

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES





Dena Schmidt Administrator

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

THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY

MEETING PACKET

July 15, 2025

1:00 p.m. to Adjournment

This meeting is being held both virtually and in person. The public is invited to attend.

IN PERSON INFORMATION

Las Vegas Onsite Location:

Classroom B, 8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas Blvd N, Las Vegas, NV 89123.

Carson City Onsite Location:

Room 303, 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.

VIRTUAL INFORMATION

How To Participate

<u>Meeting Link:</u>

Microsoft Teams

<u>Join the meeting now</u>

Meeting ID: 253 702 028 260

Passcode: ub27Mf7j

Join by phone:

+<u>1 775-321-6111, 576087513#</u> United States, Reno

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 576 087 513#

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

NOTICE:

- 1. The agenda items may be taken out of order.
- 2. Two or more items may be combined; and
- 3. Items may be removed from the agenda or delayed at any time.

1. Call to order and Roll Call:

- 2. Public Comment: No action may be taken on 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 +1 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 576087513#. Due to time considerations, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hands by pressing *5. Persons making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record, spell their last name, or provide the secretary with written comments.
- **3. For Possible Action**: Discussion and possible action to approve the meeting minutes from March 11, 2025, April 15, 2025, and May 13, 2025–Allison Herzik, Chair
- 4. For Information Only: 2025 State Legislative Session updates-Allison Herzik, Chair
- **5. For Possible Action:** Discussion and Possible action on Legislatively required studies Allison Herzik, Chair
 - a. SB233 Home Feeds Nevada study
 - b. AB405 Food insecurity study
- 6. For Information Only: State Emergency Food Plan- Allison Herzik, Chair
- 7. For Information Only: Maternal Child Health Policy Innovation Program partnership opportunity- Vickie Ives, Health Bureau Chief and Sarah Rogers, Nutrition Unit Deputy Bureau Chief
- 8. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action on Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 232.4969 Food for People Not Landfills Program (FFPNL) –Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security
- 9. For Information Only: Update on Office of Food Security (OFS) Fund for Healthy Nevada (FHN) for SFY26-SFY27, SFY24 Home Feeds Nevada Annual Report, and 2025 CFS Annual Report–Lori Taylor, Office of Food Security

- **10. For Possible Action:** Discussion and possible action on State Health Improvement Plan, including the 2025 Food Security Conference, -Allison Herzik, Chair
- 11. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding CFS Goals- Allison Herzik, Chair

Outstanding 2025 Goals:

- The OFS will coordinate with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
 tribal liaisons to get CFS on the agenda for Intertribal Council of Nevada (ITCN)
 meetings to increase awareness of the Council among tribal members.
- 2. Review federal standards or policies that create barriers and food insecurity.
- 3. Subjects/topics related to Food Insecurity Statistics, such as the pounds of food distributed, and people served.
- 4. Generate baseline data on food waste and recovery in Nevada, including a list of food recovery partners.
- 5. Explore the expansion of food hubs in Northern and Southern Nevada.
- 6. Prioritize building awareness of food distribution, support, and general food access throughout Nevada.
- 7. Continue addressing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas and/or areas with food insecurity.
- 8. Barriers preventing the production, sale, and use or expansion of local foods, particularly in systems that serve senior centers, schools, and childcare centers, and review policies and regulations that restrict the use of agricultural products on-site at schools and childcare centers.
- 9. Discussion and consideration of future Office of Analytics (OoA) Presentation(s) (October 2025)- Jen L. Thompson, OoA.
- 10. Home Feeds Nevada updates and SFY25 annual report-Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)
- 12. Public Comment: No action may be taken on 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 +1 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter 576087513#. Due to time considerations, comments will be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public utilizing the call-in (audio only) number may raise their hands by pressing *5. Persons making comments will be asked

to begin by stating their name for the record, spell their last name, or provide the secretary with written comments.

13. Adjournment: Allison Herzik, Chair

NOTICES OF THIS PUBLIC MEETING HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: PHYSICAL POSTING LOCATION

- Division of Public and Behavioral Health: 4150 Technology Way Carson City, NV 89706
 Food Bank of Northern Nevada: 550 Italy Drive. Sparks, NV 89437
- Nevada WIC Office: 680 West Nye Lane Ste. 205 Carson City, NV 89703
- Three Square Food Bank: 4190 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89115
- Helping Hands of Vegas Valley: 3640 N. 5th St. Suite 130 North Las Vegas, NV 89032

INTERNET POSTING

The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health website at
 Nevada_Council_on_Food_Security_Meeting_Schedule_for_2025
 and the Department of Administration's website at https://notice.nv.gov/

In addition, the agenda and/or meeting information was mailed to groups and individuals as requested and posted online at: https://notice.nv.gov/ and <a

This body will provide at least two public comment periods in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Open Meeting Law prior to adjournment. Additionally, it is the goal of the Council on Food Security (CFS) to also afford the public with an item-specific public comment period. 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.

This meeting is a public meeting, recorded and held in compliance with and pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, pursuant to NRS 241. By Participating, you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting. All voting members should leave their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and refrain from entering any information into the chat function of the video platform.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Rory Fuller in writing by email (r.fuller@health.nv.gov), by mail (CFS, Nevada Division of Public and

Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, Suite 210, Carson City, NV 89706) or by calling (775) 684-2203 before the meeting date.

If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Rory Fuller, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness, at (775) 684-2203 or by email at r.fuller@health.nv.gov. Supporting materials are available for the public on the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health website at CFS Meeting Schedule for 2025 (Nevada_Council_on_Food_Security_Meeting_Schedule_for_2025) and on the Department of Administration's website at https://notice.nv.gov/.

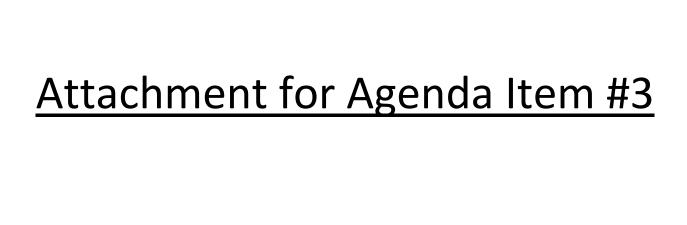
If at any time during the meeting, an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them, including on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical difficulties, please Rory Fuller, at (775) 684-2203, or by email at r.fuller@health.nv.gov and note at what time the difficulty started to that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.

Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified that they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from the Office of Food Security, please do not hesitate to contact r.fuller@health.nv.gov. Please refrain from commenting in the chat area of the meeting, unless requested to, because minutes are required to be taken of the meeting.

Use of obscenities or other behavior which disrupts the meeting to the extent that its orderly conduct is made impractical may result in the forfeiture of the opportunity to provide public comment or removal from the meeting.

Anyone who would like to be on the CFS mailing list must submit a written request every six months to the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health at the address listed below.

CFS, DPBH, Attn: Rory Fuller 4150 Technology Way, Suite 210 Carson City, Nevada 89706



Joe Lombardo

Governor

Richard Whitley.

MS

Director



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Cody L Phinney, **MPH** Administrator

> Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.

Chief Medical Officer





THE NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY SPECIAL SESSION

Date: March 11, 2025

Draft Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Type of meeting: Special Session

Attendance:

Members present:

- Allison Herzik
- **Amber Torres**
- Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
- Dr. Julian Goicoechea
- Dr. Pamela Juniel
- Dr. Sabina Malik
- Jeff Duncan
- Kelly Cantrelle
- Marcia Blake
- Vickie Ives

Members absent:

- Jill Moe
- Lisa Swearingen
- Tori Lawson-Boffeli

Others present:

- Alexis Hogan DPBH
- Allison Gonzalez, DPBH
- Amber Hise, DPBH
- Anais Infante, DPBH
- Bjorn Blomquist, DPBH
- Bryan Davis, DPBH
- Cori Stauffer DPBH
- Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
- Debbie Hernandez, DPBH
- Dillon Winkelman DPBH
- Jeff Duncan, ADSD
- Johnathon Welch DBPH
- Laina Joy Aquino, RN-BSN student, University of Nevada, Reno
- Lori Lutu, ADSD
- Lori Taylor, DPBH
- Maria Menjivar, CNHD
- Michelle Harden, DPBH, CDPHP
- Oscar Fernandez, DPBH
- Rory Fuller, DPBH
- Roxana Cambara-Glowski, DPBH
- Saida Munroe, DPBH
- Sarah Rogers, DPBH
- Taylor Moseley, DBPH
- Theresa Reyome, DPBH
- Troy Lovick, DPBH
- Tyler Saunders, DPBH
- Yami Melendez, DPBH

1. Call to Order:

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:02PM

Name of the presiding officer: Allison Herzik

2. Public Comment:

No public comment was made. Period for public comment was closed

3. Discussion and possible action for 2025 State Legislative Session

Chair Herzik started agenda item three indicating that bills regarding food security will be discussed as needed. Chair Herzik wanted to ensure the first two discussions are about Senate Bill (SB) 233 and SB282.

