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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



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The Nevada Council on Food Security AB405/SB233 Subcommittee

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

(DRAFT) MEETING MINUTES

Location: **Microsoft Teams and Carson City**

Type of meeting: **Special Session**

ATTENDANCE:

Subcommittee Members present:

Marcia Blake
Nishat Gould
(Tori) Samantha Lawson-Boffelli
Shane Piccinini
Vickie Ives
Jeff Duncan
Dr. Sabina Malik

Members absent:

Dr. Pamela Juniel
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger

Others Present:

Alexis Hogan, CDPHP
Amber Hise, CDPHP
Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff
Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
Dillon Winkelman, DPBH
Godwin Nwando, CDPHP
Heather Lee, UNR student
Lori Taylor, DPBH, Office of Food Security
Maria Menjivar, CNHD
Miriam Roesler, UNR student
Tammera Brower, DPBH
Troy Lovick, CDPHP
Taylor Moseley, DBPH

Sabrina Petrel, Cartwright NV Government Affairs

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:06PM

Name of the presiding officer: Marcia Blake

Roll call was called, 7 of 9 members were present, establishing quorum.

2. **Public Comment:**

First Public Comment Period:

No public comment was made virtually nor in the conference room. The public comment period was closed.

3. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding study recommendations and updates for Home Feeds Nevada Study SB233.**

The committee discussed recommendations and updates for fulfilling the needs of the Home Feeds Nevada Study (SB233). A tracker was provided to the committee to ensure all members had access to a breakdown of information regarding SB233 and AB405. Anais Infante re-confirmed that quorum was present, noting that the committee has 7 subcommittee members and ensured quorum would remain intact even if certain members needed to depart early. The committee then received an overview of the legislative intent behind SB233, including expectations to explore potential funding sources by reviewing similar programs in other states and consulting with relevant Nevada agencies such as the State Treasurer's Office. Shane Piccinini stated that approximately 20 states, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania, operate comparable programs. Shane Piccinini agreed to provide the complete list of states so it may be distributed to the council, after which each committee member may be assigned to one or two states to research regarding program structure and funding mechanisms. No further items were raised under SB233.

4. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding study recommendations and updates for Food Insecurity Study AB405.**

Interim Chair Blake initiated discussion on the workshop evaluation of food access laws and policies. Interim Chair Blake inquired whether the Department of Agriculture or the Office of Food Security might already have relevant policies compiled to streamline the review process. Dr. Sabina Malik clarified for the record that the policies previously evaluated were drawn from work conducted by the Southern Nevada Food Council, encompassing a review of 34 policies dated from 2013 through the 2025 legislative session. Dr. Sabina Malik noted that additional research could be conducted if the committee sought to expand beyond that scope. Interim Chair Blake requested input from additional members, and Vickie Ives reported that she was not aware of further existing compilations but had located exhibits from the original Home Feeds Nevada bill containing a relevant list of states, which she would share for later distribution. Interim Chair Blake emphasized the importance of conducting comparable research for Northern Nevada to ensure the committee maintains a statewide perspective, acknowledging that while complete coverage is not feasible, identifying available resources and general patterns is essential for assessing food access across the state.

The committee then reviewed the task regarding the overlay of vacant land in Southern Nevada with food insecurity data. Dr. Sabina Malik explained that the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada had completed a vacant land inventory totaling approximately 40,000 acres in the southern portion of the state, published in late 2024 or early 2025, though a similar resource for Northern Nevada was not yet identified. Interim Chair Blake confirmed that existing resources could be utilized to support committee discussions and that the primary focus of an upcoming meeting would be reviewing the food access map in conjunction with the vacant land inventory. Dr. Sabina Malik noted that the two mapping resources are distinct and that the committee would need to determine appropriate methods such as a table or comparative structure—to analyze them effectively. Interim Chair Blake explained that the purpose of AB405 was to seek recommendations on assessing the applicability of these mapping tools to statewide food access needs, including the identification of vacant land within food-insecure areas that could support food access infrastructure.

Amber Hise provided additional clarification that the committee's role includes assessing both current efforts and identifying opportunities for forward progress. Interim Chair Blake confirmed that the committee's objective is to formulate recommendations regarding

statewide needs, resource gaps, and potential areas for expanded food access initiatives. The committee also discussed the absence of a Northern Nevada food access map comparable to the Southern Nevada version, and staff will follow up with Northern partners to determine availability.

Regarding coordination between partners (Subsection C), Interim Chair Blake suggested compiling a statewide list of collaborating entities by requesting council members to provide the names of partner organizations, which would allow the committee to identify intersections and gaps across sectors. Dr. Sabina Malik proposed conducting a collaborative whiteboard activity during a meeting to map partner connections in real time, which could efficiently capture relationships and areas of overlap. Interim Chair Blake agreed this approach could be used, with additional partners added when the update is presented to the full Council. For Subsection D, Interim Chair Blake noted that the committee will not be able to proceed until foundational research for prior sections is completed. The committee concluded that the focus for the April meeting will be conducting the workshop evaluation of food access laws and documenting the gaps, strengths, and opportunities in existing policies, along with identifying the resources available for Subsection B.

5. For Possible Action: Proposed 2026 meeting dates.

The committee discussed and considered possible action on the proposed 2026 meeting dates. Amber Hise noted that the subcommittee is structured to meet monthly and asked members to review the proposed dates, which extend through October to ensure adequate time for preparing the report prior to final Council review. Amber Hise confirmed that the next scheduled meeting would be held on March 24 at 1:00 PM. Interim Chair Blake requested input regarding preferred meeting days and times. Several members expressed a preference for Wednesdays, and consensus was reached to adopt the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM. Based on this agreement, the Chair proposed the following schedule: April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 14. A motion was made to conduct a Doodle poll to finalize the March meeting date and to adopt the second-Wednesday schedule for the remainder of the year. Amber Hise restated the approved dates for the record.

During further discussion, Vickie Ives noted that, due to the state routing timeline associated with the December 31 statutory deadline, the October meeting may occur too late for timely integration of the report into required processes. Amber Hise responded that the October date was intended as a contingency in case final review or wrap-up was needed, while the goal remained to complete the report in time for the next scheduled Council on Food Security meeting. Interim Chair Blake clarified that the Council meets in October rather than September, and members discussed the likely need for a special Council session in September to ensure the report can be reviewed and voted upon prior to submission. At the request of Interim Chair Blake, Lori Taylor confirmed that the agenda for the upcoming meeting had not yet completed DAG review and could still be amended to include discussion of a potential September special session, as well as the election of a Chair and Vice Chair for this subcommittee.

Interim Chair Marcia Blake motioned to approve the March action to make a poll and move the meeting dates to the second Wednesday of every month till October's tentative date. Jeff Duncan first approved the motion, Dr. Sabina Malik seconded.

6. **Public Comment:**

Second Public Comment Period:

No public comment was made virtually nor in the conference room. The public comment period was closed.

7. **Adjournment:**

Interim Chair Blake adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 PM.

Next Meeting:

Meeting:

Date: March 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams and Room 204 at 4150 Technology Way

Attachments:

Meeting agenda and packet (posted online and at physical locations in accordance with Open Meeting Law).

*Minutes prepared by Anais Infante using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). *Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.)*. Da Capo Press.
Nevada Revised Statutes. *Open Meeting Law (NRS 241)*.