

The Nevada Council on Food Security
[DRAFT] Minutes
January 18, 2022

Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on January 18, 2022, beginning at approximately 1:04 P.M. via video and teleconference. This meeting was held in accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

Board Members Present

Jennifer Ott, Director of Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)

Dr. Aurora Calvillo Buffington, University of Nevada, Reno

Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, Nutrition Unit, Bureau of Child, Family, and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Rique Robb, Deputy Administrator of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Child Services

Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada Health District Board of Health

Homa Annooshehpour, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Division, NDA

Michael Brown, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development

Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Family

Jhone Ebert Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nevada Department of Education (NDE)

Marcia Blake, Executive Director, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley (HHOVV)

Jenny Yeager, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)

Board Members Not Present

Deacon Tom Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)

Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)

Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub

Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)

Staff Present:

Lily R. Helzer, MPH, Section Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Kayla Samuels, Office Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Patricia Segura, MPH, Wellness and Prevention Program Coordinator, Office of Food Security and Wellness (OFSW), Nutrition Unit, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Dr. Kathrine Wright, PhD, MPH, Food Security Coordinator, OFSW, Nutrition Unit, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Elleni Rioja, Food Security Analyst, OFSW, Nutrition Unit, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Max Moskowitz, Wellness and Prevention Analyst, OFSW, Nutrition Unit, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH, DHHS

Others Present:

Jeff Duncan, ADSD

Raven Sumner

Kristen Sullivan

Sheri Gallucci

Meredith Levine, The Guinn Center

James Humm, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)

Maurice Johnson, Three Square

Nancy Brune, The Guinn Center

Tyler Shaw, FRPA

Lois Ann Porter, Blueprint Collaborative

1. Roll Call

Chair Jennifer Ott called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.519 § 2.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Ott called for public comment and there were none.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of November 2, 2021 meeting minutes

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING MINUTES. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. KENNETH OSGOOD. JENNY YEAGER SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH AN AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTES TO MARK DR. AURORA CALVILLO BUFFINGTON AS ABSENT FROM THE MEETING.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Presentation and discussion on Food Security Plan revision

Dr. Nancy Brune presented an update on the status of the food security strategic planning process.

Meredith Levine discussed survey themes, example questions, and survey distribution as outlined in the presentation. Surveys will be distributed to end-users (those who may use emergency food services), traditional service providers, and non-traditional service providers.

The surveys and interviews will function as a needs assessment. Data discovery will occur in January 2022.

The surveys will be available from February 1, 2022 – February 28, 2022. Interviews will take place February 2022- April 2022. Reviews will be drafted May 2022 – July 2022. The final plan should be delivered by July 2022.

The deliverables were identified to be a food security strategic action plan, implementation guide, and evaluation plan.

Meredith Levine asked for any feedback and questions from the council.

Dr. Brune noted the list of providers for survey distribution was not included in the meeting materials packet and would work to get the list sent to the council. Dr. Brune also offered to discuss the topic and answer questions outside the meeting if individuals feel the need to do so. They also noted the survey will be available in English and Spanish, on Survey Planet, will have a QR code, and will be available in print to encourage completion of the survey.

Chair Ott asked for the presentation slides to be sent to the council as well.

Dr. Brune confirmed the requested materials would be distributed to the council.

Dr. Osgood asked if the list of organizations throughout the state cumulated by the 211 call and prior surveys was sent over to Dr. Brune.

Dr. Brune confirmed yes, Dr. Osgood did supply the information and many of the organizations provided are on the list in the presentation.

Jenny Yeager asked if there was any incentive to participate in the survey and how many surveys are expected to be returned to use the data in planning. They also asked if council members were expected to send the Community Survey to their organizational partners.

Dr. Brune said hopefully, the main list of partners planned for survey distribution will already line up with Jenny Yeager's partners to hopefully capture 90-95% of the "ecosystem." They also said incentives had not been discussed, however conversation can be had.

Jenny Yeager said 26 questions plus demographics is a considerable time commitment and noted concern over encouraging responses. Yeager also reiterated, asking how many survey responses are needed to use the data effectively.

Dr. Brune said there is an expectation for 1,500 surveys based on previous project results.

Chair Ott called for any other questions and noted Lois Ann Porter has rejoined the meeting and asked if Porter had anything to add.

Lois Ann Porter thanked Dr. Brune for carrying on with the presentation. Porter was more than happy to answer any additional questions.

Dr. Osgood had comments and suggestions but wanted to address them in a follow-up call. Dr. Osgood asked about Dr. Brune's availability.

Dr. Brune said was happy to have a call to address Dr. Osgood's comments.

Chair Ott called for any further questions, and there were none. Chair Ott noted the next CFS meeting would be highly informative as survey results start to return.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation and possible action to approve the 2021 Council on Food Security Annual Report Draft

Chair Ott briefly reviewed the discussion on the subject from the previous council meeting and noted there were no follow-up questions between then and the current meeting.