• SB233 – Chair Herzik indicated the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) discussed doing a study to permanently house or fund." The proposed study would examine the following: the feasibility of creating a task force to address agricultural labor issues (including foreign labor) and permanent funding for Home Feeds Nevada, with the first biennium funding focused on initial implementation. An \$800,000 appropriation was included in the bill. Staff capacity and realistic funding requirement concerns were raised by the board. Pending meetings with bill sponsor and Senator Doñate to continue and it remains unseen who will oversee the funding. The Council will continue to monitor this bill as it moves along through the legislation process.

Chair Herzik moves to SB282 to discuss \$10 million for grocery initiative.

• SB282 -Revises provisions relating to food security. Chair Herzik states the budget is not confirmed and the board members discussed the allocation of this funding with several programs mentioned (such as Home Feeds Nevada and Local Food for School Funding (LFPA)). Government leadership has been exploring the expansion of CFS responsibilities and introduce regulatory oversight and a reporting requirement. The board members discussed the Councils potential responsibilities if this bill was passed and the possible need for a subcommittee. There were concerns on the significant scope of work anticipated along with the coordination of funds and designing regulations.

Vickie Ives clarification that the "reporting element would be that of the Council as well as some significant roles in the administration of the funds as well as what was just previously highlighted." The Office of Food Security will continue in the standard capacity of administrative support.

Dr. Malik requested the word "food desert" to be revised to "food insecure" or "food secure," reflecting current usage.

Dr. Long and others offered definitions of food insecurity (e.g., using 200% of the federal poverty guideline, 5-mile urban/1-mile rural grocery store access as benchmarks).

- Currently, there are regional maps that are in progress to assist in identifying food insecure areas—this includes tools being developed using U.S. Census American Community Survey data that covers both urban and rural Nevada.
- o It was discussed FBNN does have a map regarding food insecurity rates.

There was a consensus among board members to follow SB282 as it appears needs further work to refine the language and clarify responsibilities.

- **SB352** (Cottage Food Bill) –Council is hoping this bill gains a lot of support as this bill proposes ways to expand for cottage food sales in Nevada and currently maintains stricter regulations of the entire country.
- **AB345** Food Security for College Students: initiatives regarding food security on campus; it has components that may warrant council monitoring.

Chair Herzik closed Item 3 as no further bills were proposed for discussion.

4. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Public comment was opened by Chair Herzik.

Jenny Yaeger wanted to show appreciation and recognition to Amber Torres as she is a new member of the council. FBNN has provided excellent work in developing a map to highlight the service area of 13 Northern Nevada counties along with overlaying food security/insecure data.

5. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Duncan, seconded by Dr. Stonebarger.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.

Next Meeting:

Special Session Meeting:

Date: April 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Microsoft Teams / Telephonically

Attachments:

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

*Minutes prepared by **Anais Infante** using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.). Da Capo Press.

Nevada Revised Statutes. Open Meeting Law (NRS 241).

Joe Lombardo

Governor



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Cody L Phinney, MPH

Administrator

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.

Chief Medical Officer



MS Director



THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

Date: April 15, 2025

(Draft) Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Type of meeting: Regular meeting

Attendance:

Members present:

- **Amber Torres**
- Jeff Duncan
- Dr. Pamela Juniel
- Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
- Dr. Julian Goicoechea
- Dr. Sabina Malik
- Jill Moe
- Marcia Blake
- Tori Lawson-Boffelli
- Vickie Ives

Members absent:

- Kelly Cantrelle
- Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi
- Lisa Swearingen

Staff:

- Sarah Rogers
- Lori Taylor
- Other attendees asked to sign in via meeting chat, attached as Exhibit A.

Guests:

- · Tina Dortch
- · Sara Ramirez
- · Sara Myers
- Allison Herzik

1. Call to Order:

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:02PM

Name of the presiding officer: Jeff Duncan (Interim Chair)

2. Public Comment:

First Public Comment Period:

Interim Chair Jeff Duncan opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made, therefore period for public comment was closed.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from January 14, 2025, and February 11, 2025

Interim Chair Duncan called for the Council's approval on the 2025 meeting minutes (January 14th and February 11th). Meeting minutes were motioned for approval by Interim Chair Duncan. Dr Dorian Stonebarger motioned to approve first, seconded by Marcia Blake. Amber Torres reminded the committee how she will abstain from approving the minutes as she was not a part of the council at that time. Meeting minutes were approved.

4. Home Delivered Meals Program Presentation – Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada by Sara Meyer

Sara Meyer, Vice President of Development at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, provided a presentation about their programs. Sara Meyer stated that Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has served the region since 1941. They serve about 4,000 individuals every day through their food programs, shelter programs, refugee services, and other comprehensive services. Most services, including Meals on Wheels, and the Kitchen and Tray line are on the main campus, which allows for people to get multiple services at once with no program or income requirement. Catholic Charities has grown the Meals on Wheels program significantly over time. The program provides 7 nutritionally balanced meals to about 2,400 seniors in Southern Nevada. A registered dietician is present who works with the executive chef and helps seniors who may need modified meals (chopped or pureed food, nutritional supplements, and additional medical resources). Our service area is city of North Las Vegas, city of Las Vegas and unincorporated Clark County. Many seniors who receive this assistance, have debilitating conditions and receive deliveries once a week. Staffing includes drivers to provide meals to seniors as well as a call center.

Drivers are paid staff who go into our seniors home and physically place meals into their freezers. This allows our seniors to get to know their drivers and what's going on in their home. Maintaining these visits help identify cases of elder abuse, power outages, and signs of no eating which pose as a risk to seniors. If an issue is identified, the drivers can call the team for assistance or connect them with other resources. Having drivers visit the seniors allows them to have a sense of independence and have animal companions.

The program has received enough funding to increase capacity and add an automated tray line. This tray line provides about 1,500 meals per hour with all food being prepared and packaged in house. Meals are then flash frozen and delivered. Current freezers have the capacity to serve approximately 3,500 seniors. The service area map displays 2,463 seniors who are actively receiving meals on wheels. Meanwhile there are 910 homebound seniors on our waitlist. The average age of seniors receiving assistance is 74, with 60% being female and 43% male. A story was shared about Robert, who retired from playing for the Patriots and moved to Las Vegas in 2006. His health issues prevent him from leaving his house and preparing food. He has received food from the program for 5 years. Meal costs are approximately \$8.90 and goes towards the food, packaging, and the delivery drivers. Operating budget for Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada's Meals on Wheels program is \$7,800,000 which is supported by government and private funds. Applied analysis compared Meals on Wheels costs of \$62 per week or \$3,250 per year versus Assisted Living's \$1,140 weekly and \$59,400 yearly.

Marcia Blake inquired on the length of the wait time to be placed on the wait list. Sara Ramirez clarified that seniors roll off the list for various reasons whether they pass away or live with family. Dr. Sabina Malik offered any kind of support or funding assistance from the Governor's Council. Sara Meyer requested for the advocation of continued funding or increased funding opportunities. Interim Chair Duncan inquired about the case coordination to learn more about the team and the role they play in the home delivery bill. Sara Meyer stated that this started because of the City of Las Vegas and City of North Las Vegas. The Community Development Block Grant funds started with client eligibility since income verification was required. Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada aims to have a big clientele to help build trust between the community and the team members.

