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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
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The Nevada Council on Food Security AB405/SB233 Subcommittee

MAY 13, 2026

(DRAFT) MEETING MINUTES

Location: **Microsoft Teams and Carson City**

Type of meeting: **Special Session**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members present:

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

Members absent:

Dr. Dorian Stonebarger

Others Present:

Alexis Hogan, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Allen (Chungten) Pai, CDPHP
Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff
Bryan Wachter, President, Retail Association of Nevada
Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
Godwin Nwando, CDPHP
Lori Taylor, DPBH, Office of Food Security
Patricia Hoppe, NDA
Pierron Tackes, Director of Health & Social Policy, Guinn Center
Sarah Rogers, DPBH
Tammera Brower, DPBH
Troy Lovick, CDPHP

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

The AB/SB Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Chair Malik. Anais Infante conducted roll call, confirming that 8 of 9 members were present, establishing quorum.

2. **Public Comment:**

First Public Comment Period:

Public comment was opened by Chair Malik.

Tori Lawson-Boffelli noted that on April 30, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announced plans to reorganize and relocate. She encouraged participants to reach out to her for details on how these changes might affect their organizations and the individuals they assist, clarifying that she serves as a Program Analyst for the United States of Department Agriculture (USDA) FNS National Office in Child Nutrition Programs and is open to further discussions.

Dr. Pamela Juniel indicated that the contract funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) which supported Homeless Children and Youth Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP-HCY) ended in March. She also noted that University of Nevada, Reno Center for Statistics, Migrations, and Surveys has completed the Nevada McKinney Vento Landscape Analysis and Evaluation Report. She emphasized the participation of graduate and doctoral students and mentioned that the report has been approved for public release, with more information to come. Dr. Pamela Juniel invited further discussions about the study's findings and how they could aid in ensuring that children and youth facing homelessness have access to vital resources, including food security, in line with tools like the Nevada Compass app.

A final request for public comments was made, but no additional comments were received. Chair Malik then concluded the comment period.

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

Chair Malik recapped Home Feeds Nevada program from the last meeting. The team examined obstacles facing the program and considered the strategies employed by other states, observing that many depend on access to state general fund appropriations. Additionally, the group explored the idea of merging various grant sources as a possible approach.

Board members discussed key processes, historical state personnel coverage, and if the States Grant Office (Governor's Office of Federal Assistance) can identify funding sources, provide matching funds, or offer guidance on compliant funding frameworks. The team revisited potential connections

to Medicaid support, prescription pantry programs, and the Food Is Medicine grant, but it was noted the funding streams to the program could create operational challenges for food banks due to the program's small size and the complexities of product distribution. The board also discussed Nevada Health Authority application for a *Food is Medicine (FIM) State Officer Program*, which is a new initiative designed to help states and territories strengthen their FIM capacity and advance policies that improve access to healthy food for people with diet-related health conditions.

Chair Malik noted that in June the group can begin outlining the needs for a BDR request, including a dedicated coordinator position, funding for state matching requirements, and broader agricultural infrastructure needs such as logistics and transportation.

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

Chair Malik opened the discussion on AB405 and provided an update on the policy assessment process. She noted that the required assessment by the Southern Nevada Food Council (SNFC) approximately takes six months to complete and involves reviewing a wide range of potential policies related to food security. The group evaluated policies successfully implemented in other states and considered which would be most manageable, impactful, and feasible for implementation in Nevada. The Southern Nevada Food Council subsequently voted on its top ten recommended policies. Chair Malik offered to share these results to support continued discussion within the subcommittee. She also outlined the current plan, indicating that preliminary work—including the policy assessment, strengths and weaknesses analysis, the overlay, and the coordination-of-efforts section—should be largely completed by June and July 2026, leaving only the recommendations section outstanding.

Vickie Ives requested clarification regarding internal drafting timelines to ensure alignment with upcoming full-committee meetings. In response, Chair Malik and Sarah Rogers confirmed that the goal is to produce a draft for presentation at the July Council on Food Security meeting, followed by feedback, edits, and a finalized version by the subcommittee's September 2026 meeting to meet Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) submission deadlines. Sarah Rogers added that Alexis, recently hired as a contractor and former evaluator with their section, will support the drafting process. Participants agreed on the timeline, noting that although ambitious, it remains achievable. Chair Malik concluded the discussion by stating that the AB405 portion of the meeting was complete and transitioned the group to SB233.

5. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Second public comment period opened.

DPBH contractor Alexis Hogan introduced herself and discussed her involvement in writing the necessary subcommittees reports for LCB submission. She has worked for DPBH cardiovascular and diabetes programs.

Chair Malik announced a Food Access Fare scheduled for May 30 at the Downtown Las Vegas Container Park from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The event will offer free resources, including a farmers' market, food, parking, snow cones, and family-friendly activities, with the intent of supporting residents affected by the reduction of SNAP benefits.

No further public comment was made; the meeting proceeded to adjournment.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Next Meeting:

Meeting:

Date: June 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams and Room 204 at 4150 Technology Way

Attachments:

Meeting agenda and packet (posted publicly in accordance with NRS 241)

*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)*.