

## THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY MEETING AGENDA

July 16, 2024

1:00 P.M. To Adjournment

### **Las Vegas Onsite Location:**

1501 Las Vegas Blvd N, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

The location is past Cashman Field and across from Woodlawn Cemetery. Security will direct you to parking and the administrative building.

### **Carson City Onsite Location:**

4150 Technology Way, Carson City, NV 89706.

When you arrive buzz the front door. Let them know you are here for the Nevada Council on Food Security (CFS) meeting. Someone will be in the lobby to take you to the conference room.

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*Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion.*

### 1. Call to order and roll call

Members: Allison Genco (Chair), Dr. Pamela Juniel, (Tori) Samantha Lawson-Boffelli, Deacon Tom Roberts, Vickie Ives, Jeff Duncan, Kelly Cantrelle, Dr. Dorain

Stonebarger, Dr. Julian Goicoechea, Jesus Mendoza Jr., Lisa Swearingen, and Maria Menjivar.

## 2. Public Comment

Public comment may be presented in-person, by computer, phone, or written comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public comment telephonically, dial [775-321-6111](tel:775-321-6111). When prompted to provide the Meeting ID, enter [609225494#](tel:609225494#). Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than five (5) minutes. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name. Please avoid using acronyms or define any acronyms used. A person may also have comments added to the minutes of the meeting by submitting them in writing either in addition to testifying or in lieu of testifying. Written comments may be submitted electronically before, during, or after the meeting by emailing Lori Taylor at [L.Taylor@health.nv.gov](mailto:L.Taylor@health.nv.gov). You may also mail written documents to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, 3rd. Floor, Carson City, NV 89706, attention to: Office of Food Security.

## 3. Informational Item: Next Meeting Date

- **October 15, 2024, at 1:00 P.M.** (Remote Only)

## 4. For Possible Action: Approval of April 2, 2024, meeting minutes - Allison Genco, Chair

## 5. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to review and recommend applications to fill vacant council seats, per NRS 232.4966(4) – Allison Genco, Chair

## 6. Informational Item: Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) presentation on Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)- Blanca Ayala, DPBH

## 7. Informational Item: Three Square and Food Bank of Northern Nevada Food Bank presentation- Charlotte Williams and Shane Piccinini, Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Gabby Everett, Three Square.

8. **For Possible Action:** Nevada Revised Statutes ([NRS 232.4969](#)) Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) Subcommittee Updates and consideration for possible recommendations- Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security (OFS) Manager
  - FFPNL will be a running agenda item and a separate meeting will be held by the FFPNL subcommittee.
9. **For Possible Action:** For Approval 2024 CFS Draft Annual Report - Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security
10. **For Possible Action:** Review and possible recommendations on State Health Improvement Plan Action Steps and Objectives - Allison Genco, Chair
11. **For Discussion:** Remaining 2024 CFS Goals - Allison Genco, Chair
  - Possible topics:
    - Food Security Programs in the community and through the State (Focus on distribution, support, and general food access).
    - Subjects/Topics related to Food Insecurity Statistics, such as the pounds of food distributed, and people served.
    - Southwest Regional Food System Project
    - Home Delivered Meals Program
    - Gap Survey to determine federal standards or policies in places that are creating barriers that result in a possible increase in food insecurity. Placed on hold until after SHIP deliverables are met.
    - How food insecurity is being addressed in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts.
12. **For Possible Action:** Future agenda items- Allison Genco, Chair
  - Standing Agenda Item - FFPNL
  - Standing Agenda Item - SHIP Action Steps
  - 2024 CFS Annual Final Report
13. **Public Comment:** Allison Genco, Chair

**14. Adjournment:** Allison Genco, Chair

**Note:** Unless a specific time is noted, items on the agenda may be taken in any order and any agenda items not covered at this meeting may be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.

This body will provide at least two (2) public comment periods in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Open Meeting Law prior to adjournment. No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the item has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. The Chair retains discretion to only provide for the Open Meeting Law's minimum public comment and not call for additional item-specific public comment when it is deemed necessary by the chair to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Please be advised that at the discretion of the Chair, public comments may be limited to five (5) minutes.

Members of the public who are living with a disability and require accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify the Commission Secretary in writing at: Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carson City, NV 89706, or by calling Sarah Rogers at 775-430-0014 no later than three (3) working days prior to the meeting date.

Supporting material for this meeting can be obtained at: Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89706, or by calling Lori Taylor at (775) 546-8512 or via email at [L.Taylor@health.nv.gov](mailto:L.Taylor@health.nv.gov).

**NOTICES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Nevada WIC Office, 680 West Nye St., Ste. 205, Carson City  
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, 550 Italy Drive, McCarran  
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, 2320 Paseo del Prado Bldg. B Suite 112, Las Vegas  
Three Square, 4190 N Pecos Road, Las Vegas  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health website: [Nevada Council on Food Security Meeting Schedule for 2024 \(nv.gov\)](#)

Nevada Public Notice Website: <https://notice.nv.gov/>

# Attachment for Agenda Item #4

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



Richard Whitley,  
MS  
Director

**DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Cody Phinney,  
MPH  
Administrator

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

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**The Nevada Council on Food Security**

**[DRAFT] Minutes**

**March 2, 2024**

**1:00pm**

The Nevada Council on Food Security held a public meeting on March 2, 2024 beginning at approximately 1:02 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**

Allison Jenko  
Dr. Pamela Janiel, Department of Education  
Tory Lawson Boffeli  
Deacon Thomas Roberts, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada (CCSN)  
Vickie Ives, MA DPBH Bureau Chief  
Kelly Cantrell, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS)  
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger, Chief Policy Advisor  
Dr. Julian Goicoechea, Director of Agriculture  
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, Southern Nevada health District, Director of the Advisory board of Health  
Dr. Sabina Malik,  
Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Western Regional Office (WRO)  
Lisa Swearingen  
Marcia Blake, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley  
Maria Menjivar, Environmental Health Division Manager, CCHHS  
Maurice Johnson, Three Square Food Bank  
Marie Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN)

**Board Members Not Present**

Deborah Hassett, Department of Health and Human Service, Director's Office  
Rebekah Stetson, Chief Executive Officer of Organic Farm  
Julian Goicoechea, Director of Agriculture  
Jeffrey Duncan, Aging and Disability Services Division  
James Humm, Diversity Nevada  
Jenny Yeager, Director of Programs and Community Engagement, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN)  
Kelli Kelly, Director, Fallon Food Hub  
Brittany Price, Director of Sustainable Operations, MGM Resorts International

**Others Present:**

Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Chief, DPBH  
Lori Taylor, Food Security and Wellness Manager, CDPHP  
Delaney Geissinger, Office Manager, CDPHP  
Paige Musser, Program Support Staff, CDPHP  
Amber Hise, Program Manager, CDPHP

## 1. Call to order and roll call

Sarah Rogers took roll and acting chair Sarah Rogers determined quorum was met for the Council of Food Security Advisory meeting per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518.

## 2. Public Comment

Allison Genco called for public comment.

Ms. Rogers letting Council members know that there will be some food security presentations coming up at the next interim joint Standing Interim Committee on Health and Human Services meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. They reached out to the state in and a couple of food security partners for presentations, so I just wanted to make Council aware of that in case you are interested in listening in on those.

Allison Genco thanking for the information. She will be in attendance and will be presenting to the committee next Monday.

Ms. Taylor dropped in the chat a link to the Silver State Health improvement plan that was released 2023-2028 which is what we are working on the food section of this plan, but thought it was important to drop some information about the plan and the link to that. If you are interested in accessing the entire plan you can do so also another link related to the recent report from Feeding America. Thank you, Jenny from the Food Bank in Northern Nevada, for providing the information. It's a great snapshot of some experiences, concerns, and ideas of people facing hunger in our state. Even though it doesn't specifically indicate Nevada there is a lot of valuable information.

Allison Genco closed public comment.

## 3. Approval upcoming meetings.

This will be an in person meeting, however we will maintain a remote link as a courtesy for the public. We have two locations; we have the Carson City location at 4150 Technology Way in room 303 this is the boardroom at The Division of Public and Behavioral Health. There is a button to be buzzed into the building at the front and just have to let the front desk know you are there for the Council meeting and they will let you go upstairs to the third floor to sign in. The second location is in Las Vegas at 1501 Las Vegas Blvd in Las Vegas. Also there will be a remote option and then for our October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting is again at 1:00pm that is a remote option as well. Any questions regarding these meetings?

Dr. Juniel Thank you for the information regarding the meetings. Will the October meeting be in the same location as the one listed in July or are we like moving around to be friendly with the community?

Allison Genco No, the October meeting will just be remote, so we will have a team's meeting just how we are doing it today.

Dr. Juniel, Thank you. One last question with regards to the food presentation on the 8<sup>th</sup> is that at 1:00pm as well?

Allison Genco No, that presentation the meeting starts at 9:00 for the Interim health Committee, I am unsure when our presentation is slated for it is tentative at this point. Ms. Rogers, I don't believe that they have clarified when we are?

Dr. Juniel, Thank you.

Ms. Rogers, We don't have a set date as there are a few presentations slated for that day. They have multiple topics so will be dependent on how long each presentation is. No set time.

Dr. Juniel Thank you for your help.

Allison Genco Thank you Dr. Juniel. Deacon Tom, please go ahead.

Deacon Thomas Thank you. Just a point of clarification 1501 Las Vegas Blvd is North, its important to have the end onto if you are using map finder on your phone so you don't end up at the Bellagio or New York, NY and that is the main campus for Catholic Charities. We will be meeting in the administration building and when you pull in for those that maybe have not been there before, there will be a checkpoint of security guard checkpoint. They will be aware that you are coming, and they will direct you to parking, but just so you know, the meeting is in the boardroom in the administration building at 1:00pm and we are happy to have everyone come and meet with us there.

Allison Genco, Thank you Jake and Tom. We thank you for donating the facility to have the meeting there. We are really looking forward to having it there. So, thank you. Any other questions about the in person meeting and the October meeting?

#### 4. Approval of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Allison Genco, Questions or clarifications about the January meeting minutes?

**Dorian Stoneberger motioned to approve the minutes. Marcia Blake seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

#### 5. Certificate of Appreciation for Dr. Osgood.

Allison Genco, Dr. Osgood has served his full three consecutive terms, I believe that is the max amount you can serve, which is impressive. I just want to take a few moments to recognize his service to the Council and thank him for his work. Dr. Osgood has been on the Council since the beginning. Just take a moment to talk about some of the work he has done and give others a quick few seconds to thank Dr. Osgood.

Dr. Osgood, Yes I was contacted by three governors ago now (Governor Sandovall) since he know that I was involved with food security and going back many years and asked if I would be a part of the council. So I was one of the original members. Remembering one of the first things that came up, we found out that three squares did

not have enough food and that all the casinos would just throw away all their excess food. So the first meeting had with the community was with the hotels and we arranged for them to stop throwing away their food and start donating/giving to the food banks. Sooner than later the food banks had enough food to bale to meet the demand at the time. Remember Marcia Blake, were you involved when we decided that we only wanted to do that the first age population that we were going to try and found out what their needs were in the gap square were the school age kids?

Marcia Blake, No I did not join until we started focusing on seniors.

Dr. Osgood, Oh okay. Well, the first group we divided, I guess that was Catherine Sandoval who said listen we can't take care of all the needs because every population age group has its different needs. So, we divided the population arbitrarily into preschool, school age, adults up to age sixty, and seniors; the first group that we addressed was the problems of the school age. Deacon Tom were you one of those who asked the schools? I was giving some programs and diabetes at that time to the schools and found out that every school, in order to meet the SNAP program, had to have six different refrigerators because SNAP was so complicated that the kids in the schools wound up having six different SNAP programs, they were enrolled in federally and each one had a different storage requirement. So, none of the schools could afford that. Remember that?

Deacon Tom, well we had a lot of discoveries in those early days.

Dr. Osgood, we sure did. There were a lot of obstructions. There was a transportation obstruction, anyway I will not go through it all, but we contacted the legislature, our federal legislators, and they got actively involved and persuaded the Department of Agriculture to make it only one requirement for storage instead of six different ones. And lo and behold, the schools could afford to have the SNAP program. I remember that and I will not go into everything that happened at the point in time. We went through a lot of those.

The second group was, we decided, was when we addressed the seniors, although we never completely addressed the seniors because if you guys recall kids in junior and senior high school, mostly junior high school, they were embarrassed if they were getting/signing up for the SNAP program and they wound up not eating lunch or eating breakfast just so they wouldn't be humiliated. And there were some significant mental health issues that to my knowledge have never been fully addressed, except that we did get the free lunches and breakfast for everybody, and that eliminated the state fund, and eliminated the kids with the issues that were associated with mental health issues for kids. It involves several hundreds, if not thousands of kids, however that's now come back again. As you all know, because of the issues of having our governor veto they have stopped the food security, the food distribution, now the free food distribution. You guys all know about the senior stuff because I shared that over the last few times, and we still have some real issues. Actually, the issues with the senior staff that I have been aware of that still exist are more the homebound seniors, the Meals on Wheels have helped dramatically. However, I know a lot of people who are involved in home health care issues, from the hospitals and they still do not have enough staff to be able to make sure the meals are cooked right and stored right and everything else. So there is still an issue that related. Thank you very much.

Allison Genco, Thank you Dr. Osgood. We certainly appreciate all your years of service to the Council, and we hope that you continue to participate in these meetings as a non-voting member and we appreciate your input as always. Thank you so much.

Dr. Osgood, and just one other comment I shared with you guys the research some of the basic stuff that Aurora Buffington and I cheered when we did the research on the seniors and if you can age, adjust at I gave it to. If you need any of that background information and you are willing to go forward and you can get the staff to do some age adjusted research on what the gaps are, I will be willing if you need help.

Allison Genco, Great. Thank you, Dr. Osgood. Great any other comments? Ms. Rogers go ahead.

Ms. Rogers, for some reason I did just want to point out that we did not get it on the agenda, but I do also want to recognize that Jenny Yaeger's membership has also expired. So, she was also provided with a certificate of appreciation. (on another agenda item later, we will also be looking to replace the Food Bank of Northern Nevada seat on the Council as well).

