

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Laura Rich
DHS Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Andrea R. Rivers,
MS
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
*Chief Medical
Officer*

The Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS)

(DRAFT) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – Adjournment

Location: Microsoft Teams and Carson City

Type of meeting: Regular Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members present:

Marcia Blake (Chair)
Amber Torres
Dr. Julian Goicoechea
Dr. Pamela Juniel
Kelly Cantrelle
Dr. Sabina Malik
Jeff Duncan
Roberto Carrillo
Sara Ramirez
Sarah Rogers proxy for Vickie Ives
(Tori) Samantha Lawson Betheli

Members absent:

Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi
Lori Lutu
Nishat Gould

Others Present:

Amber Hise, Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion (CDPHP)
Anais Infante, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) – Meeting Staff
Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
Dillon Winkelman, DPBH
Donadya McCullough, CDPHP
Dustin Parks, Three Square Food Bank
Godwin Nwando, CDPHP
Jennifer Yeager, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

Kristle Muessle, Division of Social Services (DSS)
Lori Taylor, DPBH, Office of Food Security
Mat Cooper, FBNN
Sarah Gotcher, FBNN
Tammera Brower, DPBH

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

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

Name of the presiding officer: Chair Marcia Blake

Roll call was conducted, 11 members were present and 4 absent. Quorum was confirmed.

2. **Public Comment:**

First Public Comment Period:

Dr. Malik discussed the following: NDA expanding cold storage in Southern Nevada; the USDA ended their Food Security Supplement questionnaire during the CENSUS; Feeding America is trying to find a way to keep tracking this information.

3. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes from July 01, 2025, Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNL), January 20, 2026, Council on Food Security (CFS), February 24, 2026, AB405/SB233, and March 10, 2026, AB405/SB233.**

Jeff Duncan moved to approve the meeting minutes from July 01, 2025, January 20, 2026, February 24, 2026, and March 10, 2026. Tori Lawson-Boffelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to review the Request for Information (RFI), resumes, letters of interest, and approve candidates.**

Lori Taylor informed the council DPBH released the RFI in December 2026 and shared it with Council members to encourage further distribution. Also clarified this item will remain as a standing agenda item until vacancies are filled.

5. **For Information Only: Final Reports-SFY25 Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN), 2025 Council on Food Security (CFS), and 2025 Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNL).**

Lori Taylor informed the council that the reports for FHN, CFS and FFPNL are final, with CFS and FFPNL posted at LCB. No questions proposed. This year's reports are being drafted, and the draft will be ready for review and feedback at July's meeting.

6. **For Information Only: Division of Social Services One Big Beautiful Act Bill (HR1) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Impact Presentation.**

Kelly Cantrelle discussed HR1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act key points in a presentation to the Council. Key points included SNAP, HRA1, and DSS impact on food stamp clients. Beginning October 01, 2026, the federal portion of the administrative costs for the SNAP program will reduce from 50% to 25%, which will be a 50/50 split. The SNAP education program dissolves October 30th. The new HR1 work requirements are more stringent and expanded to additional public body. There are exemptions in Nevada due to Nevada's high unemployment rate. The age limit altered, impacting the elderly population and working families. Parents with dependent children under the age of 18 used to be allowed to exempt that age changed to dependent children under the age of 13. The exemption for homelessness, veterans, and aged out of foster care has been suspended through October of 2030. HR1 eligibility changes included narrowing the criteria for non-citizens, refugees, parolees, and asylees are no longer eligible for the SNAP program. The ones that are eligible are U.S. citizens or nationals' people who have been here five years as a legal permanent resident. Starting May 01, 2026, anticipating close to 28,000 individuals who will lose SNAP eligibility due to not meeting the federal requirements.

7. **For Information Only: Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three-Square Food Recovery Presentation**

Sarah Gotcher presented from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada Food to the Council on their food recovery/food waste Initiatives; Food Rescue redirects nutritious food that would otherwise go to waste. Service areas are Northern Nevada and Eastern slope of California including urban, rural, and frontier communities. Retail Rescue is a program that recovers surplus food from retail partners. Food Bank picks up on a schedule. There are 173 donors across the service area. Also receive donations from manufacturers, this program includes items from local food manufacturers. Distributor donations when there is a shift in delivery or the store no longer has room. For fiscal year 25 FBNN rescued about 6,123,311lbs which is about 45 partners the number has grown throughout fiscal year 26 FBNN has served around 160 thousand of our neighbors.

Dustin Parks from Three Square Food presented to the council on their food recovery/food waste initiatives. Food recovery means taking safe, wholesome food that would otherwise be discarded and redirecting it to people, its food that meets safety standards but has no commercial path forward. The multiple rescue channels are retail rescue (agency-enabled), retail rescue (fleet-support), rejected truck loads, hot foods rescue, events/expos, and hospitality streams. How it works, donor identifies surplus, pickup or delivery is scheduled, food safe handling and cold chain maintenance, storage, and rapid redistribution. The three ways counsel can help:

- Statewide alignment of policy and guidance with clear standards for safe donations, handling, and redistribution that includes prepared foods and large rejected loads. These efforts would remove significant friction from the system. The current ambiguity creates hesitation among potential donors.
- Investing in cold-chain capacity (primary limiting factor). Freezers, refrigerated trucks, dock equipment, and pantry infrastructure are not luxuries; they are the physical backbone of the work.
- Convening power matters. Bringing partners together consistently strengthens coordination, reduces duplication, and accelerates solutions. Cross sector coordination at the state level changes that.

Further discussion was made on food waste data. One in six Southern Nevadans is food insecure, and one in five children lives in a food-insecure household. On average, food-insecure residents miss 6.3 meals per week. These figures represent Nevadans and highlight the Three Square's Food Rescue Program operations at scale in Nevada. It is an active, functioning infrastructure, not a concept or proposal. With clearer policy alignment, targeted infrastructure investment, and strong cross-sector coordination, the program can save more and serve more.

Dr. Malik highlighted that Nevada has existing policies, such as "Food for People, Not Landfills," Good Samaritan protections, and existing gleaning statutes, that support food rescue efforts. She supported opportunities to strengthen the system through additional cold-storage, warehousing capacity, and clearer definitions related to gleaning. UNR's team rescued 12,000 pounds with five staff hours per week between February and April, which is equivalent to more than 10,000 meals, through partnerships with Three Square.

Dustin responded about compliance checks in California stating local municipalities are responsible for monitoring retailer compliance.

Dustin responded to retailer participation barrier which included partner capacity, access to cold-chain infrastructure (i.e., refrigerated vehicles), lack of necessary equipment and funding.

Dustin responded about staffing levels and shared that the retail-rescue program is managed by two staff members, with one additional staff member supporting other donor categories.

Discussions were made around the need for specific recommendations to refining gleaning definitions, improving refrigerated-van capacity, and the lack of food distributors in Las Vegas. Incentives (i.e., federal, state, tax reimbursement per pound) were also discussed to offset costs for retailers and encourage broader participation.

The Council reviewed FFPNL subcommittees' lack of participation and the need to continue food waste efforts with new members and cleared gleaning definitions. The need was emphasized for ongoing engagement rather than meeting only to fulfill reporting requirements.

8. **For Possible Action: Discuss and possible action regarding the review and future direction of the FFPNL Subcommittee**

Further discussions regarding the FFPNL Subcommittee were made including EPA "Feed it Onward" initiatives." Dr. Malik offered to lead the FFPNL Subcommittee. It was noted there is no requirement for FFPNL to function as a committee, as it falls under the DHS Director's Office, and the Council may choose how to structure or modify it in the future. The Chair inquired about participation limit for CFS members. Subcommittees cannot exceed CFS quorum.

The Chair proposed the discussion continue at the next CFS quarterly meeting due to time constraints. Jeff Duncan motioned to approve continue discussion at the next meeting. Tori Lawson-Boffelli seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on decision to submit a Bill Draft Review (BDR) for the 2027 legislative session**

The Chair proposed postponement of action on this agenda until further discussion on FFPNL to review similar legislation in other states.

DPBH clarified that the bill draft request (BDR) was assigned to the Council under SB 233 and must specifically relate to the Home Feeds Nevada program, with a submission deadline of December 1. She noted this is the first time the Council has been assigned a bill under legislation and that DPBH can assist with advancing the BDR once the Council determines its direction and completes the required form.

The Chair reiterated that a meaningful discussion on the BDR cannot occur until after the Council reviews updates under Agenda Item 11 concerning SB233 activities. She proposed moving Agenda Item 9 to follow Agenda Item 11. Hearing no objections, the Chair proceeded with the agenda adjustment.

10. For Possible Action: Standing discussion and possible action on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) deliverables, goals, and timelines

The Chair opened Agenda Item 10 and referred to the Office of Food Security. It was advised for Council members review the reports in the packet members to refer to page 60 of the agenda packet where goals are identifiable to assist in deciding on current goals, future goals, and timelines. Drafts on new reports will be ready for review at the next CFS quarterly meeting in July and October to ensure alignment with current priorities.

The Chair reviewed the listed goals, observing that they reflect ongoing Council efforts, including increasing awareness of food distribution resources, continuing work to address food insecurity, guiding and monitoring FFPNL, food security conference, collaborating on emergency planning, and continuing in-person meetings.

No additional comments or revisions were proposed by Council members. The Chair closed Agenda Item 10 and noted that it will remain on the agenda for the July meeting.

11. For Possible Action: Standing discussion, meeting updates, and possible action on study updates

The Chair initiated discussion regarding study updates and requested clarification on how inventory items are categorized. It was confirmed the items in question are tracked as stand-alone donated pounds within their reporting requirements to the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

The Chair opened the floor for further discussion from members participating in the SB233 and AB405 committees. DPBH reported the Chronic Disease Evaluation Team completed

an evaluation of available home-delivered feed programs and submitted a comprehensive list of questions to Patricia Hoppe at the Nevada Department of Agriculture, who is working through the responses. She further noted that DPBH is moving forward with securing a contractor to assist in drafting the required reports after efforts to obtain an intern were unsuccessful, with the goal of producing a solid draft by July. The Chair acknowledged the council will continue to meet monthly, aided by a tracking spreadsheet that outlines monthly deliverables. Additional information will be reviewed in July, including survey results and further discussion on Agenda Item 9 and direction for the assigned BDR.

12. For Possible Action: For discussion and possible action to review and determine future agenda items

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The following was discussed:

- Continue focus on discussions and actions stemming from the presentations provided.
- Separate agenda items for board members to make public comment will now be required per DPBH and separate from “public comment”.
- SNAP benefits reductions and any plans to increase participation in other federal nutrition programs such as Child and Care Adult Food Program (CACFP) or Summer Food Program (SFSP) to support affected families. Program limitations were discussed noting that federal requirements restrict eligibility for CACFP and SFSP and caseloads are at capacity. Reductions in the Emergency Food Assistant Program (TEFAP) commodities limit additional support. Possible action would be outreach, policy change, and increased state investments.

13. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

The Chair opened the floor to public comment. No public comment was made.

Jeff Duncan motioned to adjourn, Tori Lawson-Boffelli seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment:

The Chair adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

Next Meeting:

Meeting:

Date: July 21, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attachments:

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

*Minutes prepared by Tammera Brower 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)*.