5. Nutritional Health Literacy Survey Presentation – Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity by Tina Dortch proxy for Alex Neal

Tina Dortch from the Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity stepped in for Alex Neal and presented information on the Nutritional Health Literacy Survey. In 2005, the mission through Assembly Bill 580 was to address health disparities among minority communities. Then in 2017, Assembly Bill 141 expanded the scope of the office and broadened the definition of minority to encompass many of the vulnerable populations. They work to go above and beyond racial and ethnic minorities to include sexual orientation, gender identity, demographics as part of their identity, the full spectrum of ability status, and other marginalized and under resourced populations. The office is dedicated to researching and making recommendations concerning health disparities, to develop and coordinate plans and programs as well as opportunities for the improvement of health and wellness. They were identified as one of the agencies to support the states actions related to the recent silver state health improvement plan and specifically the social determinants of health and any related goals.

In late 2024, a Nutritional Health Literacy and Access survey was conducted statewide for 50 days. The survey had a positive turnout and provided helpful information regarding nutrition knowledge as well as what resources individuals have access to. The survey asked about the modes of transportation that individuals use, such as private vehicles versus ride share options, and asked them questions about travel time to secure food. In depth questions about economic access, healthcare quality and access, and health and nutritional literacy were also asked. Questions such as meal composition, like servings of fruit versus intake of supplements and frequency of meals per day were included in the survey.

United Way assisted in creating bilingual flyers that utilized a 6th grade reading level to ensure everyone could comprehend and engage. A QR code was placed on the flyer to maximize participation. It was also displayed electronically, at conferences, food pantries, grocery stores, barber shops, churches and community centers. The final survey report is still being prepared and must be approved by the Public Information Officer with completion to be expected within the next couple weeks. The 333 respondents were from Reno, Sparks, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Las Vegas, Laughlin, Spanish Springs, Mound House, and Elko County.

23% of respondents did not have enough financial resources available to cover basic needs like housing, food and medicine. 62% of individuals experience financial concerns that have affected how they purchase food within the last five years. Individuals were asked if they used the Food Pyramid or My Plate to help with their eating patterns. 47% stated yes and 41% said no that they were not familiar with the My Plate or Food Pyramid concepts. 63% of individuals stated they were not aware of laws or policies created by state or local government to improve access to healthy foods. Individuals also stated they learned about healthy recipes or nutritious meals through the internet and friends as the second source type.

Interim Chair Duncan opened the floor for any questions on the presentation. Dr. Sabina Malik requested information for how individuals got their food. Tina Dortch did not have the full report but convenience stores and some local gas stations are occasionally identified as a source for food. Pantries, traditional grocers, discount grocers as well as farmers markets were included as options which will be published with the appropriated percentages. The report will also explain the percentages of those who used My Plate or the Food Pyramid. Dr. Pamela Juniel expressed interest if there were any geographic ties to where responses came from and how heavy of a population each area had versus rural and remote and the concerns of food sources. Tina Dortch explained that the report does indeed have that information but does not currently have that information on hand.

6. Discussion and possible action on NRS 232.4969 Food for People Not Landfill Program – Office of Food Security by Lori Taylor

Lori Taylor explained that the Food for People Not Landfill Program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services Director with support and guidance from the Council on Food Security and the Office of Food Security. Food for People Not Landfill was originally created in July of 2019. However, this was dissolved in 2021 due to funding and was reestablished in 2023 to 2024. The Office of Food Security has received some support from AmeriCorps workers to help start up the program again. Efforts have begun to establish goals and objectives to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills, increase food security as well as establishing some criteria for eligibility for food donors to participate in the program along with creating an official seal.

The first virtual meeting has been scheduled for Food for People Not Landfill on July 1st from 1PM to 2PM. Lori Taylor requested the Council on Food Security clarify if it is needed to create additional bylaws associated with the subcommittee as well as consider any efforts and or deliverables to be documented in the Food for People Not Landfill's annual report that is due to Legislative Counsel Bureau yearly. Interim Chair Duncan asked for clarification on the request of bylaws and for any insight Vickie Ives had. Vickie Ives clarified that bylaws are not mandatory, but bylaws from the mother committee can be referenced. It was agreed that the subcommittee and finer details would be discussed at the July 1, 2025, meeting.

7. Update on Office of Food Security, Council on Food Security, Funds for a Healthy Nevada Annual Reports – Office of Food Security by Lori Taylor

State Fiscal year 24 annual report for the Funds for a Healthy Nevada track what funds were awarded and leftover balances. A presentation about SFY26 and 27 funds will be given to the Grants Management Advisory Committee on April 22nd with results and provide suggestions from the evaluation committee. Then contracts will be executed by July 1st. Interim Chair Duncan wanted to know if the funds were subject to the 12% reduction. Lori Taylor and Sarah Rogers stated the hunger funds were reduced by 6.7% for fiscal years 26 and 27 from the previous biennium. Interim Chair Duncan included information on the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division's FHN fundraising efforts due to the decrease in the funding. Amber Torres mentioned that the report indicates Food Bank of Northern Nevada delivered 34,000,000 pounds of food but should reflect 25,000,000 in fiscal year 24. Dr. Sabina Malik questioned how the FHN funds would be distributed and decided upon. Marcia Blake took the question and explained that it's a collaborative effort of agencies working together to not only address food issues but also educate those on financial literacy tactics to improve and not rely on food bank services.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on State Health Improvement Plan – Jeff Duncan, Interim Chair

Interim Chair Duncan stated all the deliverables in strategy 1.1.1. for 2025 have been completed apart from contacting the Legislative Council Bureau by May 31, 2026, and continuing efforts to 2027. Regarding, strategy 1.2., the Council established a work group on February 29, 2024, and started a survey to partners that was completed in May 2024. Deliverables were extended to accommodate Spanish. Southern Nevada conference needs to be completed by December 31, 2027. Northern Nevada's conference would be due December 31, 2025. Interim Chair Duncan sought clarification on makeup of the working group. Lori Taylor informed that a work group has been established and meets monthly. A scope of work and an interlocal agreement was put together between DPBH and UNR.

For strategy 2.1., a presentation to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Humans Services was completed in 2024. Allison Herzik submitted a bill draft review (BDR) in July 2024 requesting to amend NRS 232.4966 to include additional seats, one for someone with lived experience, and two for tribal representation. That BDR was not approved to move forward for consideration during session. However, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada stepped up and switched Charlotte Williams as a Council member to Amber Torres who represents a Tribe and will help support the Council as both a representative of a food bank in Northern Nevada and has lived experience as a Tribal member. Sarah Rogers also mentioned that NRS 232.4966 has a seat, "Such other representatives of State Government as may be designated by the Governor". This seat must be someone who represents a state government, but the Council can think about other state departments like transportation or Native American Affairs to recommend for appointment since the BDR did not go through.

Interim Chair Duncan brought up Senate Bill 78 and the discussion of analyzing and consolidating the Council body structure. Interim Chair Duncan mentioned that we need to ensure that there is representation from those in the profession, individuals with lived experience, and recited feedback to not lose the voice of the people that are served. Allison Herzik emphasized the importance of maintaining this Council and its importance. Dr. Sabina Malik asked if the Council on Food Security was codified into law. Interim Chair Duncan clarified that yes, it is codified, but the Council structure can be adjusted through SB 78

9. Discussion and Possible Action regarding CFS Goals – Jeff Duncan, Interim Chair

Interim Chair Duncan opened the floor to the Council to bring up any focus points. Dr. Dorian Stonebarger mentioned number 6, the State Emergency Food Plan with the hopes that it will be updated. Marcia Blake agreed with Dr. Dorian Stonebarger but encouraged further discussion regarding food hubs in Northern and Southern Nevada due to the loss of The Emergency Food Assistance Program and other federal food programs affected by budget changes. Dr. Dorain Stonebarger suggested to tier each emergency response varying from Catastrophic level to loss of funding. Marcia Blake believed number 7 and 8 would be incorporated into the plan by prioritizing food distribution support, food access, addressing how to deliver food to hard-to-reach areas. Interim Chair Duncan wanted to know how this idea came about, and Sarah Rogers informed that this idea came about during COVID upon realizing that there was no state food emergency plan. Interim Chair Duncan also stated that there were federal regulations and requirements to take into consideration along with being efficient and strategic to make the food emergency plan seamless. Dr. Sabina Malik requested clarification on when this discussion would be and Sarah Rogers stated the Division of Emergency Management, would not be available till October's meeting to assist with planning. Lori Taylor offered the Food Security Conference in October as it could be a helpful collaboration with research students from the University of Nevada, Reno and the Council to create an emergency crisis plan. Interim Chair Duncan began a motion to close item 9, Marcia amended the motion to include Division of Emergency Management along with UNR and Dr. Malik seconded the motion.