Allison Genco, yes, thank you for reminding me. Last minute add to the agenda Jenny is here. Want to also, recognize Jenny real quick. We so appreciate Jenny's participation and all of her thoughtfulness on the Council. I think she is just a wonderful addition and just want to appreciate you so much Jenny. So, you do not have to make any comments if you do not wish to. I will not put you on the spot, but if anybody wants to recognize Jenny please go ahead.

Jenny Yaeger, Thank you for that. I appreciate that I have loved my time on the Council, and I just thought it was a good opportunity for another one of my colleagues to be able to step into a leadership position around food and security. So, I am not going anywhere. I am still with the food bank, so if anybody ever needs me, wants to reach out, has questions I am here for that and I support the Council completely. Thanks to each of you, because you have had an impact on me.

Allison Genco, Thank you Jenny. And same extension. We certainly hope that you continue to participate as a non-voting member. Your knowledge and wisdom are certainly welcome on the Council. Any other comments or questions?

**6. Recommendation to appoint Charlotte Williams for appointment to The Committee on Food Security to fill the position of "A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada."**

Allison Genco states to recommend Charlotte Williams for appointment to the Council on Food Security to fill the position of a person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada. This position we would be replacing Jenny with for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. So right now and Ms. Taylor can you just help me fill in the gaps here. We have Charlotte's resume and we just need to approve her recommendation for the appointment.

Ms. Taylor responds that is my understanding. I know Sarah has gone through the process before so Sarah feel free to jump in. We have two resumes that we added one is for Jill Moe's resume, which is for the representative of farms, and Charlotte's resume is for taking the place of Jenny's in representing the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Ms. Rogers responds yes that is correct for any of the seats that are not positioned specifics such as the administrator for the division of Public payroll, Health and other seats, the Council should vote on. So just get a majority vote for those in comments as they submit their resumes for consideration.

Allison Genco responds okay great. Go ahead Ms. Taylor.

Ms. Taylor responds I just wanted to add that the current vacancies that I show on the vacancy list as we have just so the group is aware. We have one member who is a representative of a person's engaged in the business of processing and distributing food. We have a member who is representative of gaming industry, hospitalist, hospitality industry, and restaurant industry. We have another open for farmers or ranchers engaged in food production. We also have another one for retailers of food and then the manufacturer that is not related to food. Then such other representative of the state as may be designated by the Governor. Then Dr. Osgood see which is going to be the representative of local health authority. Those are the ones I currently have listed. And I know a few board members had received an end date on their term and some renewing and how to renew those seats and instructions for that as well. So if you have any questions on that you are welcome to reach out or email me anytime.

Allison Genco responds okay great thank you for helping me. So I think at this time we can go ahead and move forward with this.

**Allison Genco is voting to recommend Charlotte Williams for the appointment to the Council, so will accept a motion on this. Dorian Stoneberger moves to approve Charlotte Williams to appointment. Dr. Juniel seconds the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Allison Genco to recommend Jill Moe to fill the seat as Representative of Farms to the Council. Dorian Stoneberger moves to approve Jill Moe to appointment. Dr. Juniel seconds the motion which passed unanimously.**

**7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) presentation on SNAP updates related to Summer EBT and Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver.**

Allison Genco asks Ms. Cantrelle to proceed when they are ready.

Kelly Cantrelle begins by introducing herself from the Welfare Division with a few things that might interest the committee. Summary BT is a big, big item that they are working on right now. Just quickly this provides a SNAP benefits children who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program to have benefits over the three summer months. So, its forty dollars a month over the three months, it's a hundred and twenty dollars per qualifying child and it's just to kind of fill that gap. While they are not getting those meals during the school year, we anticipate that close to thirty million children in the entire United States would be assisted by this benefit with 350,000 of those children being here in the state of Nevada. So it's a heavy lift we have to get this in to the hands of families no later than September this year. We are working feverishly to get that done. We did submit out letter of interest to FNS. They know that we are on board and trying to get this done. Next year, just so you guys area ware for future, these benefits will have to be out before the school year ends. They talked about this but we did not get the interim final rule until December of last year. So, it is literally just a few months ago, so you guys can kind of understand why we are still just kind of trying to put everything together. And so they have given us to the end of September to get the benefits out this year, which does not necessarily help for the summer but it gets hands right before hopefully by back to school. We will know more as we move along, but that's hopefully coming to families by the end of September. Everything works out as it is supposed to. The next

thing, that I am super excited to talk about is Nevada qualified for another year of Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver. All the new ABAWD requirements that went into effect as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act Nevada gets another year so through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 we will not have to implement ABAWD rules here in the state of Nevada. ABAWD used to be able bodied adults without dependents and it basically says anyone between the ages of eighteen and forty-nine who are able bodied and able to work have to meet certain work requirements in order to continue to receive SNAP benefits and so there are exceptions to some of those. Life if an individual is on housed or a veteran they do make allowances for some of that, but we are good for another whole year so we will not have to put that into place at least as of now until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. We were not sure we were going to get another year and guess it's a blessing and a curse because that means out unemployment rates were high enough to get it. However I am happy that we are going to be removing people from that, that could utilize those benefits and continue with that services. So I am kind of happy to report that we are looking at completing a waiver so that we can start taking SNAP applications telephonically we have not been able to do that in the past because we did not have the capacity to hold that signature to the attestations right, the requirements the rules do you agree to this and that. So instead of trying to get those rules implemented and get all that on board we are going to request a waiver for the next year to get out ducks in a row so that we can store what we need to store. But FNS did make that waiver available and we are going to pursue it so that we can start taking applications over the foreign phone before we are actually able to store the applications as required. So that is coming along hopefully sooner rather than later. There is just a lot of big things in food stamps in the SNAP program right as you guys are aware of. We are starting to and we have actually done some pretty good exploration on the restaurant meal program. I know that there is mixed emotions on the restaurant meal program that allows elderly, disabled, and unhoused individuals to utilize the SNAP benefits at participating restaurants. Its for those individuals who can not cook for themselves or someone who maybe does not have a kitchen or a stove, or it allows them to go into restaurants and utilize their SNAP benefits and get a hot meal. So we have started and we just have done some exploration we have started talking with local restaurants, because we do not want a program with just McDonald's or Burger King, but more nutritious food would be nice. We were surprised we got places like Teriyaki Madness that were interested, knowing that, that is a healthier option. Unsure if you all know but Don Tore Taco which is like Roberto's, if any of you are familiar with that and so its kind of we are seeing fast food places interested which we were kind of excited about. So we are in the infancy of exploring more into places that are not traditional fast food restaurants. So we are hopeful that we can convince other participants with healthier food options to be apart of that. So that's really the big updates that we have, we have been in talks with Sarah and her team over at WIC about some collaboration between the two groups to kind of help make sure that we do not have gaps and the folks on SNAP are getting the WIC if they qualify and vice versa if they are on WIC and they qualify for SNAP that we can get these individuals the gaps filled right because we know that there are probably people on both sides that are not utilizing the full benefits that they are able to do. So we are just starting off really and all we have done in is referrals, however we plan to start training staff on how to recognize basic WIC eligibility so that they can say yes you are over income for SNAP, but did not know that the WIC income eligibility limit is this and kind of is this and kind of just give them a little bit of options. Some of this is in its infancy, we did throw around maybe throw around maybe co-locating some WIC staff in a couple of our offices that have heavy foot traffic and stuff like that. So we can report on that as the as it gets moving down the road maybe. Those are just a few things that we are working on SNAP and some things that we are working with wait to try and fill some of the gaps to try and reduce the food insecurity. So if anyone has questions we would certainly welcome fielding any questions that you guys have. I see a hand.

Allison Genco acknowledges Deacon Tom.

Deacon Tom, just wanted to say thank you to Kelly for that report. We have a WIC clinic and a food pantry at our main campus in Las Vegas Blvd. and we see about 4,000 WIC clients a month and there are over 150 food pantry clients a day. So, the ability to have that crossover cooperation makes such a huge difference for the people that come in and find that maybe they can not get the benefits that they thought they would get and then they walk away knowing that they get some benefit to help in the hope that creates the hope this priceless and the help is important.

Kelly Cantrelle says she agrees.

Deacon Tom continues and so just wanted to say thank you from a person that's on the ground living both of those programs every day with some of the neediest people that are really working to do the best they can to put food on the table.

Allison Genco acknowledges Dr. Malik.

Dr. Malik responds with from you and our extension in Southern Nevada Food Council thank you so much for putting that restaurant program together. We have been trying to look at it from UNR extension as well and have only been able to see what other states are doing. The community in Searchlight, NV only has a Denny's, they do not have a grocery store or much of anything. So, we were trying to get them to be a part of a program like that to get them like an omelet. If there is any way that we can connect and speak on that further, I would love to meet with you.

Kelly Cantrelle responds to Dr. Malik Yes I am absolutely willing to do that because one of the things that we need to help a place like Denny's or another place that offers good healthy options is that those folks need to be willing to go out to FNS themselves and say, " Hey I want to do this because they have to be able to be a point of sale, right?" They must be able to take the card and so there is some leg work on the participating restaurants, and we are hoping not to lose people when they hear some of that. However, I do have a team that is well versed in it and can go speak to the partnering restaurants if that's what we need to do. So, it sounds like we may need to do that in Searchlight and it is kind of a question and answer of what it looks like and what they would need to do to participate. We certainly could try to help them in any way we could, but it is important for them to understand that because they are, if they do not agree to participate, we are not going to be able to get very far in having location for people to be able to utilize. So yes, I think connecting would be a great idea.

Dr. Malik responds absolutely. We have a whole list of slow food Las Vegas where they rank kind of a healthier restaurant based on a variety of different things, however I think they would love to be about of that program, and they are all in downtown Las Vegas.

Kelly Cantrelle responds with okay.

Dr. Malik replies I would love to connect with you.

Kelly Cantrelle agrees that would be amazing.

Dr. Malik says thank you very much.

Kelly Cantrelle continues with that would be amazing. Thank you. You know where to start, I am in the social services business and not necessarily knowing where the healthy restaurants are is not something I am super good at.

Dr. Malik continues, yes, I am so excited. Thank you.

Kelly Cantrelle continues with this I know that there will be push back on some of this for the flip side, and this has happened in other states, and it has not been wildly successful. As it has been only fast-food restaurants, and how does that look like. So, if Nevada could do it differently, that is really the way I would like to do it. I think different and better.

Marcia Blake adds in, so we have a home delivered meals rule program. We are currently serving 30 seniors in Searchlight and 185 in Laughlin. So, we would love to be a part of that conversation as well. If they qualify for our program, then they qualify for a lot of other programs. So, we could help with additional. We only provide 20 meals a month. They need more than 20 meals a month, so the opportunity to provide resources and information to them would be awesome.

Kelly Cantrelle finishes with. One thing I want to mention, we are going for funding on this in the upcoming session. So, you guys will be able to watch some of that as it unravels here in the coming months. We have started the groundwork and speaking to restaurants and kind of trying to do some public service awareness because we are going to need the help. So, thank you. I really appreciate that from both of you and look forward to that collaboration for sure.

Allison Genco asks for any additional questions for Kelly Cantrelle and adds. I am excited to hear about how he works and comes out of taking SNAP application telephonically I think that is just such an untapped resource. I would love to, if you don't mind, in a couple of months, maybe in the October meeting just reporting back and just letting us know how that is going.

Kelly Cantrelle replies Yes.

Allison Genco, I would love to hear if there have been more uptakes would be exciting to hear.

Kelly Cantrelle responds absolutely.

Allison Genco thanks for all the updates and informs that if the Council can do anything to help or advocate for more resources to let them know.

Kelly Cantrelle replies Okay we will do. Thank you, guys, so much. Thank you for all the work that you do as well.

Allison Genco Well then, we will close out agenda item number seven, and move onto agenda item number eight.

**8. For Discussion: Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) presentation on SNAP updates related to Summer EBT and Able-Bodied Adult Without Dependents (ABAWD) waiver.**

Allison Geno introduces the agenda item eight and introduces Patricia Hoppe for the presentation.

Patricia Hoppe begins by introducing herself as the Division Administrator for Food and Nutrition with the State Department of Agriculture. I will give a verbal report on Home Feeds Nevada. I was unaware until recently of this requirement in Chapter 561 which came from Senate Bill 70 through where it was created. I do have quite a bit of information I will share with you.

So, our timetable is October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. Under expenditures what we are looking at for that time, food acquisition costs were approximately \$2,167,474. Our transportation costs that were reimbursed were around \$10,430 and then we have the contract program manager that assists with the program and the wages for that during the period were approximately \$12,022. For units to deliver the number of pounds procured and delivered during that time was around 1,543,460 pounds. Then one of the other things we wanted to include was kind of like the sample variety of what we are doing with products from our producers, which includes farmers, ranchers, and processors across the statewide. We have meat proteins which was about at a little over 105,000 out of total cost of about 490,000. We had fluid milk that was delivered to both of our food banks at around 70,867 at a cost of approximately \$266,000. Fresh farm raised honey around 6,836 pounds for a cost of \$52,000. Good cheese from a grocery store including shredded cheese and one-pound blocks at approximately 57,000 pounds at a cost of \$161,000. Then fresh produce, which was the largest portion of our pounds procured and delivered around 670,000 pounds statewide. At a reimbursement cost of around 1,070,583 which is the bulk of our producers. Sample produce items because that is one of the things that we know that our food banks really need that we have really been able to provide through Home Feeds Nevada we have everything from greens to lettuce to spinach. We have winter squash, radishes, zucchini, turnips, arugula, tomatoes, tomatillos, cucumbers, broccoli, beets, peppers, watermelons, apples, cantaloupe, apricots. We have a lot of different varieties and that is just a small sample. That is not all that is being delivered, just a little overview report for the program. We have reached out to our food banks through some information that our two food banks that we need to get from them and that would be number of people in household served and how they are doing distributions. So, we have reached out to them to get that information and then we will be incorporating that into our report and going forward we hope to be submitting a written report going forward.

Allison Genco asks do you plan to ask for additional funding in your budget.

Patricia Hoppe responds, ok so we are working on that. We have two funding sources right now. We have the ARPA funds that are set to expire on June 30, 2024. Although we know that we have a longer liquidation period, we are hoping that we might be able to get a little bit of an extension, but we are planning to spend those first and then we also have federal funding from the USDA in the form of the local good purchase assistance grant, also known as the LFPA. That has a funding cliff of 06/30/24 as well. We are planning on asking for a no cost extension through at least 12/30/2024, which we anticipate there not being any issues and it is getting that approved and some of the conversations that we have already had at this time. We have not really discussed requesting the general fund or anything like that in our budget. We are obviously on the lookout for other funding sources because as many of you know, I came into the slate, I did not inherit Home Feeds Nevada until spring of last year. There is no fiscal note attached to this Bill, so we are looking for other funding sources. You know we have this conversation frequently in our meetings with our food banks. If they hear something, we have a conversation with our Board of Agriculture at every quarterly meeting. We are actively searching for additional federal sources that can feed Home Feeds Nevada. However, this is what we have.

Allison Genco responds, okay that is helpful, and we have had discussions about we know that ARPA is what has funded it and LFPA has funded it. We know that your building budgets right now and wanted to see if they were on the table. So, I appreciate the answer. We will certainly keep our ears to the ground on any additional funding sources we hear about as well.

Patricia Hoppe continues with it is not necessarily on or off the table we have not had conversations about those budgets yet so far.

Allison Genco Thanks Patricia for the information and asks for any additional questions.

Maurice Johnson adds a comment of how thankful they are including Reno connect sharing the same sentiments about the program, especially when we started getting those proteins. That was just amazing to be able to take receipt of those and especially being free to us. So, we are extremely hopeful that the program can continue, and it gets additional funding because it has helped in some many ways. I mentioned proteins but of course there were some other dairy items, a lot of fresh greens, and not to mention the fresh fruit we took receipt of. So, we are truly thankful for the program and hope it continues.

Allison Genco closed agenda item 8 and moved forward to agenda item nine.

**9. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to determine future presentation topics by priority.**

Allison Genco introduces the next agenda item and asks Miss Taylor or Miss Rogers for assistance.

Miss Taylor starts by informing us that this is just an update, this is just a reflection on some of the presentations that we needed to get done regarding this ship. So, we need to prioritize them. Just a quick note that we have reached out to NDA, but I know that they are on the phone call today they have provided presentations at the last two. So unsure if we want to reprioritize that. The internal discussions to see when they would be available to provide that information at the next meeting. We have two meetings left, one in July and one in October, unless of course the Council is interested in a special session.

Patricia Hoppe So I am not sure what you mean by the Community Food Access Project. We have two rounds of grants that we refer to as Nevada Community Food access grants, both of those are state ARCA funded. We had initial round that was about \$500,000 that we awarded to I believe six different community agencies and then a second round that was around six million that was awarded to a number of agencies probably upward of fifteen or twenty of all different sizes. Our sub-awards to agencies and they each have their own projects that we funded and that they had to apply for. It was a competitively funded process so that is the only thing I am aware of when you talk about community food access in agriculture. Right now, we report on them quarterly to the Governor's Finance Office.

Miss Rogers adds later in the agenda just wanted to remind the Council members we do have the WIC presentation slated for the next meeting, so that is another presentation that we are looking to meet some ship requirements.

Allison Genco agrees with Patricia and corrects that it is the grant not the project. Confirming that they have asked a lot from their department and wanted to make sure that we were not asking for a presentation necessarily at every single meeting. So wanted to shift some of the priorities that we were asking to see if we want to re-shift sort of what I am asking the Council.

So now that we have clarified those discussions, we have had with staff I know we have had a couple of other presentations requests. However, seeing as how we only meet quarterly, we kind of took some things off the list because we did not want to bury us with work knowing we have a lot with the strategic plan and the ship. So, we have three things on this list. The first being The Community Food Access grant from the Department of Ag., and the next two wanted to see what the interests of the Council would be to get a presentation from both food banks on their 2025 needs. Looking at probably in October or later in the year. So, we can plan for 2025 and have those discussions. I want to open it to you all.

Miss Taylor adds while we are talking about time frames, just so the Council can keep on the back of their mind that this year we are really going to try to get the Council of Food Securities annual report out for a draft in July of this year and then finalized in October so that we can meet routing deadlines for when it is due to LCB by January 31<sup>st</sup> of next year. Just keep in mind that when we do that in October, we can try to anticipate what activities we have in place for November and December. So, we do not skip those two months and report out period, but just giving you some ideas and some timelines. When we develop future goals for 2025, we typically capture those in that annual report.

Allison Genco thanks Miss Taylor for the information and opens it up to the Council for comment.

Marcia Blake, for us to be of any help or impact to the food banks we need to be meeting early so that we have the opportunity to see what support they need from us and if we do that in July then we still have one more meeting where we could discuss about it. Again, if we need to do so I agree that the first two meetings with them would be helpful for us to make an impact on the legislative session.

Allison Genco agrees and asks so should we move them up the priority?

Marcia Blake responds, "If we can then yes. Do it in the July meeting, I think that would be important because once the election happens, we need to already have everything ready to go. So, if we wait until the October meeting, I do not think we are going to have enough time to be able to make the same impact as if we went with them in July.

Thomas Roberts adds in I would agree with Marcia. The other candid issue is we obviously get support from our food banks, however that is not the only resource we use for products. So, I think knowing what their targeted priorities are helps us to understand the user and the ending to the direct service providers of better information about where they are going to focus. Then perhaps where we might need to augment that focus or support in another way so that we understand their priorities. So, thinking that helps us to be strategic about what support we can give and then also understand with respect to needs that are outside of the net of the save the food pantries where we need to be focused on trying to tighten those nets up.

Allison Genco agrees and asks for any other comments or priorities we should be looking at. Okay then I think what we need to do is re-shift and re-number our food bank partners present at the July meeting. And Deacon

Tom just so we have this correct, have some additional partners maybe Catholic Charities? Is that what you were thinking.

Deacon Tom responds thank you for the question, not really. I think just for us and probably for all of us we work very closely with three squares. They are such integral partners with us; however, they are not the only partner we deal with other resources. So, for us it is hearing what they are going to focus on helps us to be able to decide where we can help the most. Then if there are sources outside of them that are, call them offline of this group it just helps us to know because we are such a huge, I think we are the biggest customer of three squares. It just helps us to know what their focus is, where we can help them and then we have other needs that we know we must source elsewhere. Whether it is directly through USDA or what have you.

Allison Genco acknowledges and knows what was being said.

Deacon Tom continues with knowing that creates additional traction and work for them but thinks the end users like us would be helpful to get that information sooner rather than later if possible. Thank you.

Allison Genco agrees and states I think there is an opportunity with the interim health having their presentation on food security maybe next week. That will be helpful because they have got the office of food security and food banks and welfare. Then we have our own forum.

**Allison Genco states a motion to restructure our priorities to have Food Bank of Northern Nevada and Three Square moved to one and two and then Community Food Access Grant to number 3. Marcia Blake, for the record, I move that we reorganize our focuses and put the two food banks before the community grant. Deacon Tom, for the record, happy to 2<sup>nd</sup> that. Motion passes unopposed.**

Allison Genco closes out agenda item 9 and moves on to agenda item 10.

**10. For Discussion: Nevada Revised Statutes ([NRS](#) [232.4969](#) Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) Subcommittee Updates – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security**

Miss Taylor begins we decided to keep the Food for People not Landfills standing on the agenda item so we can discuss the barriers and successes. Time capacity within the Office of Food Security has been limited, however we actively seek out partnerships through NICD. We have identified a person to work with in ACDD and hiring. So, we will be routing that internal packet through our leadership to get them on board so they can help with the project that we have for these food initiatives. Part of that is going to be helping with the Food for People Not Landfill. We have the list however we have prioritized putting the ship work group first and then as capacity allows, we would like to hopefully get our first meeting set by the end of next year is the goal. Just being open and transparent I am lacking some staff right now and we hope to get that moving soon.

Allison Genco thanks Miss Taylor for the update and asks the group for any questions right now. No questions asked. Allison Genco closes out agenda item ten and opens agenda item eleven.

**11. For Discussion: Finalized Annual Reports, 2023 CFS, 2023 FFPNL, and SFY23 Fund for Healthy Nevada (FHN) Annual Report – Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security**

Miss Taylor shares the reports via her screen. The first is the FFPNL 2023 report. This is supposed to go to legislation about January 31<sup>st</sup> annually. The dates that we cover in this report is a calendar year. We have an executive summary in the overview for this report. What I will say is that a lot of our efforts was toward re-establishing who we wanted as a member of the subcommittee and then we had some historical information embedded in here and what efforts we have done with locating some funding through span and reach of though unfortunately we were not able to get those grants. Just keeping the information out there we are still seeking some active funding for reducing food waste in Nevada. If you see any funding opportunities out there that you think would be of interest for DPBH we can look at applying, please do not hesitate to reach out. We have identified in this annual report some future focuses for 2024 and what some of our next steps will be once we have some staff to be able to kind of jumpstart that subcommittee. Our goal is hopefully to do that this year. We do have someone in the NACD helping us with the process write up these reports moving forward. She is going to be working on this year 2024 report.

The next report we have is the FHN report. This is not covered under legislation; however, it is a courtesy report for the Council to review. It covers state fiscal year 23 which ended last year on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This report really goes over the funds for Healthy Nevada that come out of the tobacco settlement funds and we currently have eleven partners and within those partners they may have multiple partners through pass through partners, partners such as food pantries and food market. Currently you will see a chart that is provided in this document that talks a lot about the description and objectives for each of those agencies and the amount of money that we awarded to each of those partners. It also talks about the counties that we serve so you can look over and see which locations those counties served in state fiscal year 23. These partners are large and so they probably cover a lot more counties than are identified. This is only focused on the FHN funds and what they are utilizing those funds for. The next chart is going to show how many individuals were served double the pounds of food that was distributed, and then of course talks about the funds in addition to FHN the pounds of foods that they have also served in state fiscal year 23. We did put some notes at the bottom if you are interested in looking at why there may be some differences in some of the data. Sometimes intake processes are different. We have a new 2024 report that is going to be coming out in about five to six months from now. We are hoping to have that routed internally so hopefully by the end of the year we can have the state fiscal year 24 out. At the very bottom of the report there are some statistical report comparisons that you can look at for individual served by gender and race. Self-identification looks like we have Hispanic and non-Hispanic population and what the GHN funds provide. Then of course it has really good age of individuals that are served by the GHN partners as well. Just so you are aware this information comes from our eleven partners. They are the ones that provide it to us and then we analyze that data and put it in this report for viewing. Then the Nevada Council of Food Security you have already read this report. This report is what you have already finalized. There were a few changes that were made internally with DPBH to get it posted. So, you have the final copy here that was provided to LCB, the Council and Food Security report is calendar year. So, it is January the 1<sup>st</sup> through December the 31<sup>st</sup> and is due to LCB by January the 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Dorian Stoneberger asks if it's from the 1<sup>st</sup> but do on the 31<sup>st</sup>?

Miss Taylor clarifies it is the calendar year for the report, January the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to December the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 is due on January the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Dorian Stoneberger thanks for the clarification.

Allison Genco asks for any additional questions for Miss Taylor.

Deacon Tom thanks Lori for the report. Adds just to catch everybody up a little bit on the landfill issue, before the pandemic we had some traction by getting some of the larger resort properties reengaged in this discussion of harvesting and convention food. Now this would be food that as an example would be prepared for a convention still in tray, never touched, but that is either the overage or the shortage/shrinkage from the convention traction on attendance that was the product that was discussed being harvested and chill blasted. The same procedure that we use for our meals on wheels program. We prepare the food fresh and bring the temperature down very quickly which gets it into a frozen point which protects the food quality and the taste. Then moving that food whether it be to three square or directly to some of the bigger providers, that conversation got suspended during COVID. Since that time, we all know that there have been mergers and acquisitions within the gaming industry and some of the partners and some of the folks that, as an example that we would work with, have changed or have been acquired or readjusted. So, I think given the fact that the convention business has returned to Nevada across the state in a big way since the pandemic that we have an opportunity to reengage those properties again. A big part of the issue was the cost of the equipment to freeze the product and to transfer the product. I think Sarah was a part of the conversation to help acquire funding for a portion of the equipment and then maybe ask for some matching funds from the industries so that the cost of the burden from buying the equipment could be mitigated. I know this program has a lot of potential so that is something if we choose to revisit that deeper with the subcommittee or others again to add some additional color and participate in that conversation.

Miss Taylor responds by thanking Deacon Tom for the feedback. Adds that we can make sure it goes into the notes and they be able to present that information to the subcommittee as well and present some of these notes they can still weigh informed of the council's feedback as well.

Allison Genco thank you Deacon Tom and asks for any additional questions for Lori? No questions or comments added. Allison Genco closes out agenda item eleven and moves on to agenda item twelve.

**12. For Action: Review and possible recommendations on State Health Improvement Plan Action Steps and Objectives – Allison Genco, Chair**

Allison Genco starts with objective one strategy one – Outreach to the Legislative Council Bureau to notify to present to on the joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. Lucky for us they reached out so we can cross this one off our list. We are presenting Monday and Marcia you and I were going to do this together, but if you are interested in presenting with me you can. I can inform the Legislative Council Bureau if you have time.

Marcia Blake responds asking what time?

Allison Genco answers with it starts at nine but is unsure of the specific time. You may need to plan to be there most of the day. I understand if it is a no, it is the last minute.

Marcia Blake responds with being open on Monday but will check the calendar and inform Allison later.

Allison Genco Thanks and adds she will reach out to make sure it's ok and will send Marcia the slides and coordinate. Continuing by stating we are good on objective one, strategy one and moving on to the next one is

the Food Conference work group. The group consists of Allison Genco herself, Dr. Malik, Jenny Yeager, and Dr. Stoneberger. We met recently to develop a survey to disseminate to partners. I believe we wanted to open it up to additional folks to join our work group.

Dr. Stoneberger agrees with Allison and adds the potential of planning a Northern Nevada and Southern Nevada one in separate years. So, for 2025 Northern Nevada and then in 2027 I believe, that can be corrected, on for Southern Nevada being that there is such nuance in the regions and wanting to make sure that we are catering to both areas. Jenny, does that sound like what we were hoping to do?

