



**MINUTES OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

July 7, 2021

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512  
Game Room  
&  
Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUszMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

1. **\*Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:18 p.m. by Chair- Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. **\*Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESENT VIRTUALLY**

Dr. Larry Weiss  
Linda Hardie  
Deborah Whitehouse  
Sarah Deardorff

Pamela Roberts  
Hawah Ahmad  
Donna Clontz

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

\* Barbara Korosa  
\*James Doyle  
Mark Miranda  
\*Rick Sorensen

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Steve McBride  
Abby Willrich

Sandra Vasquez  
Herbert Kaplan (DA)

**ADVISOR PRESENT**

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**  
Victoria Edmondson  
Connie McMullen

3. **\*Public Comment** –  
None.
4. **\*Member Announcements** –  
Donna stated the Senior Games will happen this year. City of Reno will have information coming in their website.

Donna also states she was interested in the library at the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Senior Center and when they will be fully open for the seniors. Tech Café is one of the activities that is very popular with seniors and they are not looking at being fully open until September.

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on July 7, 2021 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Pamela Roberts and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on June 2, 2021 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Deborah Whitehouse. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. \*Presentation regarding Wellness Programs from Sanford Center for Aging – Hannah Linden, Director of Wellness Programs**

*Attachments:* [Sanford Center for Aging Wellness Programs list \(washoecounty.us\)](#)  
[Sanford Center Wellness Programs 2021 \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Hannah presents on wellness programs (see attachment). Currently there are 5 programs and are all free to join and are through Zoom; the age for participation is 55 and older. The phone numbers are on the flyers, anyone can call and refer someone. There is also a class called Fitness Strong for seniors to participate in. Donna asked if someone wants to sign in for Zoom class, is there someone that can help set it up, Hannah replied yes. There are waitlists for classes, Fitness Strong is to start in September 2021 in person. Deborah Whitehouse asked how this information is being distributed, Hannah replied through senior centers and newsletters, but they are looking at how to outsource more. Hawah Ahmad asked about data of people who participated pre-COVID. Hannah stated that they know the participation numbers have lowered, but this is due to COVID. Their target numbers are based on grant requirements. Sarah Deardorff stated that pre-COVID, her residents were very interested in classes, and they would fill up fast. Another thing they enjoyed is the transportation provided to be able to attend. Sarah asked what if the seniors felt a class was too much, some people thought the Step On class would have been too much, Hannah replied that the class can be modified, it is not set.

**8. \*Update, discussion, and potential Washoe County issues and activities including housing, transportation, and meal program to seniors – Steve McBride, Division Director**

Steve stated that regarding the Fan Drive, up to the beginning of last week, they were down to the last couple of fans. KOLO is promoting the Fan Drive and there was a big donation on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. They have received over 530 fans and given over 300. Abby stated that Farmers Market started this week. Every booklet has \$45 worth of coupons and can be used at any Farmers Market in Nevada. Booklets are given at a first come first serve basis, Monday through Friday between 1pm-4pm; the income limit is \$1,986 for one person. Abby also reports they received a grant through ADSD. The equipment grant will be for a combo refrigerator and freezer and a new traverse vehicle for the volunteer delivery program. There was also a request for equipment such as the Sparks Center dishwasher. Abby reports they had the highest attendance eating in at the center, 70 people; pre-COVID, it was between 150-220 people eating in. Sarah requested a flyer for the Farmers Market. Donna expressed her thanks for the new equipment for the Board, everyone is able to hear everyone else. Paco Lachoy from the public asked how many Farmers Market booklets the senior center got, Abby is not sure. Paco stated Reno received 500 books. Sarah asked if social workers are taking Farmers Market books to

clients, Abby replied yes. Larry asked if any fan donations were from fan companies, Steve replied no, they have been from local companies or people from the community.

**9. \*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Donald Abbott**

Donald stated he and Mayor Ed Lawson had lunch at the Sparks Senior Center. They should have an AARP resolution soon; the next meeting is August 25 at 9am at City Hall. It will be the first in person meeting. Also, in August there will probably be an update for Age Friendly AARP resolution during the August 23<sup>rd</sup> city council meeting.

**10. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz**

Donna stated the planning group has not really met to discuss about the issues. Now that everything is opening again, she would need to contact the planning group to get things going. There will be a national Age Friendly workshop in mid-September over Zoom; Barry Gold notified Donna about it. Anyone who is interested to attend are more than welcome to. The national workshop will be about two and a half days long. There are about 600 groups working on Age Friendly in the U.S. Also, there was a community AARP impact grant and on a call she was on, she was told that the winners were going to be notified. Donald Abbott stated he has not heard anything regarding Sparks winning the grant.