Discussion and Possible Action for 2025 State Legislative Session – Jeff Duncan, Interim Chair Interim Chair Duncan opened the floor to Council members if they wanted to raise any attention to bills or further information. Allison Herzik brought up Senate Bill 282, to create a grocery initiative and was amended to recognize the Office of Food Security and not Council as being the overseeing body of the program along with a \$10 million appropriation. Senate Bill 233, Home Feed Nevada Program would create a sustainable funding mechanism and \$800,000 is appropriated for this bill. Marcia Blake had not heard any updates regarding Assembly Bill 268 which involved universal free breakfast and lunch, Dr. J.J. Goicoechea clarified that there have been no updates, and he will keep an eye on the bill to see where it goes.

Assembly Bill 474 would utilize Artificial Intelligence to help people plan and locate food. Assembly Bill 345 regards food security for higher education which shifted to being a study instead of a program and was passed. Assembly Bill 405, the bill that advocated for community gardens and urban farms, did pass and will go to Senate for review.

10. Discussion and Possible Action of CFS 2025 Goals, Food for People Not Landfills, the SHIP Action Steps

No further discussion was made regarding Item #11. The Council was content with the previous items as no one brought up issues or concerns. Interim Chair Duncan motioned to discuss previous items in the July meeting. Marcia Blake motioned to approve the items listed on the agenda and the 12 previous topics for meetings moving forward in Fiscal Year 2026, Vickie Ives seconded.

11. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Jeff Duncan opened the floor for public comment. Jenny Yeager from Food Bank of Northern Nevada wanted to make a few requests. Senate Bill 233 is expected to be heard by Senate Finance the week of April 21st and wanted to hear support from the Council showing support for the bill. The second request was to have the Council define what is a food hub as the Food Bank of Northern Nevada is opening a rural food hub in Northeast Nevada with support from Nevada Department of Agriculture.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Interim Chair Duncan, seconded by Marcia Blake.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 PM.

Next Meeting:

Special Session Meeting:

Date: May 13, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Teams Meeting

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

*Minutes prepared by Anais Infante using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.). Da Capo Press.

Nevada Revised Statutes. Open Meeting Law (NRS 241).

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Others present that signed in via meeting chat

- Allison Herzik, Dignity Health
- Jenny Yeager, Food Bank of Northern Nevada
- Nikolai Apilado, Three Square Food Bank
- Allison Gonzalez, DPBH
- Alexis Hogan, DPBH
- Dillon Winkelman, DPBH
- Roxana Cambara-Glowski, DPBH
- Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
- Oscar Fernandez, DPBH
- Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation
- Bjorn Blomquist, DPBH
- Tammera Brower, DPBH
- Taylor Moseley, DBPH
- Troy Lovick, DPBH
- Taliman Afroz, DPBH



Joe Lombardo

Governor



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Cody L Phinney, MPH

Administrator

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.

Chief Medical Officer



Richard Whitley. MS

Director



THE COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS)

Date: May 13, 2025

(Draft) Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams meeting

Type of meeting: Special Session meeting

Attendance:

Members present:

- Allison Herzik
- **Amber Torres**
- Jeff Duncan
- Kelly Cantrelle
- Dr. Pamela Juniel
- Dr. Sabina Malik
- Jill Moe
- Lisa Swearingen
- Marcia Blake
- Tori Lawson-Boffelli
- Vickie Ives

Members absent:

- Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
- Dr. Julian Goicoechea (Brittany Mally or Patricia Hoppe proxy)
- Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi

1. Call to Order:

Time the meeting was called to order: 1:05PM

Name of the presiding officer: Allison Herzik

2. Public Comment:

First Public Comment Period:

Allison Herzik opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was made; therefore, it was closed.

3. Discussion and possible action to approve March 11 Meeting Minutes

Chair Herzik opened discussion on the March 11th meeting minutes. Chair Herzik accepted the motion to approve the meeting minutes as written. Marcia Blake provided a first motion to accept the meeting minutes. Dr. Pamela Juniel seconded the motion. Motion approved.

4. Discussion and possible action for 2025 State Legislative Session - Chair Allison Herzik

Chair Herzik said to expect assembly or Senate bills to move and be heard by the Senate Finance Committee as well as Ways and Means. The floor was opened for an opportunity to present any questions about bills that are expected to be reviewed.

AB 80: It is with the Ways and Means Committee but has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

AB 108: The Ways and Means Committee has heard this bill, but it has not been voted on and it doesn't seem to have an exemption to deadlines.

AB 116: The food delivery service platforms passed through Senate Commerce and Labor and is expected to go to the Senate floor unless it gets referred to the Finance Committee.

AB 352: Ways and Means Committee currently is in possession of this bill

AB 333: Senate Commerce and Labor heard this bill on May 13, 2025, and we are expecting to hear votes from the committee by Friday May 16, 2025.

AB 246: No scheduled hearing yet with Ways and Means.

AB 268: It has not been voted out of the Ways and Means Committee, but it does have a waiver and is exempt from deadlines.

AB 251: Ways and Means Committee is in possession of this bill

AB 458: Senate Growth and Infrastructure has heard this bill but has not been voted out of the committee and does not have an exemption so a decision will need to be made by Friday.

AB 479: Agrivoltaics bill is expected to be heard May 14, 2025.

AB 406: School and Community Wellness was heard by the Senate Education Committee and has not been voted out and must be decided on by Friday May 16.

AB 405: The food insecurity bill from Assembly Member Flanagan is in the possession of the Ways and Means Committee.

Dr. Sabina Malik mentioned more pieces of information for AB 345 and other bills. Assembly Member Erica Mosca's bill strives to have food security for college students along with some financial planning. AB 171

passed through quickly. Doctor Sabina Malik stated that the initial intent for AB 405 was to have someone from the Nevada Department of Agriculture establish and guide people on how to grow urban farms. If this were to become established, a salary would be necessary. Assembly Member Flanagan is attempting to gather a task force or a committee with the support of the Governor's Council of Food Security or Southern Nevada Food Council to identify usable vacant lots that would be used for food programs. The committee will analyze information about food security. In addition to these vacant lots, high priority areas such as urban farms, community gardens, etc. can be identified using the food insecurity maps. Statewide plans would include one in the Northern and Southern regions.

AB 171: Both the governor and the director have signed this bill.

Chair Allison Herzik began to list and provide updates regarding Senate Bills.

SB 21: This outdoor recreation bill was heard but has not moved.

SB 78: Boards and Commissions received this bill and passed it onto Finance but no updates at this time. Marcia Blake did clarify that as of May 1st, this bill was rejected by the Joint Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committee. The idea of 55 new positions and cost of maintaining those positions would amount to \$11 million, which is a deterrent since funding is being cut everywhere.

SB 104: The Finance Committee heard this bill which touched on maintenance of school gardens. An exemption on its due date was placed on this bill.

SB 233: Finance Committee has this bill but currently no updates from Senator Donate.

SB 282: Majority Leader Cannizzaro's bill discusses the grocery store initiative and currently sits with the Finance Committee; it has a \$10 million appropriation. The bill was amended to include the Office of Food Security to assist in making recommendations or overseeing funding.

SB 169: Prohibits a third-party restaurant reservation/ service platform provider from engaging in certain activities. Senate has passed this bill and will be heard by the Assembly Congress of Labor on May 7^{th} .

Sarah Rogers added that SB 233 puts the Council on Food Security in charge of the Home Feeds Nevada study as well as a fiscal component in the bill. Dr. Sabina Malik informed that there is a Sign On letter for farmers and community members to express continued support for funding the program. Doctor Sabina Malik believed SB 82 was important as it streamlines SNAP and WIC applications but did not make the deadline. SB 55 on agritourism died. AB 474 supplements the food supply that is available for certain populations, is currently in Ways and Means.

5. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Jeff Duncan announced that he will be leaving effective June 6th as he has accepted a new position outside of the state. His resignation has been officially submitted as well as submitting a recommendation of Lori Lutu, who is a part of the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division. He will begin work with the Nevada food bank, Three Square, in July. Chair Herzik expressed her gratitude and excitement for Jeff. Dr. Pamela Juniel wished Jeff Duncan the best and mentioned the honor it was to work together in the committee.

6. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Chair Herzik. First by Jeff Duncan and second by Marcia Blake.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:41 PM.

Next Meeting:

Regular Meeting:

Date: July 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: 4150 Technology Way Carson City, NV 89706

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

*Minutes prepared by **Anais Infante** using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.). Da Capo Press.

Nevada Revised Statutes. Open Meeting Law (NRS 241).

Attachments:

THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY (CFS) SPECIAL SESSION

Date: May 13, 2025 **Location:** Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Exhibit A: Others present that signed in via meeting chat.

Sarah Rogers, DPBH Autumn Blattman, Washoe Regional Coordinator, Aging and Disability Services Division Cori Stauffer, DPBH Tammera Brower, DPBH Lori Lutu, Clark Regional Coordinator, Aging & Disability Services Division Oscar Fernandez, DPBH Allison Gonzalez, DPBH Bjorn Blomquist, DPBH Darlene Douthitt, DPBH Roxana Cambara-Glowski, DPBH Dillon Winkelman, DPBH Rory Fuller, DPBH Emily Sanchez, DPBH Taliman Afroz, DPBH Alexis Hogan, DPBH John Welch, DPBH





FOOD FOR PEOPLE NOT FOR LANDFILLS (FFPNL) 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025



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

Joe Lombardo *Governor State of Nevada*

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

Services

Dena Schmidt

Administrator

Division of Public and Behavioral

Health

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD

Chief Medical Officer

Division of Public and Behavioral

Health



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An annual Food for People Not for Landfills (FFPNL) report must be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before January 31 of each year. This report must cover FFPNL accomplishments and the impact of the Program on food security in the state of Nevada. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Office of Food Security (OFS) is entrusted with the FFPNL Program per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 232.4969 on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director's Office.

Food waste impacts food security sustainability, the environment, and the economy. Nevada has the highest rate per capita of eight (8) pounds per person disposal rate per day.¹ Limiting food waste can reduce costs and tackle some of the pressing social and environmental issues, such as addressing food insecurity and combatting climate change.² DPBH also provides administrative support to the Council on Food Security (CFS). In 2020, CFS established a FFPNL Subcommittee to support food waste initiatives and address the objectives and goals as defined in NRS 232.4969. The subcommittee dissolved in 2022 due to funding and was reconvened in 2025 with the support from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) AmeriCorps Service Members, OFS, and CFS. Focus remains on food waste reduction and collaborating with organizations and programs throughout Nevada to meet deliverables (Table 1) outlined in the NRS.

Table 1. FFPNL Background

	2019-2025 FFPNL Background
2019	Nevada took action to increase the amount of food diverted from landfills to increase food security by developing Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) <u>232.4969</u> (unfunded mandate).
2020- 2021	Food for People Not Landfills (FFPNL) was written into legislation to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food. The Council on Food Security (CFS) with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Administrative support established a FFPNL Subcommittee. Activities focused on developing a donor toolkit, program seal, and criteria for partner participation.
2022	The Subcommittee dissolved due to funding.
2023	DPBH applied for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant and CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant. Nevada's applications were not selected. DPBH Office of Food Security (OFS) received a financial quote from KPS3, a local marketing firm, to address activities identified in the NRS 232.4969.



	KPS3 goals included a visual identity to an immersive plan focused on a multi- channel campaign to promote efforts through digital, media, and public relations. DPBH continued efforts in securing funding to support the program needs.
2024	OFS partnered with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) to host three (3) part-time AmeriCorps members (1200 hours for up to a year). Two (2) members were assigned to food security issues, which included food waste efforts. AmeriCorps member connected with agencies recommended by CFS to reappointment FFPNL subcommittee members (Table 2). DPBH continued efforts in security funding to support the program needs.
2025	OFS and AmeriCorps members reestablished efforts in identifying goals and objectives for the FFPNL program, including diversion of food from landfills, increasing food security, creating/establishing an official seal, and identifying and finalizing the subcommittee member list. FFPNL subcommittee meetings occurred July 1, 2025, and September 30, 2025.

FOOD WASTE DATA OVERVIEW

In 2022, an estimated 30% of the global population was moderately or severely food insecure, with approximately 783 million being affected by hunger, which is about 122 million more than 2019.3 Addressing food waste can increase food security and address impacts to the environmental, social, and financial aspects of individuals and the community. Food waste challenges related to labor, logistics, and transportation, handling, selling, and the value of food. Food Waste is responsible for up to 8-10% of greenhouse gas emission and is the leading issue on the global policy agenda. This has led to the United Nations, the U.S. Government, the European Parliament, and the global business coalitions to set goals to cut food waste in half by 2025 or 2030.4 It is estimated that an equivalent of 1 billion meals of edible food is wasted every single day worldwide, which is equivalent to 1.3 meals lost per person per day.3 Each year Feeding America rescues around 3.6 billion pounds of food,5 and although substantial, it is only a fraction of the food ending up in landfills. Nevada has the highest national per person disposal rate of eight (8) pounds per day compared to the average in the United States of five (5) pounds per day. Over the course of a year, this amounts to approximately 1,825 pounds per person in the U.S. and 2,920 pounds per person in Nevada. The Las Vegas Strip produces approximately 160,000 pounds of food waste per day. In Nevada for 2023, USDA food insecurity rate was 12.5% with one (1) in seven (7) people (481,460 people) and one (1) in five (5) children (136,580) facing hunger.⁵

In 2022, an estimated 30% of the global population was moderately or severely food insecure, with approximately 783 million being affected by hunger, which is about 122 million more



than 2019.³ Food waste represent one-third of all the food produced globally and nearly 30% of the world's agricultural areas.^{3,7} Uneaten food is costly since it requires resources to grow, harvest, transport, cool, cook, or otherwise prepare, even though it ends up being disposed. "People facing hunger in Nevada are estimated to report needing \$316,369,000 more per year to meet their food needs.⁵ In 2024, the United Nations estimated food waste cost the global economy over \$1 trillion (U.S.).⁸

In the U.S for 2018, 24% of municipal solid waste is food, which means it is the single most common material sent to landfills. Another term for this is "surplus food, and while a very small portion of it is donated or recycled, the vast majority becomes food waste in the form of landfills, incineration, washed down the drain, or left in the fields to rot". It is estimated that up to 40% of the food supply in the U.S. becomes food waste, which adds up to 130 billion pounds of food or \$161 billion. Of the \$473 billion of surplus food nearly 90% is a result of food waste (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Wasted Food Scale (October 2023)



Data Source: U.S. EPA

Figure 2. The Surplus Food Cost the U.S. (2023)



Data Source: ReFED/2023 published in February 2025



Several organizations throughout Nevada such as regional food banks, local food pantries, homeless shelters, casinos, and charities have reported implementing strategies to reduce food waste.

- Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) indicated, on July 16, 2024, at the CFS
 meeting that FBNN rescued nearly 5 million pounds of quality food with Three
 Square recovering more than 14 million pounds from retail food partners.
- In Las Vegas, the EPA recognized MGM Resorts International for implementing a new program to donate unserved food from hotel events, mini-bars, and warehouses to Three Square Food Bank. This program totaled 54,400 pounds of donated food, which is equivalent to 45,000 meals.¹²
- According to OFS SFY24 Fund for Healthy Nevada (FHN) Hunger survey, four (4) of
 the eleven (11) FHN hunger funds subawards addressed food waste in some capacity.
 Per the survey, food waste collaboration existed in local senior centers, gleaning
 programs, local farms, and other corporate businesses (i.e., Smiths, Albertsons,
 Starbucks, KFC, Walmart, and Raleys). Eight (8) of the eleven (11) subaward agencies
 reported food supply chain management (retailer to consumer operations) as the
 major barrier to reducing food waste in Nevada. Additional barriers included
 funding, education, policy, and refrigerated trucks.

2025 FFPNL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CFS continues to review the FFPNL Program as a standing CFS meeting agenda item to monitor activities, deliverables, and provide expert guidance as needed. The 2025 CFS meetings occurred on January 14, 2025, April 15, 2025, July 15, 2025, and October 14, 2025. During these meetings, OFS provided FFPNL Program updates, program logistics, and solidified the FPPNL subcommittee member list (Table 2). Meeting minutes are located at the CFS website. Additionally, DPBH was selected to work with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) hosting three (3) AmeriCorps members with two (2) in 2024-2025 who were assigned to food security and to increase efforts in establishing the FFPNL Program. Each service member served one (1) year terms. DPBH applied again in 2025, however, the 2025-2026 application was not selected due to federal funding.