Jenny Yeager agrees with Dr. Stoneberger's statement.

Dr. Stoneberger Well I think you know we need a couple of people who are willing to be on both for sure. So that there is at least someone who knew all this setup, though they may be 1-2 years apart and with different topics to address.

Allison Genco asks we are only sending out eleven surveys, correct?

Dr. Stoneberger answers yes and probably do another survey in 2026.

Allison Genco agrees with Dr. Stoneberger. Adding also we are not thinking about added people today, but if you wanted to join the work group reach out to Lori and we can get you added to the northern one so we can have additional folks to help plan that.

Miss Taylor adds our goal was set to be able to have the survey to the work group by this Friday, so they have time to review it and give us feedback on what more questions need to be added. Maybe going through another two or three rounds of some drafts before we finalize it. Then in the meantime we still need to work through getting access to it. We are going to send it by the end of May. So really, I think the big heavy lift is going to be making sure our contact list is up to date for providers that we utilized in 2023 assessment for the food security because we do have a list. Just need to update as positions have changed and in the last year or two.

Allison Genco thanks Lori for the timeline update. Again, if anyone is interested in joining, please reach out to Lori and we can get you added to the group, and we will get this conference moving forward.

Allison Genco continues to Objective two, Strategy two which is the Food Conference work group to identify who from the housing transportation sector and tribal communities will present to the Council and Fair/conference. This one is due by December 31, 2024. So, I think we can task this as part of our working group so we can move on to the next one. Our next one was Welfare/SNAP presentation related to grants which we just had today. So, we are good and next is begin discussions and helping the work group identify a minimum of two service providers in attending in person to both Southern and Northern Nevada Food Security Fair and Conference. Transportation service providers shall include, but not limited to, services that bring the food to the people and the people to the food, with equity among the rural and urban communities. So, this is another task for the work group. So, I think we can move on to the next one Objective 4, Strategy one is four presentations are required and this is due by December 31<sup>st</sup>, of this year. On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, NDA presented the summer food program and presented on SNAP today and then Special Supplemental Nutrition program for WIC is scheduled for WIC for July 16<sup>th</sup> and then we have reached out to NDA to present on the Home Feeds Nevada. So,

we are just waiting for one more presentation. We have completed three of the four. So, we are making pretty good progress on that goal. We are doing well on these goals and objectives, just a lot of work for our food conference work group. As far as the SHIP goes, I think we are making good progress. Any comments or questions? No additional comments/questions made Allison closes out agenda item twelve and moves on to agenda item thirteen.

### **13. For Discussion: Remaining 2024 CFS Goals – Allison Genco, Chair**

Remaining 2024 Council and Food Security goals possible topics, these are pulled from the 2023 annual report and can be pushed to the 2025 goals for the 2024 report if needed. We can keep it as a standing agenda item. Just going to run through these topics and if there are specific ones that are higher priority for individuals or things that are missing, we just want to get rid of these that you know we do not need them. In the interest of time let's have everyone read through them, and if any of them are super high priorities that you think we should be focusing on we can open it up to the group.

Marcia Blak the two that really stand out to me are the home delivered meals program as it is not a sustainable program in the state of Nevada. Adding the cost to prep a meal, even in the most cost-effective way and get reimbursed less than \$4 or a little bit over for that meal. That costs way more that is not a sustainable program, and the other is the food insecurity, how its being addressed in hard-to-reach areas or food deserts. I think we do not do a great job in this state of addressing those hard-to-reach areas and food deserts because we lack resources to get to those areas. We can fix that because it is more and more seniors that is where the majority of the seniors live. Or those in hard-to-reach areas/food deserts and they are turning 65, 66,67, 70, and 80 so we need to be able to get food into those areas.

Allison Genco agrees and thinks with the emphasis on transportation that we are sort of taking I think we should really be looking at the food deserts and hard to reach areas. I think we should prioritize that, anyone else?

Dr. Malik adds this first one with the focus on distribution and support for general food access and food distribution and support for general food access is on here a few times and that seems to be the biggest burden on our agricultural community. They are growing all this food, but they cannot get it out to retail environments and they need that support that is where Home Feeds Nevada has been such a big help to them. So, I think that is one area we need to focus on. I know the small business development center at UNR is working on some kind of program for food distribution. I believe other states have an actual system for food distribution that if we could try to focus on and instill in Nevada would do a lot for food security in the state.

Allison Genco asks if these are goals, we should focus on right now or better question are these things we can focus on now or are we too bogged down with other things and we need to push them.

Marcia Blake responds with at home delivered meals program is a finance situation. So, if we do not start having those conversations right now then we cannot set up meetings with the governor. We cannot set up meetings with committees. The only way to continue this program is for there to be more funding, whether it is through state funding or federal funding. Those conversations need to happen before the legislative session because we must have more funds to cover the cost of these meals. The other one I think part of that will be addressed with the home delivered meals, at least on the senior side. I also agree with Dr. Malik and that we cannot let food go

to waste. There must be a way for us a state to figure out how to make sure that those resources that we do have stay in our state and benefit our citizens.

Allison Genco agrees and so we should be putting these as part of our 2025 goals so we can advocate for them as part of our advocacy strategy going into the legislative session. If there is funding asks, we can say you need to put X amount of funding into home delivered meals etc.

Marcia Blake Correct and Deacon Tom can probably speak a little bit more about this. It affects him the most. However, it also affects those of us who have smaller home delivered meal programs and congregate meal programs, and all the other things as well.

Deacon Tom Just quickly today we are serving 2500 seniors every day, as Marcia said Catholic Charities is the largest financial support of that program. We are not the only operators, but we end up putting more money in than anyone else. The state or federal government and that is an unsustainable situation. We have 1000 people on a waiting list right now and you know as a state we are marketing to seniors to come here, retire her, come for the low tax burden, come for the weather, come for the quality of life, and then when seniors get older and one of them passes a way they lose part of their income they get into these pickles where they do not have food. I have said respectfully to our legislative leaders, if an organization like Catholic Charities or Helping Hands cannot do it, it will fall back to the State HHS or the county and it will be a lot more expensive for them to run it. It would then cause a lot of people to go prematurely into assisted living if they do not get food, which would also burden Medicaid. So, it is a good investment.

Allison Genco recognizes that Deacon Tom had quite a few conversations about this last session and asks if he could remind her what dollar amount was asked for, for meals on wheels.

Dr. Osgood was the one who made the presentation and brought up the slide and we were asking for a reauthorization of the current funding of \$3.4 million for home delivered meals and congregate meals. We asked for an increase of \$8 million because of the loss of federal funds, inflation, and anticipated increased demand and we got less than half of that.

Marcia Blake adds Jenny may be able to speak to the situation in Northern Nevada, knowing that some senior centers did not reopen after the pandemic so may be able to shed some light on that situation in Northern Nevada.

Jenny Yeager adds to her knowledge all our senior centers have reopened in the North. Their capacity has impacted and some still operating are not all full capacity. Part of what we have seen up North is the challenge in getting seniors back into the senior centers which is causing some of the challenges of trying to bring programming back to the pre-pandemic levels having a hard time getting the seniors to come back. The need is still very high. When the pandemic level SNAP benefits ended, we saw a huge influx of seniors almost immediately coming back to both senior centers, CSFP programming and produce on wheels, and golden groceries looking for assistance. I have not talked to one director of a Senior Center stating that the current rate of reimbursement is adequate. So, everybody is struggling to be able to determine how they are going to fund these programs indefinitely. Especially with the concern around an increase in the number of individuals who are moving into that aging or that senior population.

Allison Genco thanks Jenny. Dr. Malik you had a question – Is this funding dependent on the Farma bill? Nods from the group yes.

Marcia Blake answers so partially it is also funded through Title 3 – The older Americans Act, which unfortunately our state does not get. The percentage of those dollars is supposed to be based on the percentage of seniors, but it is not. So, it is a matter of our congressional leaders to try to get the fair share of what that is. Our numbers keep increasing and other states' numbers decreasing and their funding is not decreasing and ours is not increasing. So, there has got to be some adjustments that way for us to get our fair share of the older Americans act money.

Dr. Malik, I have access to all these young grad students looking for projects and was wondering what we can put together that would help this? Do we need legislators to understand that they need to be going after this funding or how this impacts or is just a matter of putting together an ask?

Deacon Tom answers one of the successes we had when we got the first level of state funding increase was to show the ranking of the state of Nevada's funding for Meals on Wheels as a it compared to other states in the nation. Not surprisingly we were at the lowest in the nation. So that kind of information from the research standpoint and then to package that in a way that allows us to be able to present that to our legislative delegation realizing that we all know that every two years we are dealing with the 30-40% populace of the legislators that are new to the system and new to everything. I would be happy to talk offline about that. There are some tools available that I use to educate the legislators on how much the how far the revenue goes, and how the people in their district get it and the average population of demographic.

Dr. Malik responds with thank you.

Miss Taylor provides some administrative support for the Council and dop in the NRS duties into the chat, because the very last one on #10 does allow for an avenue for your recommendations to LCB in your annual report. So, I think that might be where we want to have that. That recommendation potentially is, but I want to just kind of provide it to the Council for consideration and a reminder that in July we will provide the draft of the report and then October will be approved. So, if someone on the board is willing to provide me with a recommendation like a couple snap sentences, I am happy to put it together for you. Just some thoughts and feedback. I can also recap the minutes or discussion today as well too and pull form there if that is preferred.

Allison Genco yeah that would be great. I think for agenda item thirteen purposes we can box this together a little bit. I think it makes sense to parse out home delivered meals, food insecurity, being addressed in hard-to-reach areas/food deserts, and I think we have two items focused on food distribution. So, I think we can focus on those and maybe we move those ones to our 2025 goals and have them be part of at least our recommendations for LCB. Does that work for everybody?

Dr. Stoneberger states it is all under the same umbrella of access on both sides, so I think it all works nicely together.

Allison Genco okay great. Asks for any additional comments or questions. Closes out agenda item thirteen and moves on to agenda item fourteen.

**14. For Possible Action: Future agenda items – Allison Genco, Chair; Standing Agenda Item – FPNL, Standing Agenda Item – SHIP Action Steps, Presentations – WIC, 2024 CFS Annual Report Draft**

Allison Genco begins with we have future standing agenda item on food for people not landfill, and then the SHIP Action item steps, then we have the presentation from WIC which we have in July. Sarah, did you have anything you wanted to add to that?

Miss Rogers responds, I do not, if there is something specific the Council would like to hear about WIC let us know. Hopefully we will have some more updates to provide on the collaboration meetings that we have been having with Dwis recently that Kelly mentioned earlier.

Allison Genco answers great. Looking forward to that presentation. Thank you for putting that together. Then we have the 2024 Council annual report draft. Any other future agenda items that members of the Council would like to see at future meetings? Okay we will close out agenda item fourteen and move to public comment.

**15. Public Comment: Allison Genco, Chari**

No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item unless the matter is included on an agenda item upon which action may be taken. The Chair of the Committee of Food Security will place a five (5) minute time limit on the time individuals addressing the Committee.

No public comment.

**Allison Genco seeing no public comment closes out public comment and opens agenda item sixteen adjournment.**

**16. Adjournment**

**Allison Genco will accept a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stoneberger moves to adjourn. Marcia Blake seconds. Allison Genco calls for vote. Motion passes.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 P.M.



# Attachment for Agenda Item #5

# Cassie Snow

Las Vegas, NV

## SUMMARY

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As a dedicated sustainability leader with a decade-long track record of spearheading transformative initiatives, I bring a deep understanding of integrating sustainability into core business processes, thereby driving significant progress on environmental, social, operational, financial, and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting goals. My expertise encompasses developing strategic frameworks, engaging employees through innovative programming, creating effective resources and training, and championing diversity and inclusion. My skill set includes implementing comprehensive carbon reduction programs, optimizing supply chain sustainability, and enhancing ESG reporting. Utilizing a data-driven approach, I aim to exceed sustainability and compliance standards. Aware of the unique yet intersecting goals of clients and investors, I excel at inspiring both internal and external stakeholders, including cross-functional teams, transcending the absence of formal authority.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Sustainability Manager, MGM Resorts International**

- Drove sustainability initiatives to position the company as a leader in social impact and environmental stewardship
- Advanced circular economy objectives through strategic vendor engagements, leading to substantial reductions in landfill materials, food waste and advancing the company's carbon reduction efforts in accordance with GHG protocol
- Revamped the food donations program, leading to a 70% increase in donations (YOY 2023)
- Presented on Water Stewardship to CEO Bill Hornbuckle, co-authored the MGM Resorts Water White Paper
- Authored the company's first annual GRI report, contributed to improving sustainability indices like FTSE4good and DJSI
- Quantified environmental benefits of sustainability initiatives, owned data collection and reporting
- Evaluated and implemented emerging technologies navigating a global footprint and complex labor landscape
- Mentored Climate Corps EDF Food Waste Fellow, cultivating expertise in corporate food waste diversion and fostering professional growth opportunities while adding value toward reaching company waste goals
- Served on the Community Grant Council, created and Chaired an Employee Network and Business Resource Group, served on the Women in Leadership working group, fostered community relationships and liaised with government affairs

### **Owner, Circular Collaborations**

- Directed cross-functional teams on social responsibility and philanthropic projects focusing on strategic planning, operations, and innovation to exceed client expectations across non profit, hospitality, and sustainability industries
- Improved resource optimization, stakeholder management, donor relations, employee and volunteer training and recruitment, and managed project budgets meticulously, providing regular updates and forecasts to stakeholders

### **Director of Electrical Services, Edlen Electrical**

*\*Director (May 2018 - May 2021), Senior Manager (August 2017 - May 2018), Manager (March 2016 - August 2017)*

- Successfully led a \$6M sector, overseeing the execution of 100+ projects per annum
- Generated over \$900,000 in additional net profit and expanded net profit margin across multiple segments by enhancing auditing and invoicing processes, optimizing resource efficiency and refining project tracking procedures
- Implemented comprehensive compliance protocols to adhere to national electrical codes and safety standards, significantly reducing the risk of non-compliance penalties.
- Responsible for a team of managers and electricians, guided through revenue growth and expansions
- Provided strategic planning and creative solutions to mitigate project risks and ensure client satisfaction

