



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

June 7, 2023

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

<https://zoom.us/j/92347908306?pwd=K2k5UGdYSEVXVGNuRGFPZ3pub2kwQT09>

- 1. Call To Order [Non-Action Item]** - Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
- 2. Roll Call [Non-Action Item]** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Ryan Crane took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

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

**PRESENT VIRTUALLY**

Martha Lavin  
Mavis Kay Bonzer  
Thuy Tran  
Pamela Roberts  
Hawah Ahmad  
Jane Baudelaire

Mary Ann McCauley  
Hawah Ahmad  
Casey Reed (late)

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

Charles Mark Neumann

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Cara Paoli  
Ryan Crane  
Laureen Garcia

Trenton D. Ross (DA)  
Abby Willrich

**ADVISOR PRESENT**

Dr. Larry Weiss  
Donna Clontz  
Connie McMullen

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**

Victoria Edmondson

### **3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –**

Mr. Clark: Congratulated Hawah Ahmad on passing the bar. Mr. Clark wanted an update on the vacancies for the Board and Alternate Board positions. People have applied and he would like to have something to take back to the Commission and get the ball rolling.

Andrea Pelto: Thank you to WC for their help with Senior Idol. Wants to congratulate Terry Brooks on being one of the winners of Senior Idol. Everyone had a good time, including the Daybreak participants.

Molly Rose Lewis: Jackie Rosen's office provided senior resource guides at Senior Idol. All were taken so more guides will be provided.

Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator with Aging and Disability, would like to collaborate with others about gaps in service in the community and provide outreach information as requested for the aging population.

### **4. Member Announcements [Non-Action Item] –**

Time to talk about vacancies will come later in the meeting.

Donna Clontz said the next Senior Resources Fair is Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Spanish Springs Library from 11:00-1:00. The fair the previous week had the most seniors in attendance; around 60-65 seniors attended. This will be the last one until after Labor Day and Senior Fest. More Resources Fairs are being discussed.

Thuy Tran attended the Senior Service Network (SSN) meeting, held the first Wednesday of the month for an hour. Great resources and vendors there. SSN had their senior celebration on May, 11, 2023. The First United Methodist church in Carson City has a great community guide for older Americans.

### **5. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 1, 2023 [For Possible Action]**

Trent Ross okayed leaving Laureen Garcia as having been present for the May Washoe County Human Services Senior Advisory Board meeting (SAB). Ryan Crane to correct the name for Amber Howell. No other changes. Motion to amend and approve the minutes was made by Thuy Tran, and seconded by Martha Lavin. Motion carries.

### **6. Presentation regarding new Washoe County building development and roads that can potentially concern seniors [Non-Action Item] – Eric Young, Senior Planner of Washoe County Community Services Department Planning & Development**

Eric Young explained how to get information, resources, on the New Master Plan website, [www.Envisionwashoe2040.org](http://www.Envisionwashoe2040.org). The steering committee is looking for help with networking and outreach to the senior population. Eric would like feedback from the advisory board. The existing Master Plan was adopted 30 years ago. The existing plan has been amended many times but has never been updated. The existing plan has nineteen separate documents with too many policies. The goal is to distill all 19 documents and merge them into one. Information to be written so everyone can understand what it says.

Eric said they are going to rely on graphics to explain the Master Plan with seniors. Asking the committee for assistance on how to best reach out to the seniors.

Discussion: Ryan requested to send out link for the new Master plan. It was suggested that it would be good to have Eric come back to answer questions that haven't been thought of yet. Questions and comments can be emailed to Eric. Add to the agenda for the next meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>. More information could be provided with questions provided in advance. Eric was asked to return and talk at the August meeting.

No public comment.