Table 2. FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies

FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies

United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

Three Square

University of Nevada, Reno Extension Program

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

Food Bank of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue

Northern Nevada Gaming Industry

Southern Nevada 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

A representative from a community partner involved in food rescue

FFPNL FUTURE FOCUS FOR 2026

The Subcommittee reconvened on July 1, 2025, to reengage in discussions to accomplish the following:

- Establishment of program goals.
- Establish meeting guidelines and logistics
- Development of a financial plan to identify and apply for funding opportunities.
- Establishment of program initiatives and priorities.
- Development of a sustainability plan.
- Determine data that will be used to show the impact of FFPNL on food security in Nevada.
- Establish the criteria for eligibility for a food donor to participate in the Program.
- Gather existing Nevada data on food waste.
- Develop an ongoing list of food waste partners throughout Nevada.
- Finalization of the program seal and development of a process to allow a food donor who participates in the FFPNL Program to display or otherwise use the official seal of the Program.
- Finalize the FFPNL toolkit.



Since the FFPNL Program remains an unfunded legislative mandate, DPBH managers continue to have ongoing discussions about the FFPNL Program needs and explore funding for opportunities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, food waste is a significant problem in Nevada with environmental, social, and financial impacts to the state. DPBH continues to take measures to secure funding for the program and assist in reducing food waste throughout Nevada. OFS applied and awarded Service Members through NACDD for one (1) year to increase states capacity to reconvene the subcommittee assisting with efforts to address food and nutrition security.



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 $\frac{efforts\#:\sim:text=MGM\%E2\%80\%99s\%20Bellagio\%20Hotel\%20and\%20Casino\%20in\%20Las\%20}{Vegas\%20is\%20one}.$







NEVADA COUNCIL ON FOOD SECURITY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025



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

Joe Lombardo Governor State of Nevada

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

Dena Schmidt

Administrator

Division of Public and Behavioral

Health

Ihsan Azzam, PhD, MD

Chief Medical Officer

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Health

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governor's Council on Food Security (CFS) aims to fight hunger among Nevadans, including children and older adults, who are at increased risk of food insecurity. CFS was established in 2014 through an executive order and subsequently codified into state law during the 80th Legislative Session in 2019 as Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 232.4968.

Tasks of CFS include, but are not limited to, reviewing legislation and protocols affecting food policy infrastructure. In addition, CFS holds special session meetings as needed and standard quarterly meetings where board members discuss various topics (e.g., funding streams, food-security emergency response plans, quality of service and meals to Nevadans, and food security policy), provide feedback, and make recommendations, which include an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). This report also includes information on community gardens and urban farms per NRS 232.4968.

CFS recognizes the need for collaboration between all partners to reduce hunger and improve wellness outcomes. As of 2024, about 13% of Nevadans receive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, mostly comprised of workers in service, office and administrative support, and sales jobs¹, which is a slight decrease in participation from the previous year.² Of concern is the lack of participation in rural areas where not only poverty rates and child food insecurity remain higher according to national studies by the Unites States Department of Agriculture (USDA), but also where "persistent poverty" exists due to limited resources, including jobs.³

Based on ongoing feedback from food banks and food pantries, numerous factors have affected Nevada's progress in addressing food insecurity since the coronavirus (COVID-19) benefit programs ceased in 2022; i.e., inflated cost of living, consumer prices- food in particular- and disruptions to the food supply chain.



INTRODUCTION

CFS was created to reshape food security and help residents living in food-insecure households by implementing the goals of the 2013 Food Strategic Plan called Food Security in Nevada: Nevada's Plan for Action and in 2018 a work plan was established incorporating revisions to the state strategic plan. Then from July 2021 to November 2022 a Food Security Work Group conducted a comprehensive needs assessment. This assessment encompassed various methods, including surveys, strategic planning sessions, focus groups, and interviews. Based on these efforts, the Food Strategic Plan was updated again and published on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Food Security (OFS) website as the 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan. The Pillars identified in the Strategic Plan address the root causes of hunger and work to generate a healthier food security ecosystem throughout Nevada (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Five pillars of Nevada's food security.



The OFS provides administrative support to the Council to assist in the development, coordination, and implementation of a robust food system in Nevada. These activities are highlighted in the 2023-2028 State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and the 2023 Food Security Strategic Plan. In 2025, OFS continued to partner with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) Public Health AmeriCorps to hire three (3) part-time members, of which two (2) were assigned to food initiatives to further support the Council.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Per NRS 232.4968, CFS is to create a report to, "...review the accomplishments and recommendations of the Council concerning food security, including, without limitation, any recommendations concerning community gardens and urban farms." The CFS Annual Reports are written in collaboration with DHHS,



Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) OFS and are due to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau by January 31, 2025.

FOOD INSECURITY IN NEVADA

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity 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." Many factors, including social, political, and economic factors may impact an individual's health and well-being. For example, based on USDA data in 2023, the food insecurity rate in Nevada was 12.5%. Furthermore, Feeding America indicated the rate of food insecurity among children in Nevada was 20.9% (144,290) in 2022.

There are several Charitable Food Systems throughout the State of Nevada to help combat food insecurity. One such organization is The Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), who contracted with the Nevada Center for Surveys, Evaluation and Statistics (CSES) at the University of Nevada, Reno, to conducted a yearlong (2021-2022) surveillance style survey consisting of two parts: 1) a needs assessment, and 2) a neighbor satisfaction survey. This work analyzed the entire FBNN service area of 13 Northern Nevada counties and parts of eight (8) counties in California. Survey results revealed:

• The number one driver of food insecurity was poverty, where most responders reported an annual income between \$10,000-\$19,999 (27.40%).⁹ (Figure 2)

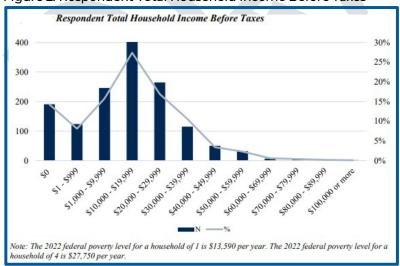


Figure 2. Respondent Total Household Income Before Taxes



- Over one (1) in five (5) responders (20.80%) said they run out of food and lack money to get more food almost every month.
- Similarly, 15.90% of participants cut the size of their meals or skipped meals entirely almost every month due to a lack of money for food.
- Nearly half (48.00%) of the participants also responded they agree or strongly agree with the statement, "I buy unhealthy foods more often than healthy foods because they are more affordable."
- When asked how frequently they visit pantry programs, 33.10% of participants responded, "Often, this is my primary food source."
- Another 54.10% of participants responded they come sometimes to supplement their food budget.
- Over one third of respondents (34.4%) stated they could "always" meet their household's food needs for the month after visiting a pantry program.
- Those who received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) were 39.36% of participants, 11.55% received CSFP/Senior Boxes, and 11.02% received free or reduced-price school meals, leading to the assumption that some assistance and benefit programs may be underutilized.
- In rural areas, program participation was relatively high in CSFP/Senior Boxes but low in SNAP.

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."10 Children experiencing food insecurity are also more likely to repeat a grade in elementary school, face developmental impairments in areas such as language and motor skills, and encounter more social and behavioral problems compared to food-secure children."1,12 This is concerning since a 2022 UNLV State of Mental Health publication found Nevada ranked last in overall mental health rankings.¹³ The 2021 Universal School Meals Program Act is established to address these risks and concerns. This act permanently provides free breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks to all school children regardless of income, eliminates school meal debt, and strengthens local economies by incentivizing local food procurement. 14 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 of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to continue offering



these free meals. This funding allowed Nevada students to continue receiving universal free meals at school for the 2023-2024 school year. ¹⁵ Free or Reduced-Price School Meal Fact Sheet provides additional information regarding information for the 2024-2025 school year by Governor Lombardo.