# Cassie Snow

Las Vegas, NV

## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

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### **Graduate Certificate: Sustainability & Development** - University of Michigan

Relevant Coursework: Conservation & Adaptive Development • Pathways to Zero Hunger • Gender and Quality Education for Sustainability • Poverty and Inequality • Good Health and Wellbeing • Beyond the SDG's

### **PMP - Project Management Professional** - Project Management Institute, PMI

### **Certificate: Social Entrepreneurship** - Unite for Sight - June 2016

### **B.S. Meeting & Event Management** - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Relevant Coursework: Employment Law • Business Law • Hospitality Law • Human Resource Mgmt • Facilities Management • Financial Management • Cost Control • Purchasing • Financial Accounting • Managerial Accounting • Hospitality Accounting • Marketing • Organizational Behavioral • Int. Macroeconomics • Environmental Economics

### **A.A.T. Economics** - West Valley College

Relevant Coursework: Microeconomics • Macroeconomics • Accounting • Statistics • Finite Mathematics • Calculus

## VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

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### **Member, MGM Resorts Community Grant Council**

- Served on the Community Grant Council, determining which nonprofit organizations to award employee donated funds
- Reviewed nonprofit financial statements, analyzed grant applications including project budget, and logic model
- Created a scoring system to streamline team feedback and keep justifications organized

### **Organizer, TEDxFremontEastDistrict**

- Attracted over 500 RSVP's to inaugural event, a locally organized TED Countdown initiative to champion and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis including biodiversity, transportation, landfill waste, and energy
- Created press releases, marketing plan, social media campaign, handled all production elements, and speaker relations.
- Obtained necessary sponsorships, in-kind donations, and executed the program in under 100 days
- Secured speakers from The Nature Conservancy, UNLV Professors, Western Resource Advocates and Indigenous leaders

### **Chair, Mentor, Planet Protectors MGM Resorts Employee Business Resource Group**

- Conceptualized and actualized Planet Protectors employee network group, developed strategic plan and framework, aligned goals with company commitments and transitioning into a Business Resource Group
- Developed ambassador model to reach line-level employees, executed employee roadshows, mentored leadership team
- Collaborated with leadership team to execute on property roadshows, Planet Talks, digital campaigns, volunteer activities
- Drove bespoke environmentally focused activities resulting in over 1,000 volunteer hours
- Created SOP's to support succession planning to further opportunities for professional growth for leadership team

### **Chair, Mentor, The Climate Reality Project Las Vegas**

- Led 300+ chapter members after 9x growth in chapter size, established chapter organizational structure and teams
- Boosted engagement by 80% through a more concise communication plan and infrastructure
- Stood up initiatives including a Meaningful Movies series, and food waste diversion program at Smith's grocery stores
- Mentored 14 climate activists (2021 U.S. Training), providing support and facilitating inclusive climate conversations
- Emceed the Climate Reality Leadership Corps training sharing the stage with Vice President Al Gore

# Cassie Snow

Las Vegas, NV

## TESTIMONIALS

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“I had the pleasure of being Cassie's manager for over two years. Cassie's ability to understand new ideas and concepts always impressed me. She is very organized and has amazing attention to detail. She is able to work successfully on many projects at once. Cassie's preparedness and execution of her programs always exceeded expectations of myself and our clients. Cassie proactively found ways to improve business practices, including labor control and audit procedures with the ultimate goal of providing better customer service. Cassie has such a heart for helping others. There were several times I had the honor of volunteering side by side with her. She carries gratitude and joy with her as she works and helps others.”

**Jennifer Maloney**

**General Manager at Edlen Electrical**

“Cassie is an incredibly intelligent and hard working person. Her organizational skills, account management, and attention to detail are world-class. I worked with Cassie for 5 years at MGM Grand. She always demonstrated tremendous leadership, operating hundreds of programs at MGM Grand. Customers always enjoyed working with Cassie, and I hope to work with her again soon in my career.”

**Lee Nakahara**

**Executive Director of Convention Services at MGM Grand Hotel and Casino**

“Cassie is a force - she is tenacious, committed and works collaboratively to advance climate efforts! The world is better off because she cares about it and lends her talent to all areas of her protection.”

**Kelly Burton**

**VP of Sustainability and Social Impact at Blue Apron**

“Cassie is a great asset to any organization she is a part of. She is a bright, responsible, dedicated, creative mind and has a lot of talent and potential to offer organizations.”

**Gina Gavan**

**Chief Development Officer at Boy and Girls Club of Southern Nevada**

**(Formerly) Director of Economic & Business Development at City of North Las Vegas**

“Having worked with Cassie through the Climate Reality Project Las Vegas chapter, I've witnessed firsthand how she drives collective action by creating shared vision – proactively engaging with other community leaders, businesses and elected officials to create the positive change we need. As an incredibly detailed-oriented and solutions-focused person, Cassie thrives when leading teams large and small and keeps everyone engaged through proven project management tools and transparent communication. She developed a leadership and team structure, outlined strategic priorities for the chapter, and successfully led several projects and events to educate and activate our community in environmental action.”

**Jennifer Inaba**

**Managing Editor at Western Resources Advocates**

# GABRIELA “GABBY” EVERETT

## **Director of Advocacy & Research**

*Three Square*

- Leads local, state, and federal advocacy efforts and engages a lobbying firm to assist with being the eyes and ears during the biennial state legislative session. Produces research and material that aids in decision-making among elected officials and produces the end of session legislative report.
- Reestablished and facilitates the routine convening of the policy subcommittee and the agency partner council that advises on the biennial state policy agenda.
- Builds advocacy coalitions, including nontraditional partners who share Three Square's vision and are seeking opportunities to take part in pursuing a hunger free community.
- Assist with identification and development of authentic and meaningful channels to recruit, train, and build a network of anti-hunger advocates that can be called upon to share information, expertise, lived experiences and stories of resilience that are powerful motivators in shaping and enacting change at all levels of society and government.

## **Campaign Manager**

*Susie Lee for Congress*

- Created and managed a more than \$6.3 million budget, while also overseeing the raising of the funds
- Hired and lead a staff of more than 8 people that included finance staff, communications staff, organizing staff, digital staff, and other associated titles and roles
- Built out and managed a vast portfolio of political relationships that included union leaders, community stakeholders, elected officials, and members of integral constituency groups across the Las Vegas valley and state of Nevada
- Negotiated contracts and managed relationships with a full consultant team that included mail, digital, polling, and media consultants as well as affiliated national committee relationships, such as with the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and Emily's List (EL)
- Established accountability mechanisms with and provided oversight of the coordinated campaign committee, Nevada Democratic Victory, from May 2022 through November 2022 to ensure top tier work was being done across the third district that would benefit the Congresswoman's reelection effort
- Worked to curate a healthy and trusting relationship with the Member/ Principal, and managed her through each circumstance and decision that arose throughout the cycle
- Given the Member's incumbency status, displayed strong communication and interaction with the official office, both locally and in Washington, DC

## **Deputy District Director**

*Office of Congresswoman Susie Lee*

- Casework/Outreach Areas: Healthcare, Housing, Nonprofits, Social Services, Women
- Oversaw management of the office's outreach portfolio
  - Tracked, managed, and coached staff outreach performance
  - Spearheaded planning and execution of events for the Congresswoman, such as town halls, roundtables, mobile office hours, and coffees with the Congresswoman
- Aided with hiring and onboarding of new staff
- Served as essential counsel to the District Director on office operations, personnel matters, and more
- Lead the creation of curriculum and training opportunities for staff, particularly in the outreach and casework space

## **Associate Director**

*Office of Congresswoman Susie Lee*

- Casework/Outreach Areas: Healthcare, K-12 Education, Housing, Social Services, Women
- Oversaw management of front desk operations, and by association, the staff assistant, in the district office
  - Assisted with problem-solving situations as they arose, ideating how to navigate various constituent concerns and requests for assistance through the office, and creating a variety of supplemental materials to aid those engaging in intake to provide constituents the most updated and accurate answers
- Rebuilt and coordinated the district office internship program year-round
  - Assisted with overhauling the district office internship program by developing an extensive and structured curriculum and training program
  - Coordinated two semesters of programs, totaling five interns
- Spearheaded planning and execution of events for the Congresswoman, such as town halls, roundtables, mobile office hours, and coffees with the Congresswoman

# GABRIELA “GABBY” EVERETT

- Acted as a vital sounding board and confidante for the staff in the district office, often elevating their ideas, thoughts, feelings, and opinions to the role of the District Director
  - This has served a particularly imperative role through the COVID-19 pandemic as district office operations have increased exponentially

## **District Representative/ In-District Scheduler**

*Office of Congresswoman Susie Lee*

- Casework/Outreach Areas: Healthcare, K-12 Education, Seniors, Social Services, Women
- Attended events on behalf of the Congresswoman, presenting certificates, providing remarks, and networking with grassroots leaders
- Acted as a liaison between government agencies, local entities, and constituents
- Planned and executed events for the Congresswoman, such as town halls and roundtables
- Acted as the clearinghouse for all event and meeting requests when the Congresswoman was in district
  - Maintained contact with requestors, gathering all the details surrounding the event, writing memos, and building the Congresswoman’s trip book

## **Deputy GOTV Director**

*Nevada State Democratic Coordinated Campaign*

- Oversaw the party’s more than \$1.5 million paid canvass operation in congressional districts one, three, and four
  - Acted as the liaison between the state party and Rocky Mountain Voter Outreach, who employed over 100 canvassers during their program; knocked over 300,000 doors; had more than 78,000 conversations; and launched over 3,400 shifts

## **Field Director**

*Susie Lee for Congress*

- Built a congressional campaign field program from the ground up- growing it from myself to four organizers and over ten fellows
  - Throughout the duration of the campaign, our team made over 715,000 attempts on the phones and at the doors
- Built and led paid canvass programs in both Nevada’s third and fourth congressional districts from April 2018 through September 2018
  - Registered 1,750 voters during this time—40% of which were in Nevada’s third congressional district, and 1,091 of which were people under the age of 40
- Led the transition into the Nevada State Democratic Coordinated Campaign in September 2018
  - Remained a liaison between the Susie Lee for Congress Campaign and the Coordinated Campaign- making sure our field priorities remained at the forefront

## **Nevada Director**

*Defend Our Future*

- As an expansion state, helped build out a field program of an organizer, deputy organizer, and four Interns at UNLV
- Developed and facilitated earned media events like documentary screenings and stand-up pressers, including sending out press advisories and press releases to Nevada news outlets
- Handled coalition building through partner engagement meetings with local and national environmentally focused organizations, businesses, and individuals

## **Legislative Aide to Senator Joyce Woodhouse**

*Nevada State Senate*

- Tracked the Senator’s 20 personal bills through both legislative houses during the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session
- Wrote constituent response letters, legislative memos, and Floor statements
- Handled all scheduling and travel requests on behalf of the Senator
- Handled the workflow of the Senator’s office while also interacting with legislators, lobbyists, fellow legislative staff, and the general public

## **Regional Organizing Director**

*Hillary for Nevada*

- Managed a staff of 6 organizers in Henderson, NV
- Conducted hundreds of interviews in helping hire and build the Hillary for Nevada General Election team
- Coordinated with down-ballot candidates and their campaigns in planning events and other campaign-related activities

# GABRIELA "GABBY" EVERETT

- Worked on the only all-female ticket in the nation and helped secure a win for every one of those candidates in Nevada
  - See <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/oct/28/all-women-ticket-offers-henderson-voters-a-chance/> for more information.

## Field Organizer

### *Hillary for America*

- Traveled to Nevada, Idaho, and New York
- Made over 19,900 phone calls and knocked on over 14,600 doors to recruit volunteers and inform voters about the Nevada Caucus
- Recruited, trained, and activated volunteer captains who helped recruit more volunteers and facilitate successful caucuses in every precinct across Nevada
- Staffed principal and surrogate events, and helped recruit attendees for such events
- Educated voters about participating in the largest caucus in the country
  - Boise, ID saw 23,884 votes cast on March 22, 2016 (Caucus Day)

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

### Member

#### *Enterprise Town Advisory Board*

- Served unincorporated Clark County by assisting County Commissioners in governance; making recommendations; aiding in long-term planning, zoning, and recreation matters; representing the County and respective County Commissioners in the community; and addressing issues pertinent to and under the purview of the County
- Served alongside four other Enterprise residents to represent the more than 170,000 citizens of Enterprise, Nevada

### Member

#### *United Church of Christ Board of Directors*

- Committee Assignment: Governance Committee
- Represented the church community in an at-large capacity for a six-year term to which I was appointed
- Acted as stewards of the money of the church; oversaw proper adherence to the church rules and bylaws; and managed the merging of regional conferences, as they arose

### Member

#### *United Church of Christ Genesis Fund Grant Application Evaluation Committee*

- Read and assessed domestic and international applications for faith-based projects that are innovative or experimental, represent an initiative in Christian mission, or that may be deemed controversial
- Allocated grants ranging in size from \$2,000 to \$20,000
- Acted as the stewards of the \$440,612 in the Genesis Fund

## EDUCATION

### **Master of Public Administration** *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

### **Bachelor of Science** *University of San Diego*

- Major: Political Science
- Minor: Gender Studies
- Minor: Sociology
- Related course work: women's rights, gay rights, government, public policy, education, and sexuality

## SKILLS

- Microsoft Office Suite
- Google Suite
- Votebuilder (VAN)
- Internet Quorum (IQ)
- Warches

# Carlos Carrillo

**Title:** Food Pantry Program  
Director

## **Biography:**

Carlos Carrillo is the Food Pantry Program Director of Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN) where he has spent the last ten years overseeing the food pantry and developing food service programs. Under his leadership we have expanded our reach to 43 local and rural pantries in Northern Nevada. Carlos has spent the last five years creating new relationships with local vendors within the community to provide quality food and services to our clients. Carlos began his career at CCNN ten years ago as an outreach specialist for 'Kids to Seniors Corner' working in the most needed part of the community; moving on he became Program Manager for the Resource Hub (Emergency Assistance Program) and for the last 5 years he has been working as the Director of the St Vincent's Food Pantry where Carlos has institutional knowledge on logistics as well as brings creative and innovative ideas to our programs. Recently, Carlos coordinated the opening of our two new satellite Client Choice Pantries where we provide food and services for about 500 families. His formal training and degrees are in computer application and office systems from Career College of Northern Nevada (CCNN).

