



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

January 4, 2023

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room
&
Zoom Webinar

<https://zoom.us/j/92347908306?pwd=K2k5UGdYSEVXVGNuRGFPZ3pub2kwQT09>

- 1. Call To Order [Non-Action Item]** - Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Chair- Hawah Ahmad.
- 2. Roll Call [Non-Action Item]** – Hawah Ahmad asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Martha Lavin
Thuy Tran
Mavis Kay Bonzer
Kodandaraman
Venkataraman

Charles Mark Neumann
Jane Baudelaire
Pamela Roberts
Hawah Ahmad
Casey Reed (3:08pm)
Mary Ann McCauley
(3:22pm)

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride
Abby Willrich
Ryan Crane

Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Sandra Vasquez
Amber Howell

ADVISOR PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Donna Clontz
Connie McMullen

ADVISOR (ABSENT)

Victoria Edmondson

3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –

Donna Clontz states she attended the BCC meeting and they talked about Age Friendly. Their next event is January 9th, snow or not, it will happen. They will also have an event on February 13. Donna would like to also talk about ideas for activities in the 9th Street senior center in the afternoon. They are also looking for things to do and would like feedback from the public.

Andrea Peltó states they had 205 people who RSVP'd to the New Years event that had to be cancelled due to weather. She expressed her thanks to Washoe County for everything they did trying to get things ready for the party. They are looking at rescheduling soon.

Martha Lavin states that regarding the 9th Street events that Donna was discussing, she would like to join Donna and help.

4. Member Announcements [Non-Action Item] –

Thuy states that back in September they talked about being in the March meeting for the Newcomers Club meeting on March 13. She would like someone from the Washoe Board to attend. Tentatively, Andrea, Hawah, Donna, and Mark will attend as well as staff. Thuy stated newcomers club is a social group and it has about 60 clubs within the club. Thuy asked if there was a way for them to get name tags, so people see who they are representing. Abby stated yes. Mark stated he has been going to different CAB meetings and one thing that was brought up at the Lemon Valley meeting was if the sheriff's office can do cleaning of the snow. Abby stated there is a volunteer organization that is doing snow shoveling for seniors this week.

Donna states there is a service called CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) who are volunteers, and they can do shoveling for people.

Mark stated the library has the ability to teach seniors how to use computers.

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on January 4, 2023 [For Possible Action]

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Charles Mark Neumann and seconded by Thuy Tran. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 7, 2022 [For Possible Action]

Motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Pamela Roberts and seconded by Mary Ann McCauley. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Update and report on Washoe County Senior Services Daybreak Program and Homemaker Program [Non-Action Item] - Steve McBride, Division Director

Steve stated they put out a RFP for Daybreak so they could start their in-house homemaker program (which today has 449 seniors on the waitlist). They did not receive any proposals and they put the RFP out again, which will conclude mid-January. In the meantime, they have hired a supervisor for the Daybreak program. Donna stated there are over 700 people on the wait list for the Frail and Elderly Waiver. This waiver means that a senior needs to be in a nursing home and they are on the wait list, it is something very serious. Pam stated she believes it's not just a funding issue. Amber Howell stated that they are having trouble getting providers because of the rate, but the rate did go up. What also happened was that the state closed down their homemaker program and all of those on the wait list went to the County and no funding was provided. Abby stated that the only Frail and Elderly Waiver part that Washoe County has is through Home Delivered Meals. Donna would like to see how advocating went regarding the Frail and Elderly Waiver.

8. Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott

Donald Abbott stated their next meeting is February 22 at 9am. They will have a robust agenda, including an annual report. They also have an RFP for ARPA money and are also waiting for the

weather to get better so they can do some crack sealing at the senior center. Andrea Pelto stated they will also have speakers at their meeting and will talk about ARPA money.

9. Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [Non-Action Item] – Paco Lachoy

Mac Rossi, vice-chair of Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee stated they are in a situation where the City is not giving them much support. Their next meeting is January 10th at 2pm. Donna asked what issues they will have on their agenda, Mac stated one is the Police Department and surveillance at Paradise Park and ARPA money.

10. Report and update on letter to Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs) asking for reports on senior issues in unincorporated Washoe County [Non-Action Item]

Hawah states the letter was emailed and it was bounced back. She has a copy and if any Board members would like a copy to take it, she can provide it. Mark stated that he has attended many CAB meetings and the biggest concern was snow removal. He has also seen the lack of information toward seniors, many seniors are not aware of services available to them. Mark also thanked Ryan, Steve, and Abby for all the paperwork they sent to Sun Valley.

11. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding appointing a new Advisory Board member for two Alternate seats and a District 3 seat [For Possible Action]

- a) Application from Kenji Otto (District 5)
Attachment: [Kenji Otto redacted.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)
- b) Application from Denise Myer (District 3)
Attachments: [1-4-23 Denise Myer RDTD.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)
[1-4-23 Denise Myer Resume rdt.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)
[1-4-23 Denise Myer Recommendation rdt.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Kenji Otto introduced himself and stated he wants to put his talents to work and has worked with Commissioner Herman. He stated there are individuals in the County that don't care for him because he likes to get things done.

