

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

JANUARY 20, 2026

Time: 1:00PM – Adjournment

Location: Microsoft Teams and Carson City

Type of meeting: Regular Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members present:

Jenny Yeager proxy for Amber Torres
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
Dr. Julian Goicoechea
Dr. Sabina Malik
Jeff Duncan
Jill Moe
Kelly Cantrelle
Lori Lutu
Marcia Blake
Nishat Gould
Roberto Carrillo
Vickie Ives

Members absent:

Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi
Dr. Pamela Juniel
Sara Ramirez

Others Present:

Alexis Hogan, CDPHP
Amber Hise, CDPHP
Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff
Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
Dillon Winkelman, DPBH
Donadya McCullough, CDPHP
Johnathon Welch, DPBH
Lori Taylor, DPBH, Office of Food Security

Patricia Hoppe, NDA
Taliman Afroz, CDPHP
Tori (Samantha) Lawson-Boffelli, USDA FNS
Taylor Moseley, DBPH
Sabrina Petrel, Cartwright NV Government Affairs
Shane Piccinini, FBNN

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

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:04PM

Name of the presiding officer: Chair Marcia Blake

Roll call was called, 12 of 15 members were present, establishing quorum.

2. **Public Comment:**

First Public Comment Period: There were no public comments made either virtually or in the conference room. The public comment period was closed.

3. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes from October 14, 2025, and November 14, 2025.**

Dr. Dorian Stonebarger moved to approve both October 14th and November 14, 2025, meeting minutes. Dr. Sabina Malik seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **For Information Only: Medicaid Waiver Presentation**

Chair Blake informed the council that the Medicaid Waiver presentations were postponed to the April or July 2026 CFS meeting.

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 the reports for FHN, CFS and FFPNL remain with DPBH under review. CFS and FFPNL report will be routed to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) no later than January 31st. No further questions were raised, and Final reports will be distributed once received by the Office of Food Security (OFS).

6. **For Information Only: Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) report on the FFY25 Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 561.51.**

Lori Taylor confirmed the Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report is included in the meeting packet under item #6 and has no formal presentation. Patricia Hoppe from Nevada Department of Agriculture made her presence known for anyone that had questions on

the report. Those that had questions were encouraged to reach out to NDA if they had any questions.

7. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) deliverables. A. Northern and Southern Nevada Food Security Conference and B. Northern and Southern Food Security Workgroups:

a. Chair Blake inquired with Lori Taylor if the Council on Food Security and University of Nevada, Reno merged. Lori Taylor confirmed that the conference was scheduled for March and asked Patricia Hoppe if she had heard much about the merger. Patricia Hoppe clarified that she has no updates on the NDA conference. Jenny Yeager, on behalf of Amber Torres, requested clarification regarding the merger, specifically around the methods of communication and expectations for joining the newly merged conference. Lori Taylor explained that UNR would take the lead on the merged conference and will be offered in Northern Nevada from March 25 to March 27. Northern Nevada Agricultural Conference planned tracks include the following:

1. Agriculture, nutrition, and food system planning
2. Agriculture production
3. Conservative and Sustainability
4. The Means of Providing

Lori Taylor informed the council that Daunelle Wulstein is in charge from UNR extension and would need to research what communication looked like since she does not have the details.

No further updates on SHIP activities.

During the discussion regarding the Roots to Resilience Conference, Dr. Sabina Malik stated that council members must receive formal invitations from the organizing team before participating. It was noted that the council has disbanded the related workgroup, which changes how involvement will be structured moving forward. The Southern Nevada Roots to Resilience Conference, described as a Small Farms Conference with a Food Systems track addressing food security, is scheduled for February 25–27. Marcia will inquire about the status of the Northern Nevada Roots to Resilience Conference. The group reviewed SHIP-related

considerations, noting that while SHIP includes a leadership-related deliverable, no funding is available to host a SHIP-led conference. Clarification is needed on how participation in Roots to Resilience aligns with SHIP goals, particularly given questions raised by Dr. Sabina Malik regarding where the SHIP is housed and how DPBH support connects to conference activities. Lori reported that planning for the Roots to Resilience Conference began in collaboration with UNR and that NACDD assisted with a survey tied to SHIP work; during discussions with UNR, the concept of merging the conference with Council on Food Security emerged, and UNR contact information remains to be confirmed. It was further noted that two SHIP-related conferences had originally been planned: the Southern Nevada conference, which is now paused, and the Northern Nevada conference, which is pending further review with follow-up assigned to Marcia.

b. Chair Blake decided to table this until the next meeting. No action taken.