**Roberto “Carlos” Carrillo,**  
**Food and Wellness Program Director**  
**Reno, Nevada**

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## **SUMMARY**

Proficient in managing programs and coordinating large-scale community events. Seeking to leverage expertise in grant management and budget maintenance to contribute to the success of an organization committed to improving public health and community well-being.

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada** **Reno, Nevada**

*Director of Wellness Center and Food Pantry, 40 hours/week*

- Director of the Wellness Center, Food Pantry and the SNAP Community Outreach Programs, demonstrating proficiency in managing daily operations and ensuring program objectives were met.
- Established and maintained collaborative partnerships with vendors, clients, and government agencies such as the USDA, WCSD, Tribes, and Family Resource Center to enhance program reach and impact.
- Managed the budget for USDA and FHN grant funds on a monthly and annual basis, ensuring adherence to financial guidelines and optimizing resource allocation
- Assisted in grant writing and balanced grants to secure funding and sustain program operations.

### **Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada** **Reno, Nevada**

*Case Manager and Outreach Specialist, 40 hours/week*

- Coordinated closely with customers and resource agencies, fostering collaborative partnerships to optimize resource allocation and service delivery.
- Conducted outreach initiatives to promote awareness and access to local community food pantries, facilitating community engagement and support.
- Demonstrated proficiency in inputting data into the HMIS database.

### **Washoe County School District** **Reno, Nevada**

*Re-Engagement Specialist, 40 hours/week*

- Spearheaded outreach programs targeting teens, focusing on reengagement initiatives to support academic success and personal development.
- Served as a parent facilitator, facilitating communication between parents, students, and school staff to address concerns and promote collaborative problem-solving.
- Provided counseling and support services to students experiencing attendance challenges, implementing strategies to improve attendance rates and foster a positive school environment.

## **Licensure/Certification**

- Computer Applications Systems Certification (CCNN)
- Mediator/Conflict Resolution Certificate (TMCC)
- Nevada Public Notary (2016)
- CHW 1 (Community Health Worker)
- SNAP Certification
- Active Shooter Drill at work (RPD)
- D- license High School Coaching Certification (State of Nevada)

**Roberto “Carlos” Carrillo,**  
**Food and Wellness Program Director**  
**Reno, Nevada**

- Summer Meal program for kids (NDA)
  - CCUSA National Food and Nutrition Steering Committee Cleveland.
  - Employee Safety Certificate (City of Reno)
  - CCNN Civil Rights Annual Training
  - Clarity (HMIS)
- 

**EDUCATION**

**Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno:**

**Career College of Northern Nevada:** *Associate in Computer Application System*

**SKILLS**

Proficient in English/Spanish (read/write)

**INTEREST**

Competitive Soccer Coach for U-16 Girls and U-14 to U-19 Boys

Coordinate Tournaments, Traveling, and Season's game schedules.

UNR Man's Club Soccer Coach

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard Whitley,  
MS  
Director



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

 NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Cody Phinney,  
MPH  
Administrator

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

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**DATE: JUNE 14, 2024**

**RE: COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY SEEKING MEMBERS**

PER NEVADA REVISED STATUTES [\[NRS\] 232.496](#) THROUGH [232.4968](#), INCLUSIVE. THE COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY IS CHARGED WITH VARIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOOD SECURITY STRATEGIC PLAN AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH OF PERSONS IN THIS STATE BY INCREASING FOOD SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

*APPOINTMENTS WILL BE MADE BASED ON REPRESENTATION WITHIN THE FOOD SECURITY ECOSYSTEM AS OUTLINED IN [NRS 232.4966](#).*

*"One member who is a representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food.*

*One member who is a representative of the gaming industry, hospitality industry, or restaurant industry.*

*One member who is a representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.  
A person who is a representative of a local health authority."*

CFS IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT, PLEASE IDENTIFY WHICH SEAT(S) YOU ARE APPLYING FOR, SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTEREST AND A RESUME BY FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2024, TO LORI TAYLOR, PHONE 775-546-8512, EMAIL: [L.TAYLOR@HEALTH.NV.GOV](mailto:L.TAYLOR@HEALTH.NV.GOV) OR SARAH ROGERS, PHONE 775-430-0014, EMAIL: [SROGERS@HEALTH.NV.GOV](mailto:SROGERS@HEALTH.NV.GOV) OR TO MAILING ADDRESS: 680 W. NYE LANE SUITE 205 CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89703, ATTN: SARAH ROGERS. MATERIALS SUBMITTED WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE PRECEDING COUNCIL MEETING. UPON COUNCIL APPROVAL, THE CANDIDATE WILL BE PROVIDED DIRECTIONS ON SUBMISSION FOR GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT.

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Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness

4150 Technology Way, Suite 210 • Carson City, NV 89706 • (775) 684-4200 • Fax (775) 687-7570 • [dphh.nv.gov](http://dphh.nv.gov)

ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.

# Attachment for Agenda Item #6

# The Nevada Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



ALL IN GOOD HEALTH.

# What is WIC ?

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- Nutrition education
- Breastfeeding support
- Supplemental foods
- Assessments and referrals



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH





NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# The National WIC Mission Statement

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*To safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk by providing nutritious foods to supplement diets, information on healthy eating, and referrals to health care.*



# WIC Program Outcomes Benefiting Public Health



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Supports adequate growth and development of infants and children by providing health assessments
- Provides nutrition education to increase consumption of key nutrients and improve nutrient density of diet
- Increases breastfeeding rates
- Increases access to regular health care through outreach and referrals
- Improves cognitive development of children
- Connects families to community resources
- Promotes medical and dental health through community outreach and referrals
- Promotes health care cost savings for women, infants and children



# WIC Population

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Low-income, nutritionally at risk:

- Pregnant women
- Breastfeeding women
- Non-breastfeeding postpartum women
- Infants
- Children up to age 5



# Nevada WIC Participation

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## WIC Participation (June 2024)

Women – 12,066

Infants – 13,444

Children – 30,139

Total WIC Participation – 55,649

# Nevada WIC

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Nevada WIC currently has 15 Local Agencies and 48 WIC clinics across the state. Local Agencies include:

- Carson City Health and Human Services
- Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
- Community Health Alliance
- Consolidated Agencies of Human Services
- Family Resource Center of Northeastern Nevada
- Little People's Head Start
- Lyon County Human Services
- Nevada Health Centers
- Nye County
- Pershing County
- Ron Wood Family Resource Center
- St Rose- Dignity Health
- Sunrise Children's Foundation
- Las Vegas Urban League
- Washoe County Health District





# Nutrition Education

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- Provide education to participants
  - Quarterly or as needed
  - In-person, online, or via telehealth
  - Individual, family, or group education
- Provide participants with foundational learning for healthy nutritional behaviors
- Reduce nutrition risks
- Provide high risk nutrition counseling

# Breastfeeding Support

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- WIC addresses the social, economic and cultural barriers to support low-income women breastfeed
- Culturally sensitive prenatal and postpartum breastfeeding education and support
- Lactation consults and breastfeeding supplies, such as breast pumps, at no cost to the participant
- Clinic staff coordinate to support breastfeeding mothers, referring to the clinic's designated breastfeeding expert or healthcare provider as needed



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Funded since 2004 through a separate WIC grant administered by USDA
- WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors (BFPC) provide peer to peer breastfeeding support to WIC mothers
- Recruited from the WIC population and trained to provide basic breastfeeding support during or after normal business hours
- Peer to peer support is invaluable as some women may have never seen family or friends breastfeed

# Supplemental Foods

- Food packages based on life stages
  - Pregnant
  - Postpartum
  - Breastfeeding
  - Infants
  - Children
- Provide nutrient dense foods
- Target nutrients of public health concern
  - Calcium
  - Vitamin D
  - Potassium
  - Dietary fiber



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# Assessments and Referrals

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NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Healthcare professionals
  - OBGYNs
  - Pediatricians
  - Dentists
- Immunization services
- Substance abuse counselors
- Domestic abuse counseling
- Other social services



# Nevada WIC Vendor Support

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- Nevada WIC partners with 222 stores statewide
- State office trains management and cashiers on program requirements
- Ensure stores carry WIC Approved Foods and maintain minimum stock requirements at all times
- Conduct routine monitoring, compliance buys and inventory audits ensuring Vendor program integrity



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

# Nevada Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) System



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- WIC participants receive their food benefits on an EBT card functions like a debit card
- Clinic staff provide instruction to participants on how to use their cards at the grocery store to redeem food benefits
- State office monitors WIC EBT Transactions ensuring food items scan and EBT transactions process correctly



# Comparison Between WIC and Welfare Services

WIC	Welfare Supportive Services
<p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Federal funding only; <u>not</u> an entitlement program</li></ul>	<p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Federal and/or state funded entitlement program</li></ul>
<p>Food Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Only WIC approved foods allowed.</u> Food packages vary by age and specific nutrition needs</li><li>Restrictions for brands, package size, quantity purchased, and price</li><li>Limited cash value benefit for fruits and vegetables only</li></ul>	<p>Food Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cash assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and Food Benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) provides specified cash amount to spend on foods at participant's discretion</li><li>No restrictions on size, food price</li><li>Restricted only by alcohol and tobacco products</li></ul>
<p>Income threshold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must be at or below 185% Federal Poverty Level</li><li>Adjunctive eligibility if approved for any Welfare program</li></ul>	<p>Income threshold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Income cannot exceed 130% Federal Poverty Level</li></ul>

**Thank you!**

**Website: [NevadaWIC.org](http://NevadaWIC.org)**

**Email: [WICgeneral@health.nv.gov](mailto:WICgeneral@health.nv.gov)**

**Phone: 775-684-5942**

# QUESTIONS?



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH





**NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

# Attachment for Agenda Item #7

## 2025 State Legislative Priorities

### Policy Priorities

#### ***Improve Accessibility and Affordability, and Encourage More Resilient Food Systems***

*Making it easier for everyone (individuals in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities) to access and afford food.*

- Ask the Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), the Governor, and the Nevada Legislature for permanent funding for Home Feeds Nevada<sup>1</sup>-- including working with the NDA to direct future Local Food Purchase Agreement (LFPA) funds to Home Feeds Nevada and identify additional potential grant funding streams.
- Seek funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Nevada general fund for support programs and initiatives to reduce food insecurity, expand the availability of and accessibility to food, and improve the affordability of food.
- Support an increase in the State of Nevada's matching grant fund program.
- Support the NDA and the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) to assist Nevada based agricultural producers to have access to information, capital, and programs to support food production.
- Amend the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) to include 1 member of Nevada's tribal communities on the Council on Food Security<sup>2</sup>.
- Amend the NRS to include 1 neighbor who is actively or has previously received products and services through a nutrition program or distribution on the Council on Food Security.
- Amend the NRS to include 1 member of the transportation community on the Council on Food Security.
- Coordinate with Nevada agricultural producers to expand client- and producer-centered options for those who have limited access to grocery stores or means to offload product by promoting expansion/ investment in food hubs, co-ops, or non-profit grocery stores.
- Seek increased state funding for specialty crop production (e.g. Specialty Crop Production Block Grants) and for alternative and sustainable growing operations.

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<sup>1</sup> Nevada Department of Agriculture (2021). *Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program*. Retrieved from: [https://agri.nv.gov/Food/Home\\_Feeds\\_Nevada/Home\\_Feeds\\_Nevada/](https://agri.nv.gov/Food/Home_Feeds_Nevada/Home_Feeds_Nevada/)

<sup>2</sup> Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health (2021). Governor's Food Security Council. Retrieved from: [https://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/OFS/GCFS\\_Meetings/OFS\\_-\\_Governor\\_s\\_Food\\_Security\\_Council/](https://dphh.nv.gov/Programs/OFS/GCFS_Meetings/OFS_-_Governor_s_Food_Security_Council/)

## ***2025 State Legislative Priorities***

### ***Improvement and Expansion of Nutrition and Health Services***

*Adopt and promote strategies centered on disease prevention and management to ensure that the health care system addresses the nutritional needs of all people and provides greater access to nutrition services to better prevent, manage, and treat diet-related diseases.*

- Increase opportunities in Nevada related to “Food is Medicine” approaches that focus on integrating consistent access to diet- and nutrition- related resources. These approaches are increasingly present across many communities and systems. There are multiple tools available for the state to explore to fully meet our state’s needs including:
  - The provision known as “In lieu of service. (ILOSs).
    - States’ and managed care plans’ have the ability to cover services or settings that are substitutes for services or settings covered under the state plan in accordance with 42 CFR §§ 438.3(e)(2) and 438.16. Housing and nutrition supports are allowed to be added to the state plans.
  - Combining Medicare Waiver 1115 with Social Security Waiver 1945b to allow the state to adopt a time-limited waiver from state plan requirements for statewideness, comparability, and freedom of choice.
    - 1945b waivers may be used to provide additional services that are not provided to enrollees who are not covered by the waiver, as well as limit the number of service providers.
- Seek full state funding for the requisite administrative match of the Summer EBT program in 2025 and beyond.
- Seek permanent state funding for universal school meal access statewide in public and charter schools for the 2025-26 school year and beyond.
- Encourage statewide adoption of the Community Eligibility Provision<sup>3</sup> (CEP) to ensure Nevada is maximizing available federal funding.

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<sup>3</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service (2023). Community Eligibility Provision. Retrieved from: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/community-eligibility-provision>

## ***2025 State Legislative Priorities***

### ***Nutrition and Food Waste Research***

*Improve nutrition and food waste metrics, data collection, and research to inform nutrition and food security policy, particularly on issues of equity, access, and disparities.*

- Evaluate Nevada's food logistics, distribution, transportation, and storage systems to identify gaps, and collect data to identify unmet need, and at-risk areas that are not being served.
- Encourage inclusion of food- and plate-waste assessment for one year across all of Nevada's school districts and schools in any relevant food policy legislation to best understand the scope or relevance of this matter in Nevada.
- Analyze public funding streams and models of best practices, identify policy gaps and opportunities, and identify ways to increase public funding for programs to reduce food insecurity, expand the availability of/ accessibility to food, and improve affordability of food.