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF THE 2021 COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY ANNUAL REPORT. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY JHONE EBERT. MARCIA BLAKE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action to make recommendations regarding American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding

Chair Ott noted updates in the project and indicated the majority of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) funding regarding the CFS committee has not yet been approved.

Rebekah Stetson asked for proposed uses for funding as applies to the council thus far.

Chair Ott said the information is unknown and has not been officially released.

Rebekah Stetson asked if the ARP was seeking recommendations from CFS.

Chair Ott said recommendations were not requested, however, a council member requested the agenda item during the last meeting to discuss recommendations. Chair Ott mentioned there was nothing specific to discuss.

Marcia Blake asked if there was a percentage formula for different areas of the 30 million dollars or a certain percentage ARP is looking to allocate for food security.

Chair Ott said there were no percentage items and doesn't know if there will be any coming forth. Chair Ott noted SB 461 set aside 7.6 million for food security work; however, there is no additional information.

Chair Ott suggested the council table the discussion until the next meeting when more information might be available and asked for other opinions.

Jenny Yeager agreed the discussion should be tabled until more information is available to drive the conversation.

Chair Ott agreed and noted strategic planning would inform the council's actions. Chair Ott asked for any other comments. No comments were provided.

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO RESUME DISCUSSION ON ARP FUNDING NEXT MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY JENNY YEAGER. MARCIA BLAKE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action to make recommendations for Interim Committee on Health presentation regarding food security issues and priorities

Dr. Osgood discussed the formation of the subcommittee, Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, and the goal for CFS to present their goals and history to the new subcommittee so the two may build a relationship to address future issues better. Dr. Osgood presented potential topics for the Council on Food Security Legislative Committee Presentation and asked for input on what should be added or be the focus during the presentation to the legislature.

Dr. Osgood stated the mission of the agenda item is to help direct what should be presented and what the

council wants the legislature to know.

Chair Ott asked for missing items or items should not be on the list.

Jenny Yeager asked for a copy to give to others for review.

Chair Ott noted the document is in the meeting materials packet.

Marica Blake said discussing previous legislative items of concern CFS was not able to comment on at the time would be beneficial. Dr. Osgood agreed with Marcia Blake and noted desire for the legislature to contact CFS with any related concerns may arise.

Marcia Blake noted the desire to be proactive instead of reactive to new bills.

Rique Robb asked if there is something the council needs to carry on, what the council can do for them, and is there something the legislature can provide the council to reach common goals.

Chair Ott said as much notice as possible on issues is preferred to work through support and discussion.

Dr. Osgood asked if there was anything to remove from the list.

Rique Robb suggested number 6b on the list be made more generic.

Dr. Osgood agreed with Rique Robb's suggestion.

Chair Ott asked for any other items, and there were none. Chair Ott stated the next step was to create a presentation and put the item on the agenda for the interim committee. Chair Ott asked if the council would like to see the final presentation.

Robert Thompson trusted those creating the presentation and did not feel the council needed to meet to review.

CHAIR OTT ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LISTED TOPICS AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PRESENTATION. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ROBERT THOMPSON. RIQUE ROBB SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present updates related to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program increase

Robert Thompson said the presentation was made to summarize a full 125-page Thrifty Food Plan document and noted collaboration with Sheri Gallucci, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) food stamp specialist.

Sheri Gallucci introduced herself as the food stamp program specialist for the State of Nevada.

Robert Thompson presented What is the Thrifty Food Plan with input from Sheri Gallucci.

Robert Thompson asked for questions from the council.

Marcia Blake asked how the plan incorporates students who got Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) cards because they qualified for free or reduced lunches.

Sheri Gallucci noted the program was separate with different eligibility criteria. Almost 400 million dollars were administered in P-EBT for the 2020/2021 school year, and approximately 396,000 children received the

PEBT benefit. Gallucci noted this year a second eligibility criterion was added to address the mode of learning at the schools. Gallucci stated PEBT is meant to provide a replacement for free or reduced lunches at school, and if the mode of learning was in-person for the month, the student did not receive PEBT funds. Gallucci stated analyses were conducted for each school and the mode of learning for every month to decide P-EBT funds. Pre-pandemic approximately 50 million dollars in SNAP, now with the emergency allotments spending is approximately 100 million dollars. With PEBT, expenditures from the 2019/2020 school year to now have been close to 600 million dollars.

Robert Thompson noted a projected 1.75 billion dollars in food stamps, including P-EBT. Dr. Osgood asked if Thompson could survey or conduct analysis to see if programs are assisting new recipients and offered the council's assistance in the proposal.

Robert Thompson said DWSS was beyond capacity to take on any additional projects but noted the council is welcome to take on the project to provide helpful information.

Dr. Osgood noted the usefulness of before and after analyses in program effectiveness.

Robert Thompson said one notable piece of the P-EBT is there is no citizenship requirement, so the program can reach children who are not eligible for standard food stamps.

Sheri Gallucci noted of the 396,000 students, 231,000 children in the program were non-DWSS customers who would not have met the criteria for food stamps.

Marcia Blake asked if there was an increase in senior citizens applying for SNAP.

Robert Thompson noted there had been a four to five percent increase in participants; however, for those aged 65 and older, there has been a fifteen percent increase in enrollment since the beginning of the public health emergency.

Sheri Gallucci noted the Older Americans Act criteria for seniors is 60 years and older; however, Sheri was happy to hear there was an increase.

Dr. Osgood reiterated analysis be conducted to prove the success of the SNAP program.

Chair Ott mentioned Dr. Brune from the Guinn Center was still on the call and could consider Dr. Osgood's suggestion as part of the Guinn Center's work.

Sheri Gallucci said the program's primary incentive in senior participation was to increase the allotted amount during the public health emergency.

Robert Thompson reiterated the program is more attractive and draws in senior participation.

Jenny Yeager expressed concern with the lack of caseload in The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and maintaining resources to meet the need after SNAP allotment goes back down.

Sheri Gallucci asked if participants could receive both SNAP and CSFP.

Jenny Yeager confirmed participants could receive both.

Robert Thompson noted concerns for programs after the public health emergency ends.

Chair Ott discussed the rebranding of the CSFP program to encourage senior enrollment alongside other programs.

Sarah Rogers asked about progress in allowing senior and disabled SNAP members to purchase hot foods and restaurant foods with benefits.

Robert Thompson said the purchase of hot foods or restaurant foods is made through waivers, which are currently moving forward to a point where they might be seen soon.

Sherri Gallucci described the application process with the waiver in FNS must approve the waiver and each participant.

Robert Thompson confirmed the agency would do all possible to assist in the process.

Sarah Rogers asked for the information to be shared so it can be pushed out to Sarah's sources.

Robert Thompson confirmed to send the information once it is available.

Chair Ott called for other questions, there were none.

9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and possible action to make recommendations to Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) regarding Funds for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) funding

Elleni Rioja presented the Fund for Healthy Nevada slides.

Chair Ott asked for clarification on the agenda item, asking if CFS was meant to make recommendations to the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC).

Rioja said the presentation outlined what the program currently entailed and if CFS would like to make recommendations for changes to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in the next grant period.

Elleni Rioja explained \$2 million was allocated to 11 partners. The NOFO requirements include the submission of six distinct parts (e.g., abstract, budget, application form, and project narrative).

Chair Ott confirmed the agenda item referred to the program's requirements during the funding process.

Lily Helzer said the ultimate ask was if the council had any considerations or recommendations for the next notice of funding opportunity (NOFO).

Chair Ott asked for questions or suggestions.

Jenny Yeager asked when the next funding cycle would be.

Lily Helzer said funding occurs each biennium, the next being July 1, 2023. Hence, the programs need to start writing the NOFO, allowing enough time to promote the information and have applicants respond.

Marcia Blake asked if the council could be provided the previous NOFO for review.

Lily Helzer confirmed the document could be sent out to CFS.

Chair Ott asked for questions or comments.

Jenny Yeager noted an opportunity to look at the big picture for addressing food insecurity and improving food insecurity. Yeager suggested readdressing the subject at the next meeting after reviewing the NOFO.

Chair Ott asked if addressing the topic at the next CFS meeting fit the FHN timeline.

Lily Helzer believed it would be fine for the timeline, pending guidance from the Grants Management
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Advisory Council (GMAC)

10. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Present member updates

Chair Ott asked the council for any updates any council members would like to share.

Rique Robb said Aging and Disability Services is finalizing funding requests for the Older Americans Act. Robb said the Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds will be fully expended.

Homa Annooshehpour's organization is working with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square regarding the Build Back Better plan. Annooshehpour said 1.2 million dollars have been distributed in administrative funds will go to IFC in April and will be disseminated to food banks. Also creating applications for other grants to assist in food security.

Chair Ott asked for any other updates.

Dr. Osgood mentioned serving on the quality oversight committee for a mental health company. In Southern Nevada, the number of stressed individuals has increased dramatically in the last two quarters. Dr. Osgood said there are significant rates of depression and other associated mental health issues accompany elevated levels of stress will affect food consumption and appropriate use of food.

11. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and approval on future agenda items

Chair Ott said the discussion for FHN items will be put on the next meeting agenda and asked for any other items.

Sarah Rogers asked if the ARP funding discussion would be readdressed next meeting or further out.

Chair Ott confirmed it would be addressed next meeting.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Ott asked for public comment. There were none.

13. Adjournment

Chair Ott adjourned the meeting at 2:39 PM.