According to the 2023 Nevada Food Security Strategic Plan, about 80,000 Nevadans aged 60 years and older identified as food insecure and data projections suggest Nevada will witness a 36% increase in the older adult population over the next ten years. This is worrisome since the older adult population encounters significant food security challenges, resulting in an elevated risk of hunger. Factors contributing to this vulnerability include adverse health conditions, the necessity of remaining homebound, limited fixed incomes, and various constraints hinder their capacity to obtain or prepare nutritious food. Moreover, seniors with low incomes are frequently compelled to prioritize expenditures on housing, utilities, and medications, which leads them to purchase inexpensive and less nutritious food options.

Poor health is not only a risk factor for food insecurity among older adults but may also be a consequence of food insecurity. Older adults who are food insecure often experience adverse mental and physical health conditions, such as diabetes, fair or poor health status, depression, lower cognitive function, limitations in activities of daily living, hypertension, congestive heart failure, peripheral arterial disease, history of a heart attack, osteoporosis, periodontal disease, and asthma.¹⁷

Thirty percent of individuals in Nevada have low-income (up to 200% of the federal poverty guideline. Feeding America reports Nevadans would need \$316,396,00 per year to meet their food needs with 35.5% of households receiving SNAP benefits have children. SNAP program assists through the Department of Welfare and Support Services (DWSS) provide low-income families in purchasing nutritious food. Currently, \$587,551,886 of SNAP-Ed funds were distributed to Nevadans, which equates to \$998,838,206 in economic activity.

At the beginning of 2023, SNAP participants continued receiving the Supplemental Emergency Allotments (SEA) established throughout the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020), following the Public Health Emergency declaration (PHE). Because of this, SEA allowed SNAP participants to receive a second monthly payment to address food insecurity throughout the pandemic. SEA ceased on March 14, 2023, following the end of PHE (February 2023), with DWSS issuing over \$1 billion to Nevada households during the PHE. This funding was in addition to the USDA Food and Nutrition Services bolstering budgets for food banks nationwide following the pandemic to help further public and private funding sources used to tackle food insecurity. Public funds come from federal, state, and local agencies and governmental units. Private funds are sourced from



charitable foundations, direct giving programs, voluntary agencies, and various community groups. Since the SEA ended, Nevada food banks and food pantries have reported an increase in clients receiving food-related services.

To help Nevada become food secure, the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) purchases food grown and produced in Nevada through the Home Feeds Nevada (HFN)^{20,21} program, established by NRS Chapter (561), which was initially funded by the USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Program funds as well as funds made available by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In its first year, HFN helped Nevada producers sustain and grow their businesses, enabling them to feed the state's most vulnerable food-insecure families. Since inception, twenty-five small and medium sized producers enrolled in HFN, resulting in the distribution of \$3 million dollars. The foods produced through HFN were distributed through Three Square and FBNN to 300 sites across all of Nevada's 17 counties. Three Square distributed 1.02 million pounds in calendar year 2023 and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada distributed 1.08 million pounds from the start of Home Feeds Nevada in 2022 through 2024. Additionally, the State of Nevada expanded the Nevada Community Food Access (NCFA) grant through NDA to increase food access in underserved communities with an emphasis on food distribution, infrastructure enhancement, and the provision of food to households in need. To learn more about NDA Division and Programs please visit Divisions (nv.gov). To learn about NDA involvement with community nutrition and school nutrition please visit Data and Reports (nv.gov).

NEVADA CFS 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, CFS continued to focus on the execution of pillars in the strategic plan and the food focus area of the SHIP. By December 31, 2025 the Council will have met a total of eight (8) times (January 14, February 11, March 11, April 15, May 13, July 15, September 30, and October 14), with one (1) of those meetings being in person to allow enhancement of food partner collaboration, cohesiveness, and to reduce Council vacancies. Four (4) of the meetings were special sessions to review food related bills proposed during the 83rd Legislative Session. Several accomplishments for 2025 are identified as follows:

- Reviewed and discussed the CFS annual report deadlines and timelines.
- The Council discussed the subcommittee member list and recommended agencies (Table 1). The OFS will provide administrative support in contacting these agencies and the "Food for People Not Landfills" (FFPNL) remains an ongoing CFS agenda item.



Table 1. FFPNL Subcommittee Recommended Agencies

FFPNL Subcommittee CFS Recommended Agencies

United States of Department of Agriculture (USDA) or Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

Three Square

University of Nevada, Reno, Extension

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, includes food rescue

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada

Food Bank Northern Nevada, includes food rescue

North Nevada Gaming Industry

Southern Nevada 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

A representative from a community partner involved in food rescue

Food Strategic Plan (LEAD and BUILD pillars) and the SHIP. The Council assures progress and guidance of the 2023 food strategic plan to promote food security efforts across Nevada and is responsible for implementing all five (5) pillars under their regular duties as Council Members per legislation. CFS also partners with OFS to carry out plans to increase access to nutrition-dense and affordable food for populations at increased/higher risk for food insecurity. OFS also oversees the FHN Hunger funds and works to ensure they are aligning with the FEED and BUILD pillars, which is reported to the Council annually. The FHN Hunger Funds annual reports can be located at Home - Office of Food Security (nv.gov) for further information.

More specifically, the Council is assigned two (2) goals and three (3) objectives under the LEAD pillar of the 2023 Food Security Plan and is a supportive partner for OFS under the BUILD pillar regarding two (2) strategies. Further details are listed below.

Goals:

- 1. LEAD Goal: Enhance cooperation, communication, and representation to support policy development and resource utilization.
 - a. Local and/or regional councils and/ or working groups will meet jointly and quarterly



to share information and/or address issues (e.g., innovative solutions, funding, workforce challenges, eligibility barriers, data sharing).

- i. More specifically in 2025, DPBH OFS met provided updates to the Partners for a Healthy Nevada (PHN) on CFS activities.
- 2. LEAD Goal: Reduce food insecurity through funding and policy efforts.
 - a. CFS provided recommendations on bills related to food security throughout the 83rd legislative session. CFS also provided a platform for community members, tribes, implementing partners, interested parties/groups, and subject-matter experts to make recommendations to state agencies on addressing food insecurity in Nevada and has enhanced connectivity among food security initiatives and partners.

Objectives

- 1. LEAD Objective: This goal is to convene local food ecosystem partners, community members, policymakers, and keynote food security speakers.
 - a. One (1) SHIP objective developed by the Council aligns with this LEAD objective: "Improve collaboration, communication, coordination, and information and data- sharing among food ecosystem partners by developing and delivering a well- designed presentation to the Nevada legislature on food insecurity and food needs in Nevada. Collaborating with existing organizations like DPBH and CFS, as well as other relevant food ecosystem partners, to increase the effectiveness of these presentations. Host two (2) Food Security fairs/conferences in Southern and Northern Nevada, bringing together local food ecosystem partners, community members, and policy makers, to engage through various keynote speakers and discussions. Also, the provision of opportunities to interact with local vendors, farmers, and community organizations to learn about local foods and resources is essential."
 - i. In 2025, the Council maintained a workgroup with OFS support to establish a food security conference in Northern NV. The conference is intended to occur in 2025 per the SHIP and aligns with the 2023 Food Security Plan to convene the local food ecosystem.
- LEAD Objective: This goal is to increase the representation of partners from the transportation and housing sectors, Tribal communities, and those who have lived experience with food insecurity in decision-making processes related to food security.