Hawah stated that both applicants are great applicants and opens up the discussion for the Board members. Pam stated she does not have concerns for Denise Myer's application, but she does have concerns for Kenji Otto's application. Pam provided the following handout: [1-4-23 Otto.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Pam stated if someone is an Alternate, and then there is an opening in their District, the Alternate position can go into the District opening. Thuy stated she is in favor of Denise Myer and Kenji Otto. Jane asked what skills Mr. Otto has, Mr. Otto stated he brought dual screen monitors with the Air Force and was a part of the emergency team, including coordinating missions. Recently he was also a part of making drivers travel at a safe speed down the roads. He has also done things for seniors, such as helping his mother with Medicare plans. He has worked for the Medicare insurance plan and has helped solve issues with Medicare patients. Kenji states he was born in Japan and is Japanese and German. He saw racial discrimination when in the force and he himself is not racist as some people say he is. He believes in equality, he's there to help people and he is proud of his record. Mavis stated she would like to nominate Denise but she still has reservations on Mr. Otto and would like to see if they can put his application on hold meanwhile they look into his information. Mr. Otto stated he should have been contacted regarding the comments that were made of him unfairly because they made him out to be the bad guy when he was trying to help with dealing in the unincorporated situation. Donna stated she always looks into the background of all applicants and has found public the same information that has

been stated previously. At this time, Donna urges the Board to say no this time. Candy Greene from the public stated she knows Mr. Otto and he has done a good job defending himself. She stated it takes a lot for someone to be a part of a Board and she wants to help seniors, but from what she's seen in this meeting, she takes away that the Board does not want the help. Mavis Kay stated they should wait until the next meeting and look at everything and then vote on it next time. Candy Greene stated that why would they want to table Mr. Otto's application and then talk behind his back and maybe Mr. Otto would like to take legal action since they Board has been able to look at his application.

Motion to move forward Denise Myer's application for District 3 and table Kenji Otto's application for Alternate was made by Mavis Kay Bonzer and seconded by Mary Ann McCauley. Three (3) Board members in favor and five (5) Board members oppose. Motion failed.

Motion to recommend Denise Myer for District 3 to the Board of County Commissioners was made by Pamela Roberts and seconded by Casey Reed. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to recommend Kenji Otto for Alternate to the Board of County Commissioners was made by Charles Mark Neumann and seconded by Thuy Tran. Five (5) Board members in favor and three (3) Board members oppose. Motion passed.

12. Report and update on Senior Resources Information Fair [Non-Action Item]

Donna stated the next 2 information fairs are being held at Northwest library on February 13; she is working on getting the other fairs in other libraries. RTC will be providing the Flex van and the Food Pantry will also be there. There will also be free vaccinations for those who need them and those getting shots will be getting free gift cards.

Molly Rose Lewis from Jacky Rosen's office asked Donna if there will be a table for them, Donna stated yes.

Charles Mark stated he saw on the news that senior ladies made quilts for people that needed them.

13. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding setting a Senior Advisory Board concurrent meeting with Sparks Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee [For Possible Action]

Hawah stated they are waiting for Older American Month logo. Abby stated it just came out today. Hawah stated they may not be expecting Reno to participate, but they may do public comment. Hawah and Andrea Pelto requested they do the concurrent meeting in Sparks. Sandra Vasquez stated they should be good for a meeting at Sparks in February. Hawah stated February meeting will be at 2pm at Sparks. Each agenda will have specifically Older American Month. Steve McBride stated he will invite Chris Ciarlo and they will discuss Stuff-A-Bus and also scheduling so events don't overlap. Donna stated the theme for this year is Aging Unbound and everyone should put in their ideas so the idea events don't fall on just a few people or staff. Hawah stated for scheduling purposes, they will be working on a live google calendar. Pam stated if they could have a handout or calendar to reference different activities. Thuy stated she visited three independent senior communities and she was amazed at all the activities they had; she will reach out to them for event guidance.

14. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding expanding the Friendly Visitor Call Program to seniors in Washoe County [For Possible Action]

Thuy stated she talked to Donna about this item and there are people in the public that could do this and not just Board members. Abby stated if anyone is interested, they can call the Reno

center at 328-2575 to get started. Mark stated he has been spreading the word at the CAB meetings. Donna stated the Friendly Caller Program flyer describes the program, it asks if someone would like to receive friendly calls or make the friendly calls.

15. Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas [Non-Action Item]. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)

Pam suggested to speak about the Bylaws

Next meeting is for OAM

Donna requested ARPA funding and project to include and adding activities for the Reno Center

16. Public comment [Non-Action Item] –

None.

17. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.