



**Senior Advisory Board
Joint Meeting
Washoe County Human Services Agency
Draft Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 3, 2019
3:00 pm
Evelyn Mount Northeast Community Center
Tuscarora Room
1301 Valley Rd., Reno**



1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by Donna Clontz at 3:00 pm.

Present: **WCHSASAB:** Dr. Larry Weiss, Stan Dowdy, Jennifer McMenemy, Marsy Kupfersmith, Donna Clontz, Barbara Korosa, Rick Sorensen.

City of Reno SCAC: Donna Clontz, Vanessa Dixon, Barbara Deavers, Mac Rossi, Linda Musselman, Francisco "Paco" Poli.

Absent: **WCHSASAB:** James Doyle, Garth Elliott, Sarah Deardorff.

City of Reno SCAC: Wendy Boszak.

Staff Present: Brad Fitch-Community Liaison, Sandra Vasquez-Community Liaison, Steve McBride, Abby Badolato, Leslie Admirand-Deputy District Attorney

2. Public Comment –

The office of the City of Reno Mayor makes a proclamation for the Older American Month. May 2019 is proclaimed Older Americans Month.

Abby Badolato announces April 1, RTC Washoe Senior Ride will implement a new process for taxi vouchers. Seniors will need to get their own cards.

This is taking place only at RTC on Fourth Street, Reno and Victorian Square, Sparks.

Marsy stated the Senior Coalition meeting is Friday morning and there will be a presentation on senior transportation.

3. Member Announcements

April 4th at 11:00 am at the Sparks Senior Center there will be the unveiling a plaque for Forest Lawson.

4. Approval of the Agenda: April 3, 2019 (For Possible Action)

SCAC: Mac Rossi makes a motion, seconded by Linda Musselman. All in favor, motion passes.

WCHSASAB: Rick Sorensen makes a motion, seconded by Jennifer McMenemy. All in favor, motion passes.

5. Approval of the Minutes: January 2, 2019 (For Possible Action)

SCAC: Francisco “Paco” Poli makes a motion, seconded by Vanessa Dixon. All in favor, motion passes.
WCHSASAB: Barbara Korosa makes a motion, seconded by Rick Sorenson. All in favor, motion passes.

6. Update on City of Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Marsy Kupfersmith and Donald Abbott.

Kupfersmith states they met with the new Sparks City Manager and were shown support. May will be the first meeting and they will elect officers. There may be a facilitator brought in. The Sparks City Manager would like to do a presentation at a future meeting concerning the City of Sparks budget and outreach.

7. Presentation: City of Reno and Washoe County ideas and planning for future senior programs and services in the North Valleys – Reno Council Member Bonnie Weber and Washoe County Commissioner Kitty Jung.

Weber states she and Commissioner Kitty Jung have been in conversation concerning the North Valleys and she has information to share.

For the first time there will be a parade down Stead Blvd. for the Air Races, taking place on Saturday, September 7th.

Weber would like to use the parade as a way to bring the community together.

There may be the opportunity to have the County help them transform the community center at the North Valleys Regional Park into a senior center with congregate meal service, and help people within the community.

Weber has similar experience in creating a senior center in Cold Springs.

Jung states they are also working together to start a dog park in the North Valleys.

The County is a co-sponsor for the Stead Blvd. parade.

They are looking for volunteers for the parade, and volunteers for cleanup, which will be in conjunction with Job Corps. The goal is to beautify the entire area. There is the idea of having a float/car for the parade; any volunteers or suggestions would be welcome.

Anyone interested in volunteering, or has any ideas; suggestions or comments for the parade can contact Bonnie Weber and Kitty Jung.

8. Presentation: UNR Sanford Center’s new Volunteer Mobility Program and related transportation studies for community elders - Kelley MacMillan, Director of Community and Social Services

There is an issue, which is that seniors are in need of transportation to medical appointments/services and they do not have that service.

They really wanted to learn what older people/people with disabilities enjoyed doing outside of the home and asked.

Another thing they looked at is how older adults/adults with disabilities are incorporated within public transportation.

They organized a community gathering and asked how those people were socially engaged and what the barriers that get in the way are.

The most common answer was there is no transportation. The information was taken and put into an online survey.

Some of the answers included people just liked to window shop, and go to craft stores, community events, Art Town, and museums but were held back by a lack of transportation.

Many people were interested in community engagement; they wanted to volunteer, give back to the community.

There are issues surrounding not just transportation but physical ability as well; accessibility becomes an issue.

There is the idea of having Ambassadors on the bus lines, giving information on what events are going on in town.

Group discounts is another idea.

MacMillan talks to different groups about these issues, while also speaking to people who are in the transportation business.

His goal is to share information; anyone who needs that information to share with others (businesses, committees, etc.) he would be glad to share.

Bonne Weber comments. In the past she has done a lot of activities concerning transportation and seniors, including meetings and talking about transportation issues. Also, RTC was working on providing transportation methods for seniors and Weber asked if anything came of it.

Connie stated RTC branched out to local people in the community, which included Access to Healthcare, Seniors and Service and RSVP to have the community provide transportation alternatives, as they could not provide everything.

Weber asks for the statistics from MacMillan.

Marsy Kupfersmith comments; another issue is that because seniors cannot afford to live where there are a lot of activities and community interaction, they move further and further out where buses don't run.

Donna Clontz states they will have to move on to another item due to time constraints. Seniors and transportation can be brought back for a future agenda item.