**11. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding the Friendly Visitor Calls project to selected Washoe County seniors (For Possible Action)**

Larry stated he participates in doing the calls and it is fun. There are about 13 callers, they have created their own phone check-in system where they call a couple of seniors. It's just to do a friendly call and check how the senior is doing. Any senior can ask for the call and all callers are Washoe County volunteers. Larry stated he believes this is something the county should adopt, people love it. Deborah stated she was on a Zoom call and there was an elderly woman who said she spoke with professional counselors or people during COVID, and it was life saving for her. Deborah stated it is important to people to be able to connect with others. Donna stated she and Abby created a flyer to give out to the community. Sarah stated she puts the flyer in new resident packets.

**12. \*Discussion and possible action to make recommendation to Washoe County Board of County Commissioners to consider, pursuant to Washoe County code 45.415, removing Mark Miranda, District 3, from his position as a member on the Senior Advisory Board for cause for having more than three consecutive unexcused absences from the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board meetings (For Possible Action)**

Sarah asked if anyone has tried to reach out to him. Donna stated she has been trying to contact him for about 6 months and has not gotten a response. Sandra stated that each month she checks attendance of board members. The last few months she has not heard back from Mark and he has not attended the meetings. Sandra stated about two month ago she emailed Mark to ask if he was still interested in being a part of the Advisory Board, but as of today, there has been no reply.

Motion pursuant to Washoe County code 45.415 to remove Mark Miranda for cause for having missed more than three consecutive unexcused absences from the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board meetings was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion was unanimous.

**13. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recruiting a new Advisory Board Member for District 2 (For Possible Action)**

Pamela asked if this is due to a resignation, the answer was yes. No recommendations for District 2 yet.

**14. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recommending a new Advisory Board Member for an Alternate (For Possible Action)**

- a. Application from Ethan Hovest (District 3)

Attachments: [7-07-21 Ethan Hovest App Redacted.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

[7-07-21 Ethan Hovest Resume.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

- b. Application from Mary Ann McCauley (District 5)

Attachments: [McCauley bio \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

Ethan introduced himself and stated he is willing to hold the application if it makes the selection easier. He works as a member in the behavioral health community. Pamela asked what his interest specifically is in the senior community. Ethan replied by being a Christian, he is motivated in that way and also gaining information and a bit of nostalgic from when he spent time with his grandparents. Donna asked Ethan if in his daily work, he works with people that are over 50 years old, Ethan replied yes. Deborah stated Ethan's background does have gerontology.

Motion to move to support Ethan's application to the Alternate seat is made by Deborah Whitehouse and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion was unanimous.

Larry stated to let Mary Ann know to keep coming to the meetings.

**15. Discussion and possible recommendations on types of senior social recreation activities that may resume in 2021 at Washoe County operated facilities (For Possible Action)**

Donna stated they have only gotten a handful of surveys. They are trying to find out what seniors would like to do as centers open again. In about 30 surveys, bean bag baseball, tech café, and music entertainment were on top of the list. They have not received as many surveys as they expected. Deborah stated her community is looking more for things like dancing live music and tech café. Sarah stated that end of life clinics come up quite often. Steve stated activities that happen at the center and lead by a lead volunteer that oversees the activity. Also, if someone wants to start a new activity, they will need to look at the location, days of the activity and time frame to be able to accommodate everyone that wants to participate. Abby stated live music has started at the Reno center for those who are interested.

**16. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)**

*Attachment:* [7-07-21 Joint Goals Wrksht.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

Donna explained the shared issues and goals and let the new members know that they should look at it and if interested in something, they can sign up for it in the next month. Linda stated the Food Bank does a drive through due to COVID and they do accommodate to people that don't have a car. Donald stated that Farmers Market coupons can be picked up at the Sparks

Recreation Center across from the Sparks Senior Center and at the Senior Companion Program location on Greg Street. Larry stated that the Teach Me to Grow Healthy program will be having over 25 volunteers from Home Depot. Donna stated that for those who are not familiar, there is a rack of information on the wall when coming into the Reno Center.

**17. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)**

*Attachment:* [7-07-21 Monthly Washoe County Public Meetings Chart.pdf](#)

Donna stated she has been attending the Senior Coalition meetings.

**18. \*Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)**

Hawah stated she would like a Washoe Legal Service presentation. Steve and Abby will look into it. Donna stated to keep on looking for district openings.

**19. \*Public comment –**

Paco Lachoy stated he is chair to the Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. July 13<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting and their 25<sup>th</sup> year party will be July 28<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Reno City Hall lobby.

**20. Adjournment (For Possible Action)**

Motion to adjourn was made by Pamela Roberts and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.