**7. Update and report on Washoe County Senior Services regarding Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.) initiatives, starting a survey to find out what activities seniors would like at the center, and increasing rental fees for use of the Senior Centers [Non-Action Item] – Cara Paoli, Division Director**

Cara Paoli: Updates - Use YouTube feed for Senior Idol to reach those who can't attend. The Homemaker program in Washoe County is growing. Five new Homemaker positions and two supervisor positions have been approved; 280 people on homemaker waitlist, 56 pending with caseworkers, 25 waiting to be pre-assessed with Magali. Entered into a contract with the Circle of Life. Hoping there will not be a waitlist at the end of the year. Served over 25,000 home delivered meals and over 6,000 congregate meals in April. Daybreak closes on 6/30/23. Contract with More to Life to help with the transition. Cara said there is a plan for each and every person served at Daybreak. Working with Stephanie Chen with the WC Public Health Dept. to increase options for exercise at the senior centers. Ice cream machine incorporated into the birthday parties in Reno and starting in July at the Sparks Senior Center. Name badges have been ordered for the advisory board members and should be ready for the next SABM. It was asked if the ice cream machine can be rented out but Cara said there are complications with doing that. Washoe County wants to start using the ice cream machine to its maximum capacity. Someone asked if Washoe County is serving more or less meals than last year. Data to be provided at the next meeting.

Donna, Mac, and Robin talked about the research they are doing about what recreational activities are happening in the community and to see what other senior activity places are doing for active programming in the community.

**8. Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott**

Donald Abbott stated that at the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting Christine Lee joined the Sparks Senior Advisory Committee group. Donald said he is trying to do a partnership with Greenbrae Elementary to do different activities at the senior center. Donald said he will have to discuss more with the new principal next school year.

Sparks to be hosting more senior legal events next year.

**9. Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Paco Lachoy**

Paco not in today. Bridge to go over Paradise Park.

**10. Update and discussion on Older American Month 2023 [Non-Action Item] – Ryan Crane, Administrative Secretary Supervisor**

Ryan thanked everyone for their participation in Older Americans' Month. Senior Idol was awesome which brought a lot of activity in the afternoon and allowed the Daybreak participants to enjoy the show

in the afternoon. A couple of them participated in the Senior Idol contest. Ryan said the Google calendar wasn't great for everyone and may not use it again for scheduling of events. Not everyone liked the platform. The intent was not to have overlapping activities. Next year several people will be working on the event to ensure there are no issues. The event was very successful. Great feedback from the seniors. Seniors loved the breakfast and the Spanish booklet.

Hawah said we need to start working now with other agencies and organizations to prepare for next year's events.

**11. Discussion and possible recommendations for Senior Services Master Plan [For Possible Action]**

Need to go over Washoe County Master Plan before looking at the Senior Services Master Plan. Keep on the agenda for the next few meetings.

**12. Report and update on Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs) meetings attended by board members [Non-Action Item]**

Pam wants some of the surveys in the Warm Springs area. She took some and handed them out previously. Pam appreciates being able to provide people in that area with new information after the SAB meetings.

WC community had a valley wide resource fair in Washoe Lake State Park. Donna was able to get about 40 surveys filled out.

**13. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Human Services Agency Director regarding Age Friendly survey content and Age Friendly in Washoe County. Board Members will discuss and make recommendations regarding the format of the Age Friendly Survey. [For Possible Action]**

Attachments: [04-05-23 2pg Survey Age Friendly 2018.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)  
[Demographics \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Hawah met with small group and made the changes previously suggested. Also did some fine tuning. You can use a QR code, paper, or email the survey. Hawah encouraged board members to help distribute them, Ryan stated that he needed to order more. As of Friday about 176 had been received. Ryan requested that all surveys get returned to the Reno. Ryan was asked to add "Bring back to 9<sup>th</sup> street", Survey for 55 plus, and an email address to the survey.

Andrea Pelto said seniors don't use QR codes and requested the email address to be added. Hawah asked Ryan who the analytics need to be sent to. Point of contact? Hawah noted that the City of Reno and the city attorney want copies of the analytics; Hawah offered contact information. Hawah said everyone needs to do the survey if they are on the board and of age. Hawah also said that the age of the person must be written on the form or won't count in the analytics. It'll be an outlier. Other agencies will be putting out their own surveys. Once the sweet spot is met for the amount of surveys returned, SAB can switch to town halls.