9. Presentation: Opportunities and barriers to developing and building local affordable rental housing for seniors – Gary Lee

Having a background in housing within the Bay Area, Lee can see similarities to what is happening in Reno. The Reno industry is developing very rapidly and this brings in a lot of people.

This brings up the issue of if you are on a fixed income, you are getting left behind. Prices will continue to rise, along with rent/housing.

With advances in medicine people are living longer; there is now an entire group of people (seniors) who are living longer with fixed incomes or are retired. In 2010 there were 51,000 seniors in Washoe County. In 2030 there will be 99,000.

Younger seniors are going to live a longer time and half don't have the assets or money to thrive.

Most of the community doesn't even realize that there is a senior housing crisis. The question is now how will we get more housing units, and how can we make them affordable?

There is also the need for more education, particularly within the City Council who says yes or no to developments. They are refusing a lot of developments and housing and it is creating the housing crisis issue.

In the next several years they will need something like 25,000 to 50,000 more low income units and it won't happen with contractors because they won't make money.

The community needs to come together to help solve the issue.

The Tesla abatement will run out in another five years. When industrial is put in, they aren't building housing for the surplus of workers.

Reno needs affordable housing, but as of yet there aren't any concrete solutions.

Jennifer Lee (from public) asked about rent control. Gary Lee stated rent control comes up as a solution, but rent control does not create more units – people don't leave them. Rent control won't help seniors. What is really needed is thousands of more housing units.

10. Business:

- a. **Reports, updates and possible recommendations on advisory board and committee members' shared issues and goals worksheet for Housing, Advocacy, Communication, Data Planning, Transportation, Food, Social and Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteers, Financing and Social and Health Services. (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz states that they are reporting back with information they have learned about the above issues.

There are some affordable units going in on Sage Street.

Clontz asks Wendy Boszak to look into companies providing housing within Reno and report back with any information.

Dr. Larry Weiss suggests getting someone within the Committee to speak about possible solutions.

Clontz states the Committee can take part in advocacy.

Wendy Boszak states she was at Legislature on Monday and there is a bill – when rent is increased more than 10% they are required to give a 90 day notice.

Clontz asks Boszak to research the bill.

Vanessa Dixon states she recently went to Nevada Legal and will come back with information.

Jennifer McMenemy states she would like to be added to this group. There is a program in which community lawyers help senior citizens; she can reach out to the Nevada State Bar and see if there is the possibility of an 'ask a lawyer' senior day.

- b. **Discussion, update and possible recommendations for Older Americans Month 2019 (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz states from the previous minutes there was a discussion to get all these ideas together, however other ideas have come from outside agencies for Older Americans Month.

The booklet is going to be smaller – pocket sized for easier carrying. The book is in progress and will be out mid-April.

- c. **Discussion, update and possible recommendations on Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors 2019 (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss, Donna Clontz, and Chris Ciarlo**

Donna Clontz comments. This year it will be hosted at Sams Club for two days the weekend before Memorial Day.

On May 1st the Aces are hosting a special baseball game for seniors and they will have two for one tickets for people that donate. There will be a need for some members to attend to answer questions.

- d. **Discussion and possible recommendation to co-host a community seminar regarding current senior mental health issues and services, including topics relating to suicide prevention, elder abuse, law enforcement programs, and policies in dealing crimes against elders, training seniors and staff in techniques to prevent, and de-escalate and defuse negative social interactions with others. (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz comments that negativity and bullying within senior spaces is an issue. There is the idea of learning the skill of how to diffuse those kinds of situations.

This can be a future agenda item. Included can be suicide prevention and help for mental issues for the community.

Rick Sorensen comments that state prisons teach alternatives to violence; a lot of those activities could crossover to senior bullying issues.

Donna Clontz states that both groups can research and come back to a future joint meeting with more information.

- e. Update of legislation affecting seniors at the Nevada Legislature and discussion and possible action regarding advocacy for senior issues with policymakers, including identification of issues and dates for future advocacy training and workshops. (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz recommends board members focus on an item they are interested in and coming back with information.

- f. Report, discussion and possible recommendations regarding age-friendly communities sponsored by AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) throughout Washoe County, Reno and Sparks. (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss and Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz comments. There have been monthly group meetings with some progress on action plans. A lot of interest is in transportation and working with Lyft rides for seniors. It is in progress.

- 11. City of Reno Staff Report – None at time of posting.**

- 12. Washoe County Human Services Agency Staff Report – Update and discussion of senior nutrition program - Abby Badolato, Senior Services Program Coordinator**

On the subject of volunteers, when the math is broken down it is equivalent to 54 full time employees. In that context, they would not survive without them. Volunteers are very important. There are brochures for the Day Break program, which does congregate meals. The Day Break program doesn't currently have a waiting list.

- 13. Agenda items for the next Joint Board meeting in July 2019 (For Possible Action)**

Mac Rossi states he would like to see information on legal issues.

Rossi would also like to see an update on the downtown Ambassador program.

Barbara Deavers would like to see information on the conference for coping.

- 14. Public Comment**

Nate Nolten, regional representative from Jacky Rosen's office introduces himself.

Mac Rossi comments that Council Member Jardon stepped in to help pay for nutritional snacks for seniors. He would like to recognize and thank her.

- 15. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

City of Reno SCAC: Francisco "Paco" Poli makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mac Rossi. All in favor, motion passes.

WCHSASAB: Stan Dowdy makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick Sorensen. All in favor, motion passes.