July 16, 2024

# FOOD BANK UPDATE

GABBY EVERETT  
DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY  
THREE SQUARE

CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION MANAGER  
FOOD BANK OF NORTHERN NEVADA

SHANE PICCININI  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS  
FOOD BANK OF NORTHERN NEVADA





# AGENDA

- FY24 Impact
- Current Landscape
  - FY24 Map the Meal Gap
- FY25 Projections
- Operational/Programmatic Priorities & Needs
- 2025 Policy Priorities





## FY24 Impact

### Food Bank of Northern Nevada

- Q1 saw a monthly average of **145,000 people** served
- Q4 saw a monthly average of **169,000 people** served
  - FY23 saw an average of **140,000 people** served
- **25.4 million pounds distributed**
  - This equates to **30.5 million meals**
- Nearly **5 million pounds** of quality food rescued from retail food partners
- More than **4,100 seniors** served each month through senior-specific programs
- Nearly **322,000 meals** provided to children, serving an average of nearly **1,780 children each month**

### Three Square

- More than **328,000 people** served
  - And more than **113,000 households**
- More than **49 million pounds** distributed
  - This equates to more than **41 million meals**
- More than **14 million pounds** of quality food rescued from retail food partners
- More than **10,500 older adults** served each month
- More than **769,000 meals** provided to approximately **80,000 children**





## What this looks like for the food banks

### Food Bank of Northern Nevada

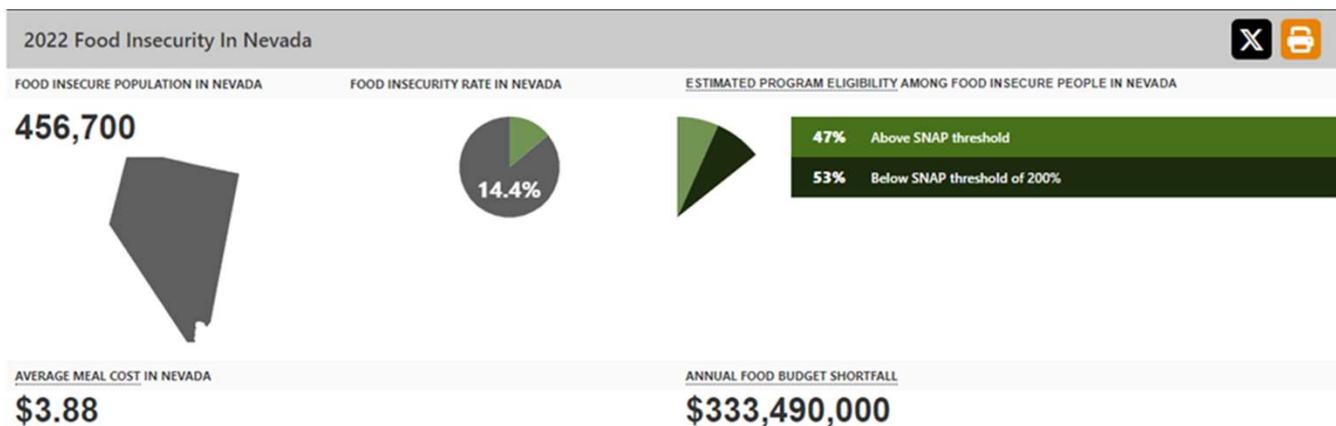
- More than 160,000 are being served each month, the highest to date. Nearly half are children and seniors

### Three Square

- Need is sustaining for neighbors for lengthier periods of time than what had been observed in recent years
  - In 2023, Southern Nevadans were missing an average of 5.8 meals per week, while in 2024, that is up to 6.2 meals per week



## 2024 Map the Meal Gap Data



FeedingAmerica. (2024, May 15). *Food Insecurity among the Overall Population in Nevada*. FeedingAmerica. <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/overall/nevada>

This represents an 11.5% increase from 2023 to 2024 (up from 409k Nevadans)

## Current Landscape

## Food Bank of Northern Nevada

- **26M-27M pounds** are projected to be distributed
- TEFAP
  - In 2024, TEFAP CCC bonus foods were valued at nearly \$3 million, however, this program is expected to end after 2024
    - We expect to receive at least 600,000 less than we received in 2024
- As for TEFAP entitlement funding, it's too soon to project, but current estimates indicate a 25% decrease in funding between FY24 and FY25
  - \*Note: Our leadership is looking for opportunities to make up for this anticipated gap*
  - TEFAP represented more than 26% of FBNN's overall distribution in FY24

## Three Square

- **46 million pounds** are projected to be distributed
- TEFAP
  - In 2024, TEFAP CCC bonus foods were valued at nearly \$6 million; however, this program is expected to end after 2024
    - We expect to receive at least 4.9 million pounds less than we received in 2024
- As for TEFAP entitlement funding, it's too soon to project, but current estimates indicate we could see as much as a 35% decrease in funding between FY24 and FY25
  - \*Note: Once the year begins, the entitlement funding amount is not typically as low as we are initially informed*
  - TEFAP represented more than 20% of Three Square's overall distribution in FY23



# State Appropriations Priorities & Foci

## Food Bank of Northern Nevada

To meet the growing need for additional nutrition support for our neighbors after the expiration of the pandemic benefits in 2023, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada has so far spent two million dollars of the legislative appropriation in the following categories:

- 44% of the 2023 legislative appropriation procured shelf stable products including tuna, cereal, canned fruits, vegetables, and skillet meals.
- 10% of the appropriation was devoted to frozen proteins like chicken, turkey, pork products, and bison.
- The remaining purchases were made up of produce, dairy, and eggs, all grouped together: fresh potatoes, mixed fresh produce, fresh eggs, half gallons of fresh 2% milk, and American cheese.



## Three Square

- Senior Hunger Programs
  - Fulfilling waitlists for Golden Groceries
  - Adding mobile distributions at senior affordable housing complexes
  - Producing more frozen meals for seniors
- Childhood Nutrition Programs
  - Fulfilling waitlists for our Backpack Program
  - Piloting a DoorDash summer program for families
- Healthcare Partnerships
  - Assisted with starting emergency food pantries at VA facilities/ clinics



## 2025 Policy Priorities

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FARM BILL

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

CHILD NUTRITION ACT

HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS AND FOOD AS  
MEDICINE INITIATIVES (COULD INCLUDE, BUT  
NOT LIMITED TO MEDICAID 1115 WAIVERS)

UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

HOME FEEDS NEVADA

SUMMER EBT

### STATE GOVERNMENT



## Attachment for Agenda Item #9

# NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024



*Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Department of Health and Human Services  
State of Nevada*

Joe Lombardo  
*Governor  
State of Nevada*

Cody Phinney, MPH  
*Administrator  
Division of Public and Behavioral  
Health*

Richard Whitley, MS  
*Director  
Department of Health and Human  
Services*

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD  
*Chief Medical Officer  
Division of Public and Behavioral  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor's Council on Food Security (CFS) aims to fight hunger among Nevadans who are at increased and/or higher risk of food insecurity, including children and older Nevadans. Since the inception of the 2014 Governor's Executive Order, which established CFS and codified NRS 232.4968 into state law in the 80th Legislative Session in 2019, there have been numerous accomplishments over the years, with continued progress being made in 2024. The CFS is tasked with reviewing legislation and protocols at the federal, state, and local levels for feedback affecting food policy infrastructure. The CFS meetings are held quarterly along with special sessions, which help partners remain aware of various funding streams and assist with improving the quality of service and meals to Nevadans through education, recommendations, and feedback. Ongoing meetings also help ensure partners remain aware of emergency response plans and streamline food access to provide excellent services to Nevadans.

The CFS continues to recognize the need for systemic collaboration between all partners to adequately reduce hunger and improve a person's overall well-being. According to the [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#), in Fiscal Year 2023, 455,200 Nevada residents received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits with 62% of the participants being families with children. Participants continue to steadily increase over the years with a concern for the senior population since the rural and small towns fall behind the national average.<sup>1</sup>

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) stunted Nevada's progress in addressing hunger and completely changed the landscape of food insecurity in Nevada. At the height of the pandemic, food security partners statewide saw an unprecedented increase in the need for food and nutrition services, due to high unemployment rates, limited access to resources, and social distancing guidelines. Assisting Nevadans navigate food-related resources has been a major activity in the state. Nevada continues to make significant strides in addressing food insecurity and has established a public database through the [DHHS Nevada 211, allowing residents to search for food banks and pantries in their area.](#)

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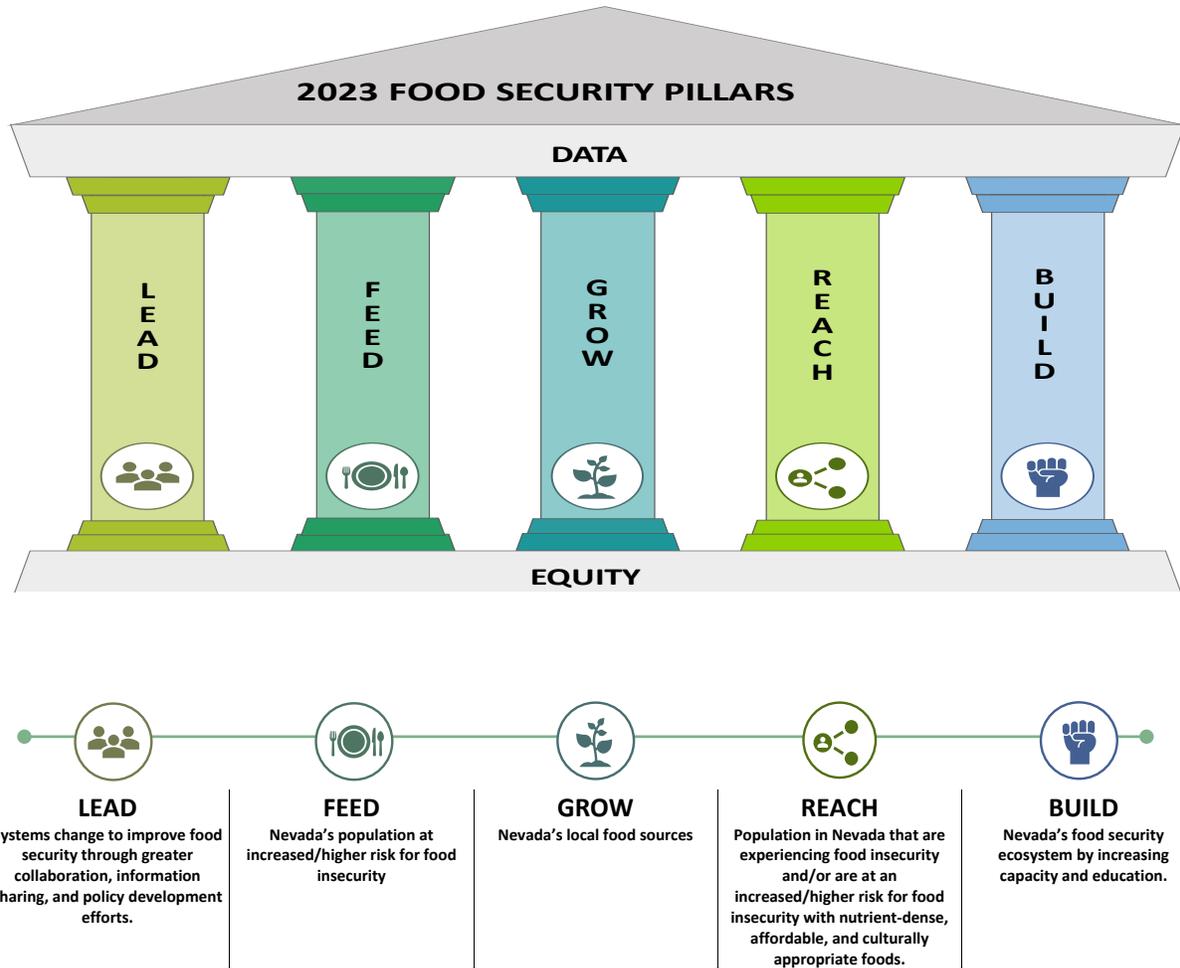
<sup>1</sup> 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan

## INTRODUCTION

The Council was initially created by Nevada's Governor to reshape food security and help residents living in food-insecure households by implementing the goals of the 2013 Food Strategic Plan called the [Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action](#). In 2018, a work plan was developed with updates to the goals and objectives. Between July 2021-November 2022, a Food Security Work Group conducted a needs assessment including surveys, strategic planning sessions, focus groups, and interviews. In 2023, the Food Strategic Plan was updated and published on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Food Security (OFS) website. [The 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#). The Pillars (Figure 1), identified in [the 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#), address the root causes of hunger and to generate a healthier food security ecosystem.

Over the past eight (8) years, the CFS members have captured the council's yearly progress. Each year, CFS sends their recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on Food Security in Nevada. This report includes information on community gardens and urban farms per [NRS 232.4968](#).

Figure 1



### FOOD INSECURITY IN NEVADA

Food Insecurity is defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited/uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations states a person is food insecure when “...they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and

an active and healthy life.”<sup>2</sup> Food insecurity goes beyond empty refrigerators, pantries, and needing food to survive. Food insecurity impacts an individual’s overall health, well-being, and culture and is influenced by the social, political, and economic environment one lives in. It is a significant public health concern associated with adverse health outcomes and a poor quality of life, including chronic diseases and mental health issues.<sup>3,4</sup> For example, Feeding America indicates the total excess health care cost associated with food insecurity is \$518,266,000 in Nevada. Feeding America reports the food insecurity rate in Nevada was 13% (409,540) in 2021.<sup>5</sup> To assuage these health and economic effects of food insecurity, the Funds for Healthy Nevada (FHN)<sup>6</sup> agencies continue to allow for more options and availability to better meet dietary and medical needs, preferences, and restrictions. The [State of Obesity 2022 report](#) indicates, “For children and adolescents, food insecurity is associated with a lower quality diet and a range of poor physical and mental health outcomes—including higher odds of having asthma, anemia, and fair or poor health and a higher risk of cognitive issues, aggression, anxiety, depression, behavior problems, suicide ideation, and hospitalization.” Children experiencing food insecurity were also likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, experience developmental impairments in areas like language and motor skills and have more social and behavioral problems. To reduce these risks and concerns, the 2021 Universal School Meals Program Act was established. This act permanently provides free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a snack to all school children regardless of income, eliminates school meal debt, and strengthens local economies by incentivizing local food procurement.<sup>7</sup> The USDA extended these free services through the 2022 school year from the 2021 Universal School Meals Program Act. The Nevada Interim Finance Committee approved \$28 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to continue

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unric.org/en/unric-library-background-er-food-insecurity/#:~:text=A%20person%20is%20food%20insecure,of%20resources%20to%20obtain%20food.>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/84467/err-235.pdf?v=42942>

<sup>4</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/jn/article/145/3/622/4743717>

<sup>5</sup> <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2021/overall/nevada>

<sup>6</sup> The Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) is governed by Chapter 439, Sections 620–630, of the Nevada Revised Statutes to utilize 60% of tobacco settlement monies received or recovered by the State of Nevada. The DHHS uses the FHN funds to support health and social services activities that align with legislatively defined priority areas to address gaps identified in various needs assessments across the State of Nevada to promote public health and improve health services for children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

<sup>7</sup> H.R.3115 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Universal School Meals Program Act of 2021 | [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) | [Library of Congress](#)

offering the free meals. This allowed Nevada students to continue universal free meals at school for the 2023-2024 school year.<sup>8</sup>

According to the [2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#), there were about 80,000 Nevadans aged 60 years and older who identified as food insecure. Data projections suggest Nevada will witness a 36% increase in the older adult population over the next ten years. This older adult population faces food security challenges with an increased risk of hunger due to poor health conditions, homebound needs, low fixed incomes, and limitations impacting their ability to obtain or prepare food. Seniors with low income are forced to purchase inexpensive and less nutritious foods to financially secure their housing, utilities, and prescriptions.

As of June 2024, the USDA reports 262,890 Nevada households and 498,558 Nevadans had accepted the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, historically known as food stamps.<sup>9,10</sup> SNAP assisted low-income families in purchasing nutritious foods from approved stores. In the beginning of 2024, participants continued to receive the Supplemental Emergency Allotments (SEA) that were established throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020, following the Public Health Emergency declaration (PHE). The SEA allowed SNAP participants to receive a second monthly payment to address food insecurity throughout the pandemic. The SEA ceased on March 14, 2023, following the end to PHE (February 2023) with the Nevada Division of Welfare and Support Services (DWSS) issuing over \$1 billion to Nevada households during the PHE. This was in addition to the USDA Food and Nutrition Services bolstering budgets for food banks throughout the country following the pandemic to help further public and private funding sources used to tackle food insecurity. The public funds are obtained through federal, state, and local agencies, as well as governmental units. Private funds are identified through charitable foundations, direct giving programs, voluntary agencies, and other community groups. Nevada food banks and food pantries are reporting an increase in clients receiving food related services since the SEA ended.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/27744>

<sup>9</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-households-9.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://fns-prod.azureedge.us/sites/default/files/resource-files/snap-persons-9.pdf>

The State of Nevada expanded the Nevada Community Food Access (NCFA) grant through the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). On April 1, 2022, NDA released NCFA to increase food access in underserved communities throughout Nevada, with an emphasis on food distribution, infrastructure enhancement, and the provision of food to households in need. NDA also purchases food grown and produce in Nevada for distribution through the Home Feeds Nevada program.<sup>11</sup> This program was established to help Nevada become more food secure by processing and distributing directly to food banks.<sup>12</sup> Throughout 2022-2023, NDA awarded \$500,000 to six (6) partners. In 2023, NDA released the second round of grant funding to fourteen (14) organizations totaling \$6 million that focused on the food distribution and food storage infrastructure enhancement for households in rural, tribal, and underserved communities.<sup>13</sup> Four (4) of the eleven (11) FHN partners benefited from the NDA expansion funds to assist with increasing distribution and storage space: Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada (CCNN), Northern Nevada Dream Center, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and the Keystone Enrichment Foundation.

NDA reported to the Council they analyzed the locations of the current meal sites and have been able to fill identified gaps. Due to the 2023 release of the rural non-congregate feeding, some sponsors could have new meal service sites that had never been serviced before, as far as eastern Nevada, with a population that had not been reached in previous years. An assessment has been completed to target other community organizations and food authorities could help fill those gaps for more rural parts of Nevada.

### **FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENTS AND PLANS**

The [2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#) was published in February 2024, and aligns with 4 strategies from [the 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#), address the root causes of hunger and to generate a healthier food security ecosystem. The goal is to reduce food insecurity and improve the overall food security ecosystem in Nevada to help

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<sup>11</sup>[https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/First\\_food\\_delivery\\_for\\_Nevadans\\_in\\_need\\_made\\_through\\_Home\\_Feeds\\_Nevada/#:~:text=Home%20Feeds%20Nevada%20is%20a,said%20NDA%20Director%20Jennifer%20Ott](https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/First_food_delivery_for_Nevadans_in_need_made_through_Home_Feeds_Nevada/#:~:text=Home%20Feeds%20Nevada%20is%20a,said%20NDA%20Director%20Jennifer%20Ott).

<sup>12</sup> [https://agri.nv.gov/Food/Home\\_Feeds\\_Nevada/Home\\_Feeds\\_Nevada/](https://agri.nv.gov/Food/Home_Feeds_Nevada/Home_Feeds_Nevada/)

<sup>13</sup>[https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/\\$6\\_million\\_awarded\\_to\\_community\\_organizations\\_to\\_fight\\_food\\_insecurity\\_and\\_improve\\_food\\_access/](https://agri.nv.gov/News/2022/$6_million_awarded_to_community_organizations_to_fight_food_insecurity_and_improve_food_access/)

eliminate the existing hunger gap. Over the years, CCNN and Three-Square Food Bank have conducted environmental scans of rural communities in Northern and Southern Nevada to assess additional existing food rescue/donation efforts and/or opportunities. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), contracted with the Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation and Statistics (CSES) at the University of Nevada, Reno, and conducted a yearlong surveillance survey which consisted of two parts: 1) a needs assessment, and 2) a neighbor satisfaction survey. This work looked at the entire FBNN service area (13 Northern Nevada counties and parts of eight (8) counties in California).

The Office of Food Security (OFS) has partnered with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Public Health AmeriCorps to hire two ongoing part time workers for 2023-2024 to support the Council's involvement with [2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#) food initiatives and the [Nevada's 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#). These positions assist the Council with the following:

- Planning, implementing, monitoring, and reporting of projects that align with three (3) of the five (5) foundational themes otherwise known as the “pillars” (LEAD, FEED, and BUILD) of the [Nevada's 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan](#) and the specific actions steps in the SHIP related to Food Security
- Reviewing processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities
- Designing and developing data collection and program evaluation tools
- Conducting routine analysis of program processes
- Providing outcome data to the program and stakeholders
- Monitoring, and evaluating measures on program activities
- Providing technical assistance to Food Security stakeholder

## **NEVADA CFS 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In 2024, the CFS continued to focus on the execution of [The 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan](#). Ongoing meetings were (January 16, Feb 2, July 16, and October 15) to expand knowledge and understanding around food insecurity in Nevada and to prepare presentations for the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session.

More accomplishments are listed below for 2024:

- Established a workgroup to aim at planning and holding a statewide food security conference. The goal of the conference is to convene local food ecosystem partners,

community members, and policymakers, featuring keynote speakers and discussions while offering. The workgroup developed and distributed a survey to assist in planning the 2025 Northern Nevada Food Security Conference.

- CFS presented one (1) presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services (HHS) related to food insecurity and seats needed for CFS.
- An in-person CFS meeting option, either Carson City and/or Las Vegas Office(s), to enhance collaboration, cohesiveness, and increase efforts in reducing councils' vacancies.
- Distribution, support, and general food access.
- Presentations focused on the food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution, general food access, awareness on food insecurity programs and existing food databases to access food related resources statewide. More specifically the following:
  - The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) on the Community Food Access Project, gaps analysis on food security, Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP), Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA), and the Summer Food Program (SFP).
  - Southwest Regional Food System Project
  - Home Delivered Meals Program
- Reviewed the Home Feeds Nevada Program Annual Report, the state nutrition statics such as the pounds of food distributed, and people served, survey to determine federal standards or policies in places that are creating barriers resulting in a possible increase in food insecurity and analyzed where the Council can advocate for change.
- Ongoing discussion on how food insecurity is being addressed in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts in Nevada.
- Continues to monitor the FFPNL Subcommittee reestablished by CFS in 2023 to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills and use to increase food security in Nevada. FFPNL is also intended to establish the eligibility criteria for a food donor to participate in the program and create an official seal for the program per [NRS 232.4969](#).

### CFS FUTURE FOCUS

In 2025, the CFS will continue to focus on [2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan \(SHIP\)](#) food initiatives which is aligned with the 2023-2028 SHIP, Food Security Action Plan. The CFS will continue to hold ongoing meetings to expand knowledge and understanding around food insecurity in Nevada. In 2025, the CFS in collaboration with DPBH and community partners, intends to host the Northern Nevada Food Conference focusing on Northern Nevada. In 2027, the Council on Food Security aims at holding another similar conference with a focus on the Southern Region of Nevada. An ongoing workgroup will continue to remain in place by the Council to assist in planning conferences aligned with the SHIP. The Council will also continue monitoring the progress of The Food for People Not for Landfill (FFPNL) to increase food insecurity by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food to vulnerable communities throughout the state. The CFS has selected anticipated members of the FFPNL subcommittee and CFS is working towards establishing members for the agencies identified in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Name/Agency
United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
Three Square
University of Reno, Extension
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, Includes Food Rescue
Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada,
Food Bank of Northern Nevada, includes Food Rescue
North Gaming Industry
South Gaming Industry
Retail or Grocery
Reno Gleaning Project
A representative from an organization that does farmers market buy back and/or food rescue from agricultural producers
Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
A representative from food service

The Council would like to focus on the following for 2025:

- Deliverables for the SHIP and the 2023 Food Security Strategic plans.
- 2025 Food Security Conference in Northern Nevada.

- An in-person meeting option, either in Carson City and/or Las Vegas Office(s), for CFS meetings to further enhance collaboration, cohesiveness, and increase efforts in reducing councils' vacancies.
- Distribution, support, and general food access.
- Presentations focusing on food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution, general food access and build awareness on food insecurity programs and existing food databases to access food related resources statewide.
- Home Feeds Nevada Program Annual Report.
- Review and discuss the state nutrition statics such as the pounds of food distributed, and people served.
- Review federal standards or policies in places creating barriers that result in a possible increase in food insecurity.
  - Determine where the Council can advocate for change.
- Continuing the discussion on how food insecurity is being addressed in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts.

## 2023 MEMBERS: NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

(As of 12/28/2023)

Name	Description	Position
Administrator: Cody Phinney:  Designee Vickie Ives as of Nov 29, 2023	<i>Administrator of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health or his or her designee from within the Division.</i>	Designee; Health Bureau Chief; Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Charlotte Williams	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving northern Nevada</i>	Research & Innovation Manager
Deacon Tom Roberts	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in southern Nevada</i>	President and CEO; Catholic Charities, Southern Nevada
Designee for Administrator: Jeff Duncan	<i>Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department or his or her designee from within the Division</i>	Designee; Agency Manager; Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Child Services
Designee for Administrator: Kelly Cantrelle	<i>Administrator of the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services or designee from within the Division.</i>	Designee; Deputy Administrator; Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Designee for Director: Dr. Dorian Stonebarger	<i>Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development or his or her designee within the Office.</i>	Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development; Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development Proxy; Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs
Designee for Governor: Allison Genco	<i>State of Nevada Governor's Designee.</i>	State Public Health Resource Officer, Governor's Office
Designee for Superintendent: Pamela Juniel	<i>Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Nevada Department of education or his or her designee within the Department.</i>	Superintendent of Public Instruction; Nevada Department of Education
Dr. Sabina Malik	<i>A person who is a representative of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension</i>	Public Health Nutritionist; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Jenny Yeager  Term ended 02/28/2024	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving northern Nevada</i>	Chief Operations and Programs Officer; Food Bank of Northern Nevada

Jesus Mendoza, Jr.	<i>Western Regional Director of the United States Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>	Regional Administrator; United States Department of Agriculture Western Regional Office
Joe Miller	<i>One member who is a representative of farmers or ranchers engaged in food production</i>	UNR-Desert Farm Initiative
Julian Goicoechea	<i>Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture or designee from within the Department.</i>	Nevada Department of Agriculture, Director
Kelli Kelly	<i>One member who is a representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food</i>	Director; Fallon Food Hub
Lisa Swearingen	<i>Director or his or her designee from within the Department of Health and Human Services</i>	Chief, Eligibility and Payments Unit, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Marcia Blake	<i>A person who possesses knowledge, skill and experience in the provision of services to senior citizens and persons with disabilities</i>	Executive Director; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Maria Menjivar	<i>One member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada).</i>	Environmental Health Division Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services
Marie Baxter	<i>A person who is a representative of an organization that provides community-based services, including, without limitation, services that focus on the social determinants of health, in northern Nevada</i>	CEO; Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada
Maurice Johnson	<i>A person who is a representative of a food bank serving southern Nevada</i>	Director of Operations; Three Square Food Bank
(Tori) Samantha Lawson-Boffelli	<i>A person who possesses knowledge, skill, and experience in the provision of services to children and families</i>	Program Analyst – USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Dr. Kenneth Osgood, MD, MPH	A person who is a representative of a local health authority	Southern Nevada Health District Board of Health
Term end 04/05/2024		
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	A person who is a representative of those engaged in the business of processing or distributing food.	N/A

VACANT as of 06/20/2024	One member who is a representative of the gaming industry, hospitality industry, or restaurant industry.	N/A
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	One member who is a representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.	N/A
VACANT as of 06/20/2024	A person who is a representative of a local health authority	N/A