**14. Update, discussion, and possible vote to recommend the Human Services Agency Director approve a new information flyer for Friendly Visitor Call Program to seniors in Washoe County. [For Possible Action]**

Hawah: Open to discussion and the possible vote on an updated flyer. One sentence that referenced COVID. Donna read the flyer to everyone. Donna said she can change the graphics if the group would

like that. Pam suggested to change the focus from the person reading the flyer to seeing if the person knows anyone who is in need of help. Keep it simple. Ryan Crane suggested getting straight to the point. Mary McCauley made the recommendation to make the changes to the agency director. Also suggested to cutting the whole first paragraph. Mary posed the question on how to handle the out of area phone area codes. Seniors may not answer the phone. Donna Clontz shared that what has been done before is to call the person ahead of time and let them know who the caller would be coming from. Thuy Tran gave 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**15. Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas [Non-Action Item]. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)**

Hawah: VK resigned from the board, but the board will need to wait to appoint someone until the next meeting.

Keep as action item for the next agenda. Two applications have been received for District II. Cannot appoint at this meeting.

**16. Public comment [Non-Action Item] – Connie McMullen**

District 2 and District 3 seats are open along with two alternate seats. District 3 vacancy re-referred for Denise Meyer for June 20<sup>th</sup>. Who said the date? Two recommendation votes have been done and affirmed that she is the recommended person for District 3. Need to know if anyone from the board will be attending so that person can make public comment in support of her. The seat has been open for a long time and the board wants to get it filled. Only one application had been received. Does the application need to be emailed to the Count Commission to be reviewed? What is the process now? Mike Clark was asked about the application and re-opening the process, but no new people applied. Mike would like the person to get appointed to this non-partisan position soon. Also wants the seat for District 2 to be appointed much faster. Seven to nine months of vacancy to fill last seat. Mike Clark would like to move forward and get alternates appointed. Applications have already been received. As long as there are no objections the board can move forward.

District 2 has two applications already. Hawah would like to pull the two applications out now so this item can be agendaized for the next meeting. She said they can't legally speak about it at this meeting.

Mr. Correa said he moved to Reno a few years ago from Mississippi. Worked in the health field. Wants to be a service to his community. Originally from Mexico but lived in the states for decades. He wants to know "what the role is for an alternate?" and "Is there a reason there are very few males on the board membership?" Hawah: Alternates don't vote unless there is a need due to an absence. Associate members don't have voting rights either.

Abby Willrich recommended they re-open the application for District 2. Pam asked Mr. Correa if he wanted to keep his application as an alternate or be considered for the District 2 position at the next meeting. He let the board know when he would be out of town. Had no preference between the board member or alternate position.

Abby: Recommendation goes to the BCC who appoints to the board. Appointments are a two-step process. Add in District 2 to the agenda to be ready for July.

Hawah: Alternates can be from any district.

Mac Rossi: Active with boards and committees. Appointment as a commissioner for Parks and Rec for the City of Reno because of his work with seniors. Senior committees are his favorite.

Sue Meuschke: Lived in Washoe County for 40 years. Worked as the Executive Director for the Nevada Coalition to end Sexual and Domestic Violence for 30 years. During that time, she worked on various commissions and committees dealing with this subject matter. Stated she was a caretaker for two seniors who have passed away and learned about the needs for seniors who are struggling with medical issues and getting needed services. She is passionate about end-of-life issues.

Patricia Gallimore: Current president of the NAACP and co-chair of the health committee for NAACP. Patricia is a thirty-two-year resident of Washoe County. Stated she was a contract employee with Washoe County. She sits on numerous boards. Health is one of her passions.

Patricia Newman has not officially withdrawn her application. Joined another board.

Several applicants not present: Christy Pappas, Lynnelle Carter, Cathy Dillon, Kathryn Smith.

Hawah: Board can suggest members to the board without voting rights.

Pam Roberts: Motion to recommend Rossi and Gallimore as alternate board positions and to appoint Meuschke as Associate Board member. Seconded.

Brandon Price recommended it be open for public comment.

Hawah: Passed vote. Will now have a full board. Will need to verify it was okay to do. Senior service network to talk at July meeting.

Mac Rossi: Appreciates the support

Public comment: Abby W. Meal numbers close to last year.

Larry Weiss wants updates from staff on the aging master plan that was done nine years ago.

## **17. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]**

Meeting ended at 4:37pm