



**MINUTES OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

September 4, 2019

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room

1. ***Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair-Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. ***Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Stan Dowdy
James Doyle

Sarah Deardorff
Donna Clontz
Rick Sorensen

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

Jennifer McMenomy*
Barbara Korosa*

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Abby Badolato
Sandra Vasquez

Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Steve McBride

ADVISOR PRESENT

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ADVISOR (ABSENT)
Victoria Edmondson
Connie McMullen

3. ***Public Comment** –
No public comment.
4. ***Member Announcements** –
Donna stated she will have a comment on the North Valleys activities. There is a Town Hall meeting today and it has to do with housing expo and discussion. It is a critical issue in the community and it will help people voice their opinions on it.
5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 4, 2019 (For Possible Action)**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Stan Dowdy.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on April 29, 2019 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Donna Clontz.
Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Update on Senior Nutrition Program – Steve McBride

Steve stated they have issued intent to award and the new vendor would be Valley Services. Donna asked if Catholic Charities applied, Steve replied yes. Sarah asked if there was someone from a review committee because meal consistency and deliver of meals was a concern with Valley Services. Steve stated Congregate Meals would be made at Reno. Donna stated if there could be a congregate meal site at North Valleys; Steve stated it is being discussed at a leadership level. The approximate potential growth for Nutrition would be around 10%. Sarah asked if the Nutrition Program is part of the two meal program, Abby stated yes.

Larry requested a moment of silence for Garth Elliott who recently passed away.

9. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding North Valleys volunteering opportunities for the projects of the following: Senior Center, Reno Air Races Stead Parade, and Dog Park (For Possible Action)

Donna gave out a flyer (see attachment) in regards to the Reno Air Races and the Dog Park. Donna stated they will have a table at the races; Abby will give Donna senior information to hand out at the table. Sarah asked if free vaccines would be offered. Donna suggested contacting April Wolfe.

10. Report, Discussion, and possible recommendations regarding the proposal of the reform for rent control in HUD housing (For Possible Action) – Sarah Deardorff

Sarah introduced Heather, her supervisor at Sierra Manor. There are handouts in regards to rent control (see attachments). The proposal is requesting 5-10% increase on rent and changing the allowances. Stan stated she believed rent control would make prices go down, Sarah stated it's not necessary that way. Sarah stated she suggests that people contact their congressmen and state their opinions on the proposal (see attachment). Heather (Sarah's supervisor) stated the 5% increase may not be too much, but the proposal is also asking to getting rid of all medical deductions, which includes Medicare. Families also get child care expense deductions. If the deductions were changed, on an average scenario the rent could potentially go up \$350. The proposal is also looking at increasing the senior age from 62 to 65 and also proposing work requirements.

Rick stated that while doing the survey at the Senior Fest, he heard many people complain about housing.

Motion to write a letter to the federal representatives and posing the serious consequences that Washoe County seniors would have when they are already in dire straits was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Sarah Deardorff. Motion passed unanimously.

Sarah stated she has sample letters.

11. Discussion and possible recommendation to fill the secretary position for the Senior Advisory Board (For Possible Action)

Donna stated the secretary position forms one more leadership position and sometimes gets asked to send something out, but they usually rely on Washoe County staff. Donna asked if anyone was interested; Rick Sorensen raised his hand.

Motion to appoint Rick Sorensen as the secretary was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding Rick Sorensen being appointed as a board member for District 4 (For Possible Action)

Recommendation to appoint Rick Sorensen to District 4 of the WCHSASAB was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded James Doyle. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recruiting new board members for District 3, District 4, and District 5 (For Possible Action)

- a) Cynthia Rentch (District 1)
- b) Mark Miranda (District 3)
- c) Linda Hardie (District 3)
- d) Danada Rausch (District 4)
- e) Alexandria Spargo (District 5)
- f) Karen Watters (District 5)

Sandra stated Cynthia Rentch contacted her and said she would like to retract her application. Mark Miranda introduced himself and stated that he applied because he has time that he would like to contribute. He does know that many things are needed for seniors.

Linda Hardie stated she works at the university and she wants to do something for the community and thought this would be a good opportunity. Food and housing are important to her; she is also interested in activities because she believes it is important for seniors to be active.

Donna asked Linda and Mark if they would be committed to the meeting schedule, both replied yes.