8. For Possible Action: Discuss and possible action on the FFPNL Subcommittee: a. Updates regarding the Subcommittee. b. Approval of member applications.

a. Lori provided an overview of the tasks currently assigned to FFPNL, including preparing meeting minutes, completing the annual report, defining program goals, reviewing options for a food rescue seal, identifying an appropriate food recovery toolkit, and developing a financial plan. She noted that the program remains unfunded and that efforts to identify potential funding sources are ongoing. The council discussed the purpose and necessity of a proposed food rescue seal, with Marcia raising questions regarding its intended goal and whether existing food rescue efforts are needed by Three Square and Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Dr. Sabina Malik explained that the concept was originally based on practices in other states and intended not to create a costly new program but rather to recognize and elevate the work already occurring in Nevada. Policy considerations were also reviewed, with Jenny Yeager noting that the seal requirement originated in legislation and may warrant removal from NRS. She emphasized that food banks are not required to report food rescue data, and the information used in previous FFPNL reports was provided voluntarily. Jenny questioned the specific problem the seal aims to address and whether future legislative efforts should instead focus on

strengthening food recovery requirements and improving how food recovery is communicated. Jeff Duncan added that the primary challenge is the limited capacity of partner organizations to carry out food rescue operations, and a seal alone would not resolve operational constraints. The group further discussed whether food rescue reporting should be included in the Council's annual report, with clarification that no statutory reporting mandate currently exists. Jeff Duncan also expressed concern about proceeding with activities without clear purpose or authority. Additional comments from Lori Taylor emphasized the importance of involving DPBH in conversations about coordinating related efforts. Further direction is needed regarding next steps for the seal, expectations for reporting, and whether a dedicated subcommittee should be established.

- b. Lori Taylor requested clarification on whether her office should continue efforts to implement the program during the interim. Chair Blake recommended halting efforts temporarily to avoid overburdening food bank employees who will assist with the presentation.

Jeff Duncan motioned to approve the food banks jointly prepare and present the process and needs to further promote educated decisions. Jenny Yeager seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on study updates: a. SB233 Home Feeds Nevada study. b. AB405 Food Insecurity Study.**

Chair Blake turned the discussion over to Lori Taylor, noting a meeting scheduled next week to address two related items. Lori Taylor confirmed a special session is scheduled monthly. Jeff Duncan asked about prior conversations and expressed concern about quorum issues for the subcommittee.

Amber Hise emphasized that the subcommittee must avoid creating a quorum of the Council on Food Security and additional members can be added if needed. OFS (Lori Taylor) confirmed the current member list and explained quorum would be 8 members; currently, there are 7 council members on the subcommittee. If Tori Lawson-Boffelli is appointed, adjustments will be needed.

Jennifer Yeager recommended replacing Amber Torres with Shane Piccinini (Government Affairs) as the Food Bank representative for better context on SB233. Chair Blake expressed support with Jenny Yeager's recommendation.

Dr. Sabina Malik asked about the AB405 policy assessment and whether the planned workshop with the Governor's Council is still moving forward.

Chair Blake was unsure and suggested clarifying at next Tuesday's meeting.

Tori Lawson-Boffelli reminded the group that her application has yet to be approved and currently will not count toward quorum.

Chair Blake and Nishat Gould volunteered to step off the subcommittee to allow more knowledgeable members to participate and avoid quorum issues.

Council members agreed to confirm representation, quorum compliance, and clarify AB4051 policy assessment plan at the upcoming meeting.

10. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on CFS outstanding goals: A. Remaining 2025 goals and B. Determine 2026 goals.

Chair Blake led a discussion on the Council on Food Security's outstanding goals, including the remaining 2025 goals and the establishment of goals for FY 2026. Members proposed several additions, including Dr. Sabina Malik's recommendation to incorporate regular reports from the Northern and Southern Nevada Food Councils to strengthen statewide coordination, as well as discussion of the newly released Dietary Guidelines for Americans and their potential impacts on SNAP- and WIC-authorized retailers. Jennifer Yeager, speaking on behalf of Amber Torres, encouraged the council to evaluate the anticipated effects of HR1 on food insecurity and federal nutrition programs, noting that early awareness could support preparation for the next legislative session. Chair Blake stated that these issues align with emergency food planning due to their broad statewide impact. Jeff Duncan recommended inviting subject matter experts from the Division of Social Services and Medicaid to present on food rescue laws and HR1 at a future

meeting, a suggestion supported by Kelly Cantrelle, who confirmed she could provide an updated presentation. Amber Hise reminded members that additional related items could also be addressed under future agenda items. Following discussion, Jeff Duncan moved to adopt the FY 2026 goals—continuing work on AB405 and SB233, advancing emergency food planning, addressing food rescue issues, increasing coordination between the northern and southern food councils, and further examining the impacts of HR1.

Jeff Duncan motioned to approve the goals for FY2026, Dr. Sabina Malik seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Blake opened the floor for discussion. Discussion on future agenda items discussed among the council with the agreed conclusion:

- Focusing on 3-4 future agenda items.
- Medicaid Waiver Presentation postponed until July's meeting.
- Division of Social Services Presentation (Kelly Cantrelle) on HR 1 and the impact on SNAP.
- Three Squares presentation on Food Recovery Efforts
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada Presentation on Food Recovery Efforts.

Jeff Duncan began a motion to approve the future agenda items; Dr. Sabina Malik seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

12. **Public Comment:**

Second Public Comment Period:

Chair Blake opened the floor to public comment.

Jill Moe informed the council that she will be stepping down from her role.

Lori Taylor confirmed that a Request for Information (RFI) was released on January 15, 2026, regarding vacancies and information was provided in the chat.

Amber Hise encouraged the council to help fill the CFS positions.

13. Adjournment:

Chair Blake adjourned the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 PM.

Next Meeting:

Meeting:

Date: April 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 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)*.