- a. The Council developed one (1) SHIP objective to align with this LEAD objective: "Partner with local farmers, food vendors, Tribal communities, and other community organizations to support initiatives aimed at increasing mobile access (food trucks, community gardens, mobile markets, etc.) to healthy foods throughout the State of Nevada, specifically the underserved and remote areas (Churchill County, Elko, Esmeralda County, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Lyon, Storey, Douglas, and White Pine)."
 - i. In 2025, the Council continues efforts in supporting a food security workgroup to hold a conference in the Northern and Southern part of Nevada. FFY26 SNAP-Ed funding was requested to assist and an interlocal agreement is underway with the University of Nevada, Reno to further support these efforts.
- 3. LEAD Objective: This objective is to fund efforts to assist programs and initiatives to reduce food insecurity, expand the availability and accessibility of food, and improve food affordability.
 - a. The Council developed two (2) SHIP objectives to align with this LEAD objective.
 - i. "Support new strategic partnerships and increase awareness among the food security ecosystem regarding service providers and funding opportunities can assist with distributing food to people, particularly individuals at increased/higher risk for food insecurity."
 - OFS and CFS will leverage a statewide Food Security Fair/Conference and other existing marketing to assist with awareness.
 - ii. "Utilize existing outreach channels and participate in marketing opportunities to inform eligible individuals and eligible households about WIC and SNAP benefits, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, the Summer Food Service Program, and any other additional summer food, school lunch, and breakfast programs. Increase awareness of existing campaigns that emphasize the benefits, requirements, and application processes for sponsors."
 - To help guide the Council in making informed decisions within this objective, the Council discussed statewide food security data and reviewed several programs. Data discussed included food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution, general food access, awareness of food insecurity programs, and existing food databases to access food-related resources



statewide. CFS also discussed the state's nutrition statistics to determine potential barriers to increasing food security, how food insecurity is being addressed in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts in Nevada, and where the Council can advocate for change. Programs discussed included the following in no specific order:

- 1. NDA on the Community Food Access Project, gaps analysis on food security.
- 2. Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)
- 3. Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA)
- 4. The Summer Food Program (SFP)
- 5. Home Delivered Meals Program
- 6. Home Feeds Nevada Program
- iii. The Council's efforts on the Food for People Not for Landfill (FFPNL) Program also aligns with this objective. FFPNL is designed to increase food security by decreasing food waste and redirecting excess consumable food to underserved communities throughout the state. CFS monitors the program as a standing agenda item and DHHS continues to look for funding to support the unfunded mandate.
- iv. The Council reviewed the SFY25 Fund for a Healthy Nevada-Hunger Funds Annual Report, whose funds are administered through the DHHS Grants Management Unit (GMU) and utilize 60% of tobacco settlements received/recovered by the State of Nevada. The Hunger Funds supported the 2019 Statewide Community Needs Assessment and aligns with the updated 2023 Food Strategic Plan (NRS 439.630). Please reference the SFY25 FHN Hunger Funds annual report at Home Office of Food Security (nv.gov) (expected to be posted in 2026).

Strategies

- BUILD Strategy: This strategy is about supporting efforts to increase FHN resources dedicated to food security.
 - a. In 2025, CFS continued to assure progress and guidance of the strategic plan along with the SHIP. CFS discussed funding concerns and the need to determine the future of the program. Lastly, CFS followed legislative budgets and their potential impact on food security funding. OFS provided administrative support to carry out the plan with its partners to seek increased access to nutrition-dense and affordable food for populations at increased/higher risk for food insecurity.



- BUILD Strategy: Identify and coordinate with designated state Tribal Liaisons, community partners established within tribal communities, and points of contact at the Nevada Indian Commission. CFS members to attend Intertribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) meetings.
 - a. In 2025, the Council has requested OFS's support in coordinating with a tribal liaison to get CFS on the agenda of ITCN to increase the awareness of the Council among tribal members.

CFS 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

Advise and inform the Governor on the food policy of this State

The Council continues to discuss the need for a legislative brief to address food policy in the State of Nevada. In the 83rd Legislative Session, NV SB233 proposed the Council conduct a comprehensive study on the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program during the 2025-2026 interim. The study will focus on identifying long-term financial sustainability and potential sustainable revenue sources for the Home Feeds Nevada program. This bill will require an ongoing report to Nevada's Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Funding the Plan

The Council can review grant proposals and alternative funding sources as requested by the Director to provide recommendations for funding the Plan. No request has been made by the director at this time. In 2025, the Council reviewed and discussed several food security bills for the purpose of the 83rd Legislative Session.

Advise, assist and make recommendations to the Director

Currently, there has been no request to the Director. However, the Council is reviewing options to make a request to add a seat for individuals with lived experience with food insecurity and/or homelessness along with adding 2 members of Nevada's Tribal communities (North, South).

Community Gardens and Urban Farms

The Council may research and develop recommendations on community gardens and urban farms, which must include, without limitation to the examination of the following:

Local and regional efforts to develop community gardens and urban farms



- Regulatory and policy barriers to the development of community gardens and urban farms
- The potential effects of community gardens and urban farms on economic development in this State.

In 2025, the Council continued efforts on the SHIP and strategic plan initiatives, which can directly or indirectly impact the Community Garden and Urban Farms.

CFS FUTURE FOCUS

In the calendar year 2026, CFS will continue to focus on <u>SHIP</u> food initiatives, guiding the FFPNL subcommittee, and activities identified in the 2023 Food Strategic Plan. The Council will more specifically work on the following:

- Second presentation to JHHS and provide a legislative brief to provide the
 necessary data needed to make informed funding decisions regarding food security
 in the state.
- 2) Ongoing meetings to expand knowledge and understanding of food insecurity in Nevada
- Continue efforts to host a Food Security Conference in Northern and Southern Nevada.
- 4) Guide and monitor the FFPNL Program and partner with OFS to support Council goals, focusing on subcommittee selection, diversion of food from landfills, and increasing food security.
- 5) Continue addressing food insecurity in hard-to-reach areas and/or food deserts.
- 6) Hosting presentations focusing on food insecurity statistics (pounds of food distributed, people served, etc.), food distribution (e.g. home delivered meals), general food access, nutritional health literacy, and building awareness on food insecurity programs and existing food databases to access food- related resources statewide.
- 7) Prioritize building awareness around food distribution, support, and general food access throughout Nevada, including the clarification of food insecure and distribution terminology as well as review of food hubs and mobile food distributions in the state.
- 8) Planning and reviewing of emergency food plans and the need for dissemination throughout Nevada.



- 9) Continuation of at least one (1) in-person meeting for CFS in Carson City and/or Las Vegas Office(s) to enhance collaboration cohesiveness and increase efforts to reduce Council vacancies. Plan for CFS members to attend Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada meetings, if able.
- 10) Increase Council on Food Security seats to include representation from tribal, housing, and transportation sector, and individuals with lived experience.
- 11) Review the Home Feeds Nevada Program Annual Report and/or outcomes.
- 12) Review of Fund for a Healthy Nevada (FHN) Hunger Funds, including but not limited to annual report and funding allocations.
- 13) Review federal standards or policies that create barriers and food insecurity risks.
- 14) Determine where the Council can advocate for change.

Table 2: 2025 CFS Board Members as of 06/12/2025

Board Members	Description	Position
Allison Herzik	l S	Director of Government Relations
Amber Torres	· ·	Tribal Liaison with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada
Charlotte Williams	Term ended 01/09/2025 A person who is a representative of a food bank serving Northern Nevada.	Research and Innovation Manager, FBNN
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger		Designee; Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development
Dr. Muzafar Makhdoomi	Western Regional Director of the United State or the Department of Agriculture (NDA) or designee from within the Department.	Regional Administrator, NDA
Dr. Pamel Juniel		Designee; State Coordinator for the McKinney-Vento State Coordinato <i>r</i>
Dr. Sabina Malik	Cooperative Extension	Public Health Specialist; University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
Gabby Everett, MPA	Representative of a food bank service Southern Nevada.	Director of Advocacy, Three Square
Jeff Duncan	Term ended 06/06/2025 Designee of the Administrator of the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department	Designee; Agency Manager; Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division, Child Services
Jill Moe	Representative or farmers or ranchers engaged in food production.	UNR-Desert Farm Initiative



Julian Goicoechea	Agriculture or designee from within the Department.	Nevada Department of Agriculture, Director
Kelly Cantrelle	Division of Welfare and Supportive Services	Designee; Deputy Administrator; Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Kelli Kelly	Representative of persons engaged in the business of processing or distributing food	Director; Fallon Food Hub
Lisa Swearingen		Unit, Division of Welfare and
		Supportive Services
Marcia Blake		Executive Director; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley
Maria Menjivar	services (Rural Nevada).	Environmental Health Division Manager, Carson City Health and Human Services
	Seat Change: A person who is a representative of a local health authority.	Central Nevada Health District
Terry Gunnell	•	Deputy Regional Administrator
refry Guillell	Western Regional Director of the USDA from	serving as Interim Regional Administrator.
Tori Lawson- Boffelli	experience in the provision of services to children and families	Program Analyst – USDA Food and Nutrition Service
Vickie Ives	Division of Public and Behavioral Health.	Designee; CFCW Health Bureau Chief, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
VACANT	A person who is a representative of food bank serving Southern Neveda.	N/A
VACANT	On member representing community-based services (Rural Nevada).	N/A
VACANT	Representative of manufacturing that is not related to food.	N/A



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