Motion to recommend Mark Miranda and Linda Hardie to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment of District 3 openings was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Rick Sorensen. Motion passed unanimously.

Danada Rausch stated she is a retired real estate broker and her interest would be housing. She has worked on designing tiny spaces for people to live in. She has noticed that there is not enough information and there is not a centralized location where people can get information. She also stated she has scheduled the first Wednesday of every month to be able to attend the meetings.

Motion to recommend Danada Rausch to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment of District 4 was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Stan Dowdy. Motion passed unanimously.

Sandra stated she contacted Alexandria Spargo and was told she would be at the meeting, but she is not present. Sandra stated she also contacted Karen Watters, her phone number was not working, it seemed like it was a phone number from Canada. Sandra also emailed, but did not get a reply.

Donna asked if the remaining openings could be put on the Next Door App; Abby stated they will see what they can do.

8. *Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donald Abbott

Donald stated they have had two meetings and they have gone good, the board and alternates have attended. They will be doing a goals workshop to see what they really want to do since they can't do everything they want to do. They are meeting quarterly, aside from the joint

meetings. They have one opening for Ward 5. Larry requested the meeting schedule for the committee, Donald stated he would send it to Sandra.

Donna complimented the Sparks City Council for attending the Senior Fest.

14. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action)

Donna stated there is still a meeting once a month at the Silverada community center. The three identified areas are transportation, senior housing, and information resources. They have until next July to finalize their plan. Larry stated he would like to see Sparks and Washoe County get into the age friendly group. Donna stated that what would need to happen to be an age friendly community is that Sparks and Washoe County would put in an application. Sarah asked if they heard anything from the grant through AARP, Donna stated they were not awarded the grant. Donna stated Donald has the age friendly item in the November agenda for Sparks to see if it's something that may work.

15. Discussion and possible recommendation to co-host a community seminar regarding current senior mental health issues and services, including topics relating to suicide prevention, elder abuse, law enforcement programs and policies in dealing with crimes against elders, training seniors and staff in techniques to prevent, de-escalate and defuse negative social interactions with others. (For Possible Action)

Stan stated Marsy Kupfersmith and herself are working on this. They are also working with Michelle Bayes and have approached Jane Gruner. Stan and Marsy would like the seminar to be an all-day thing; they are working on putting it together. Sarah stated that there will be a presentation on suicide talk at Sierra Manor on September 19th at 1pm. Donna stated that at the next joint meeting, Dorothy Edwards, Behavioral Health Coordinator will be presenting. Donna also met the staff of the new behavioral health hospital at South Meadows and they have a senior specific program. Donna asked them if they could have someone talk at the next joint meeting; they said they may be able to do it, Donna will follow up. Larry stated Renown applied for a grant that may help them target the zip code area of 89512 for suicide prevention and loneliness. Robert Mulvana (from public) handed out an email he sent (see attachment) and he would like people to look over it and be informed.

16. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)

Rick stated he found resources for a couple of the areas, but he forgot to bring them, he will bring them to the next meeting. Sarah stated she would like to be removed from Communications & Information, Volunteers, and Finance/Grants/Fundraising. She would like to be added to Transportation and Food Insecurity. Donna stated members and the public can see the chart (see attachment) that shows board members interested in different areas. It helps board members focus on areas and report back at meetings of any new information. Larry stated he is working with a realtor group that will have 30 volunteers that will go to Silverada and bring out people from their apartments that don't usually come out. The event will be September 20 from morning to midafternoon and will have things such as hair dressing, nails, massages, and food. Sarah asked if anyone can go if they have transportation, Larry replied yes, but they are trying to focus on the people living at Silverada. James Doyle would like to be

added to Communication, Data, and Transportation. Larry requested that Donald encourage Sparks members to add their names to the chart.

17. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)

James stated he would like to be added to the Planning Commission and South Truckee Meadows (CAB). Donna stated board members should look at the list (see attachment) because it helps to have someone with a senior agenda in mind and do public comment. Sarah stated the Incline Village General Improvement District had a meeting to do with rent control. She will make the effort to attend their meetings. Sarah stated the Dial211 website has many resources for people to use. Larry stated Washoe has 311 that also has resources.

18. Agenda items for the next Board meeting (For Possible Action)

Rick stated he would like to see the findings of the survey from Senior Fest and he will also bring the resources he has.

19. *Public comment –

No public comment.

20. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm.