



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

February 5, 2025
Washoe County, 1001 E. 9th Street Reno, NV
Building A, HR Training Room
&
Zoom Webinar

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

- 1. Call To Order [Non-Action Item]** - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair - Pam Roberts.
- 2. Roll Call [Non-Action Item]** – There was a quorum present via in-person and through Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT

Martha Lavin
Thuy Tran
Denise Myer
Charles Mark Neumann
Adolfo Correa
Edward Lamb

Pamela Roberts
Mary Ann McCauley
Mac Rossi
Patricia Gallimore (3:18)
Benecia Price
Craig Bronzan

ABSENT

(EXCUSED*)

* Martha Lavin
* Mac Rossi
* JoEllen Keil

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Cara Paoli
Abby Badolato
Herb Kaplan
Chris Lopez

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Donald Abbott
Michael Clark

ADVISOR PRESENT

Sue Meuschke
Connie McMullen
Donna Clontz
Dr. Larry Weiss

3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –

Kathryn Clark spoke of her grandmother with dementia and 70-year-old uncle who were victims of a scam and lost \$90,000, she requested assistance. Sarah Molleck, the Supervising Attorney for Nevada Legal Aid, and Abby, the Senior Services Coordinator, stated they would speak to Kathryn after the meeting to see how they could assist her. Commissioner Michael Clark apologized for missing the previous Senior Advisory Board meeting. He stated the food served at the County Jail, Cares Campus, Catholic Charities, Douglas County, and Carson City have better food than the Washoe County Senior

Center. Commissioner Michael stated the Alternate Commissioner and other County Commissioners have not shown support in improving food quality at the County Senior Center. The food is “garbage” and he would not serve the food to relatives.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting of January 8, 2025 [For Possible Action] Advisory Board members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Attachment: [WCSAB](#)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by C. Mark Neumann and seconded by Patricia Gallimore. Craig Bronson and Adolfo Correo abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update and introduction of new Board members. [Non-Action] – (10 min)

Denise introduced the new Board members Benecia Price, Edward Lamb, JoEllen Keil, and Craig Bronzan.

Pam welcomed the new members, mentioning a fully staffed Advisory Board.

6. Discussion and voting regarding proposed amendments to Bylaws, including Article 7 – Committees Section B of the Washoe County Human Services Agency Senior Advisory Board Bylaws [Action Item] – (30 mins)

Attachment: [2-05-25 WCSAB Bylaws Proposed Amendments.pdf](#)

Pam brought up a change giving the Board the ability to remove Associate members for inactivity and because they are non-voting members. Another change is updating current wording for Bylaws Article 7, from “mandatory quarterly” meetings with Reno Senior Committee & Sparks Senior Committee to “invited annual” meetings for collaboration. A third update was regarding parliament and the Board following Robert’s Rule. Currently, the Board is not complying with Robert’s Rules of Order, so wording was changed to use Robert’s Rule as guidance for conducting Board meetings as even the Board of County Commissioners does not strictly adhere to Robert’s Rules.

Adolfo motioned to make amendments to the Bylaws, seconded by C. Mark Neumann.

Donna made a comment noticing there was an error in Article 3 Section G which should state Section “3” instead of Section 4 as there is no section 4.

Adolfo withdrew his motion and C. Mark Neumann withdrew his second.

Motion to adopt the new changes to the Bylaws was made by C. Mark Neumann and seconded by Adolfo Correa. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding moving future Senior Advisory Board meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month. [For Possible Action] – (10 mins)

Denise stated people enjoyed the previous Board meeting at the Chambers for increased space and because Board members faced the public. There were reasons to move future Board meetings to the 2nd Wednesday of the month if the Chambers were available.

Abby has not received an update on availability of the Chambers, and stated the HR Training Room would not be an option as the room is used for County training.

Pam suggested waiting for further information regarding the availability of the Chambers before making a decision. She stated when meetings return to the Senior Center, they could change seating layout so Board members could face the public.

Commissioner Michael praised the Chambers as a future location citing the need for more public space.

8. Update on Senior Volunteer Fair at the National Automobile Museum. [Non-Action Item] – (10 min)

Denise mentioned a successful turnout with 26 vendors, 132 attendees, and media coverage from Channel 2 and Channel 4. She is looking for a date in Older Americans Month between the 5th and 15th of May after lunch to host another volunteer fair. Craig complimented the Auto Mobile Museum staff for a great job.

9. Presentation regarding progress of the Master Plan [Non-Action Item] – Mary Ann McCauley & Sue Meuschke (30 min)

Sue is beginning to organize all the improvement suggestions to eliminate similar ideas. They will create a document with main objectives for County Senior Services. Mary Ann wants to focus and separate realistic goals we can accomplish this year.

10. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding planning of Older American Month, including event schedules, timelines, and limiting for-profit vendors at the kick-off event [For Possible Action] – Abby Badolato (30 min)

Abby has begun planning Older Americans Month with around 35 vendors showing interest in the fair at Senior Center. Chris is helping organize the event. There is capacity of 90 vendors, prioritizing the first 70 vendors to non-profit and government organizations. Then the working group would discuss which vendors could participate in the remaining open spots. The deadlines for the Info Fair are March 15th, and for events March 7th. The Senior Center renovation is projected to be completed in April.

11. Discussion of County Commissioners attending the opening day of the Senior Fair for Older Americans Month. [Non-Action Item] – (10 mins)

Abby stated there is no priority to have guest speakers, but assured event information was sent out to County Commissioners, Senators and other government agencies.

12. Updates from Washoe County Senior Services [Non-Action Item] – Cara Paoli, Human Services Division Director, Adult and Senior Services; Abby Badolato, Human Services Agency Senior Services Coordinator (5 min)

Cara gave Senior Center renovation updates citing the kitchen as a priority as the mobile kitchen vendor would be unavailable April 1st. There could be closures if construction is not completed by that date. She mentioned a grand opening with Older Americans Month. There is talk of a public and private partnership for seniors discussed by the Washoe County Strategic Planning workshop involving other community partners and veteran involvement at the center. Cara discussed Paws for Love at the Reno Senior Center and Sparks Senior Center to help provide companionship for Seniors. Northern Nevada Public Health has enhanced fitness classes at the Sparks and Sun Valley sites, while normal activities are continuing at Evelyn Mount.

Sue asked if the Federal Grant Funding Freeze affects Washoe County.

Cara stated the County Grants Office is currently on hold awaiting more information from the Federal government.

13. Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott, Sparks City Council Ward 1 (5 min)

Donald emphasized the need for Sparks Senior Committee Board members as they currently only have three members, not enough for quorum. This has lead to the cancellation of the February 26th meeting. He mentioned this is the 5th year of Valentine's for Seniors estimating 6,500 – 7,000 cards this year. Various schools are visiting local senior centers to have kids pass out the cards to seniors.

Commissioner Michael suggested including Sparks Senior Committee information with the Valentine's cards to help recruit members.

Kathryn asked about the requirements to join the Sparks Senior Committee Board. Donald stated an age requirement of 18 and residency in Sparks, NV. Interested people can email him at DAbbott@CityofSparks.US or apply at the City of Sparks website.

14. Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Izabella Baumann, City of Reno Activities Coordinator (5 min)

No one representing City of Reno in attendance.

15. Update on Northern Nevada Legal Services [Non-Action Item] – Sarah Molleck, Northern Nevada Legal Aid Supervising Attorney (5 min)

Sarah introduced herself as the supervising attorney for Northern Nevada Legal Aid and the Consumer Housing Department. In 2024, the Senior Law Center opened 645 cases, and 57 cases this year in January alone. She wants the public to know the SeniorLaw Center is still available and operating by sending out a press release. There are signs on the Senior Center front entrance notifying the public as well.

Abby stated the Senior Center staff are still referring people to legal services when needed.

16. 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.) (5 min)

Denise thanked Donald for the idea of giving Valentine's to Seniors. Since Donald distributes cards in Sparks, Denise helped distribute in Reno to the Veterans Hospital with the help of local schools, churches, and a local company called GMTCare. She asked for help finding more facilities interested in participating.

C. Mark Neumann stated Donna & Cindy at Sun Valley Rec Center are beginning to plan events.

Adolfo requested a presentation on recommendations for improving the quality of nutrition for Seniors, barriers, and how the Senior Advisory Board could help. Denise informed that there was a presentation by Abby & Cara conducted at the previous meeting on the "Contract for Nutrition Services". Chris showed how to access the presentation on the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board page.

Donna is working with AARP for an event called "Walking in Paradise Park" every Wednesday at 10am. Paradise Park is receiving help from an international organization, "8 80 Cities", dedicated to making cities and parks age friendly for both kids and seniors. There is also an age-friendly group that meets every first Friday at the Sparks Senior Center to socialize. She also thanked Bill, the Reno Senior Center Activity Coordinator, for helping recruit volunteers at the volunteer fair and his work bringing engaging activities.

Sarah also complimented Bill for helping with the Power of Attorney clinic at the Sparks Senior Center. Northern Nevada Legal will also be at the Senior Resource Fair.

Patricia reminded about the Environmental In-Home Protection Program to give out smoke alarms, radon detector kits, and carbon monoxide alarms on February 18th at the Sun Valley Senior Community Center 10am – 11am, February 24th at Bethel AME 11am 12pm, and March 19th at Bethel 6pm-7pm. Red Cross and Reno Sparks NAACP will assist, and installation will be available. She can be reached at PGallimore1@gmail.com. Commissioner Michael asked the County to assist with getting the word out through social media.

Adolfo brought up sampling of Senior Center food by hiring an outside nutritionist. Herb mentioned a lot of this information was covered in last month's presentation. Cara stated

there would be a budget impact to hire an outside nutritionist and that the nutritional standards on the meals served are readily available. She also asked to clarify whether the issue with the food is on the presentation and quality rather than the nutritional value. Pam stated this is not a time for discussion but could be agendaized for the next meeting. Adolfo requested an agenda item for to address nutrition quality concerns for Seniors, bringing an outside nutritionist, and ways the Board could help address the budget impact.

17. Public comment [Non-Action Item] –

Jackie Haggard asked for more information on the smoke alarm event. Patricia stated she will pass out a flyer.

Kathryn Clark is planning a private fundraiser for her uncle in May as platform to spread awareness for financial scams to the senior population. She also wants to bring awareness to usage of social media and bank fraud.

18. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.