith motions to approve and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **12. \*Discussion on Adult Day Program**

Ken stated they have been working with Nevada Senior Services to look at the Daybreak Program. They would like to see what they can do better and how the program can be enhanced, and what other services can be brought into the community. As things progress, Ken stated he will bring back information to the board. Connie stated that would be a good idea because people are talking and they would like to know what is going on. Connie also explained that there is a rate increase proposed in the legislative budget and Ken replied that the reimbursement for Adult Day care is per cost and he would need to see how the bill is written to see if it applies to Adult Day Program.

#### **13. \*Senior Services/Integration Update – Ken Retterath**

Leslie Admirand stated that they are getting close to the integration. They had to retype the chapter to have the ordinance format needed and then it will be proofed and moved forward. Ken stated it should be done by end of February.

#### **14. \*Senior Services Program Updates – Ken Retterath**

Ken stated budget season will be starting soon; at the morning's Capital Improvement Planning meeting a request was put in to increase food program since the kitchen is at maximum capacity and it looks like it was received favorably. Ken also stated a grant award of about \$47,000 was received for mental health and they have been going back and forth with the state to look at the scope of service and what may be provided for mental services. Also, when he and Abby were at the Senior Fest, Abby was able to talk to RTC about providing bus services for Senior Day at the Legislature and RTC would like a list of how many people would need the bus service. Ken reported TADS is up and running and currently there are 2 clients and are hoping to do a soft opening of the building. Connie asked if someone would be evicted from their home, if TADS would be a place where a senior could go. Donna reported she spoke to a senior and she mentioned that her friend tried going into the TADS program, but they said it was full. Connie asked if a senior would go into the TADS programs and they had a pet, would they be able to take their pet with them. Ken stated they might, but they also may work with animal services to place

a displaced senior's pet. There is also a Low Income Housing Committee that gets together and if a report is needed on what they are doing, it can be added to a future agenda.

**15. \*Senior Issues and Advocacy Forums Update – Donna Clontz**

Donna reported that speakers were invited to the upcoming joint meeting to talk. It will be information on how to be an effective advocate; Amber Joiner from Assembly District 24 will be followed by Commission on Aging topics. Sally Ramm, the attorney for ADSD will also be presenting an update on Bill Draft Resolutions (BDR) related to senior issues. There will also be an opportunity for both county and city to talk about issues and learn how to do public comment and know who the elected people are. Donna explained that 2 years ago there was a group of seniors that were trained and they went to Senior Day at the Legislature and they had appointments and talked to their elected officials about senior issues. Garth Elliot stated Commissioners Hartung and Herman are the commissioners primarily responsible for senior issues. Donna stated that though Herman may not attend all Board meetings, seniors are being represented and are a priority in the Commissioners Meetings; seniors are 1 of 6 major topics at the meetings. Donna also reported that the new Sparks council member is supportive of seniors and there have been discussions about starting a new Sparks Senior Advisory Committee. Connie also reported that Commissioner Jung is coming back and will be the liaison for the board.

**16. \*Commission on Aging Update-Connie McMullen**

Connie McMullen stated they are still waiting on Jeff Kline to provide the agenda for Senior Day at Legislature, Barry Gold from AARP was putting it together with the speakers. They also have a new director, Eddie Ableser, who is drafting a letter with Sally Ramm to the governor in opposition to the managed care proposal. The state is conducting a study on total managed care and the final study proposal will be out the end of January.

**17. Agenda Items for the next Board meeting**

Report and update from Todd Acker  
Update and report on liaison assignments  
Update on joint meetings  
Standing item of Adult Day Program  
Senior Services/Integration Update  
Senior Advocacy  
Discussion of By-Laws, not action month

**18. \*Public comment.**

Garth stated to save a pine tree and he is an expert on festivity. Marsy expressed her thanks to Connie and Chris for working with Baldini's at the Health Fair. Connie stated it was really Baldini's event because they like to do something for December and they help with getting people to attend.

**19. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Marsy Kupfersmith and seconded by Wayne Alexander. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.