



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

December 4, 2024

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 3:07 p.m. by Chair- Pam Roberts.
2. **Roll Call [Non-Action Item]** – There was a quorum present via in person and through Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT

Martha Lavin
Adolfo Correa
Denise Myer
Charles Mark Neumann

Pamela Roberts
Mary Ann McCauley
Mac Rossi
Patricia Gallimore

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

*Thuy Tran

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Cara Paoli
Abby Badolato
Herb Kaplan
Chris Lopez

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Michael Clark
Donald Abbott

ADVISOR PRESENT

Sue Meuschke
Connie McMullen
Dr. Larry Weiss
Donna Clontz

3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –

Michael Clark brought up quality of food at Reno Senior Center. He has visited the Jail, Cares Campus, Carson City Senior Center & Douglas County. Wanted to reach out to Congress for information on federal funding to improve food served. Commended the efforts to visually improve the center by removing shopping carts parked outside. Requested information on expiring Senior Advisory Board terms for people interested in joining the board.

C. Mark Neumann thanked Hobey's Casino for donating turkeys for the Thanksgiving dinner at the Sun Valley Center.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting of November 6, 2024 [For Possible Action]

Advisory Board members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Attachment: [WCHSASAB](#)

Motion to approve minutes after amendments to fix C. Mark Neumann's name on the last page, made by C. Mark Neumann and seconded by Mac Rossi. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation regarding progress of the Master Plan [Non-Action Item] – Mary Ann McCauley & Sue Meuschke (30 min)

Sue reports on the continued progress to organize and revise the Master Plan. Mary is consolidating the Master Plan after noticing duplicate ideas and passed deadlines. She is prioritizing activities based on resources and budget. She is asking staff to inform her about areas they need assistance and to provide feedback to the council. Mary suggested creating a dynamic plan looking at projects monthly, and assessing goals quarterly to eliminate ideas they are no longer interested in, as deadlines have passed, and are not achievable in the current fiscal year. Adolfo Correa asked whether the current improvements would address the future demographics of the senior center as the Master Plan was based on a survey conducted 2 years ago. He suggested conducting a follow up survey to make sure we are addressing senior needs. Mary expressed the need for a dynamic plan with staff giving feedback to address changing needs.

6. Presentation regarding Sanford Assessment at Sanford Center for Aging [Non-Action Item] – Leslie Baker, Pharm.D., Sanford Center for Aging (15 min)

Leslie Baker, geriatric pharmacist at Sanford Center for Aging, discussed her community assessment for adults 60 and over. There are no income restrictions or medical insurance required. Study is 90 minutes, and can be conducted every Wednesday anywhere online. The program is funded by Aging & Disability. Services provided include medication management and screening tools for fall risks, depression, anxiety, social life/isolation, and cognitive screening. Clients have the option to send results to their PCP. Clients can call 775-784-4774 option 4 to schedule an appointment. After sending an application there is a one month waiting list. The goal is for clients to develop strategies on how to advocate for themselves, making clients feel empowered & confident to ask questions.

Pam asked if they were collecting data. Leslie stated they are beginning to gather and look at data for research.

Sue participated in the assessment and stated it was helpful. She was informed about her own medications, felt empowered, and received tools to give to the doctor to ask about her own medications. She claimed this helped make changes to some of her lifestyles.

Mac Rossi also took the program stating the pharmacy assistance was helpful.

7. Discussion for planning of Older American Month, including event schedules, organization of vendors, and timelines [Non-Action Item]

Attachment: [12-4-24-OAM-Vendor-List.pdf](#)

Abby reminded the Board of Older Americans Month in May and that December is usually when planning begins with the local community and partners. The County is responsible for generating the booklet. January, she will begin reaching out to vendors and partners interested in participating. Booklets need to be completed mid-March to distribute to the County. The working

group consists of the Senior Advisory Board, City of Reno and City of Sparks. Last year, the fair hit capacity, and she anticipates more vendors this year. She asked about opinions on including government agencies & non-profit organizations with “for-profit” organizations. Reminded that there is no fee to hold a booth at the fair.

Pam brought up the vendor capacity issue with about 90-100 vendors and the issue of similar vendors disliking being grouped together due to competition. The goal is to have as many resources accessible to seniors and looking at for-profit organizations vs. non-profits.

C. Mark suggested not charging government agencies and non-profits while charging for-profit organization and using the money raised for the senior center. C. Mark mentioned a crafts fair at Sun Valley with 21 vendors where they charged \$10 a booth. That made \$210 profit and a win-win situation. Donna suggested separating profit vs. non-profit vendors on different days. Sue agreed with C. Mark and Donna and asked about having a volunteer fair as well. Pam stated now is a good time to start bringing up ideas about the event and to contact Abby for more information. Donna asked members to think about presentations or activities Washoe County seniors would be interested in whether fun or informational. Suggested trips to Carson, other senior centers, or the legislature. Also brought up Senior Day in April. Still good idea to come visit and observe. Pam requested anyone interested in participating in the working group to contact Abby.

8. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding Board vacancies and the terms for the two seats in District 4 and the two seats for Alternate [For Possible Action] – (10 mins)

a) Application from Benecia Price (District 4)

Attachment: [12-04-24 Benecia Price RDTD App D4.pdf](#)

Motion to recommend Benecia Price to the Washoe County Advisory Board, District 4, with a term expiring on Dec 30th, 2028 was made by Mary Ann McCauley and seconded by C. Mark Neumann. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Application from Edward Lamb (District 4)

Attachment: [12-04-24 Edward Lamb RDTD App D4.pdf](#)

Motion to recommend Edward Lamb to the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, term expiring on August 31, 2025 was made by Adolfo Correa and seconded by C. Mark Neumann. Motion passed unanimously.

Donna asked Herb if a member serving a partial term can serve two full terms after the partial term. Herb stated anything less than three quarters of a term, does not count towards a full term. Also claimed reappointment is not automatic, and up to the Board of County Commissioners to re-appoint or open-up for recruitment.

c) Application from Craig Bronzan (District 5) for Alternate

Attachment: [12-04-24 Craig Bronzan Resume D5 Rtd.pdf](#)

Motion to recommend Craig Bronzan to the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board, with term expiring August 31, 2025 was made by Mac Rossi and seconded by C. Mark Neumann. Motion passed unanimously.

d) Application from JoEllen Keil (District 5) for Alternate

Attachment: [12-04-24 Joellen Keil RDTD App D5.pdf](#)
[12-04-24 JoEllen Keil Resume D5.pdf](#)
[JoEllen Keil Ltr](#)

Motion to recommend JoEllen Keil to Alternate position with term to expire Jun 30th, 2025 was Made by C. Mark Neumann and seconded by Patricia Gallimore. Motion passed unanimously. Mike stated he wants the public to know information about expiring terms for board members to allow new people to get involved.

9. Discussion and possible recommendation regarding the scheduling for the January 1st, 2025 meeting- [For Possible Action] (10 min)

Motion to move the Senior Advisory Board meeting to January 8th, 2025, was made by C. Mark Neumann and seconded by Patricia. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Updates from Washoe County Senior Services [Non-Action Item] – Cara Paoli, Human Services Division Director, Adult and Senior Services; Abby Badolato, Human Services Agency Senior Services Coordinator (5 min)

Attachment: [12-04-24-SAB-Monthly-Data-.pdf](#)

Cara stated the Reno Center is closing January for building construction projects from the community reinvesting funding to repair the kitchen, modify the food trucks, update the main dining room area, install a retractable stage, new light fixtures, update HVAC, and make ADA compliant updates. They will have a temporary mobile kitchen and dining room to continue serving meals. There are talks with City of Reno to use Evelyn Mount for activities and transportation. The Glenn Duncan school kids will be caroling on Dec 10th. There is also going to be a senior breakfast on Dec 20th.

Mike suggested shuttle buses to transport people to and from the senior services to Evelyn Mount.

Jennifer stated Northern Nevada Legal Aid will not have a location on the county complex during remodeling. They are referring people to the main location at the Arlington office.

11. Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott, Sparks City Council Ward 1 (5 min)

Donald Abbott stated they cancelled the November meeting for lack of quorum; they need more board members. Ward 4 doesn't have a member for their regular spot or an alternate; Alternates for 1, 2, and 5 are needed. Members can be 55 or older, but is not a requirement. Members don't need to live in the wards, but need to live in Sparks. A Safety Fair was held where the fire department assisted passing out AARP bags.

12. Update on Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee regarding their current activities [Non-Action Item] – Izabella Baumann, City of Reno Activities Coordinator (5 min)

Izabella stated the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee for City of Reno is taking December off, so they will not have a meeting. Their next meeting will be January 14th at 2pm at McKinley Arts and Culture Center. She informed they have line dancing every Monday at Evelyn mount 1:30-3pm. There are still doing technology classes on how to use your smartphone. Izabella stated she participated in Adopt a Senior with the Sanford Center for Aging which was successful.

13. Review monthly report from Northern Nevada Legal Services [Non-Action Item] – (10 min)

Attachment: [12-04-24 NN Legal Aid Report.pdf](#)

Jennifer did not have close of business statics for November, but noted over 500 cases year to date, and 53 new open files in October. Self Help Center helped over 1,600 people for October at the Reno Justice Court. They hired a new attorney, Sarah Malik, to join the team. They continue

to hold monthly “Ask the Lawyer” events, adding power of attorney seminars. Jennifer mentioned a study for civil legal needs that was done in 2017 statewide through the NV Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission to help identify 76% of the total civil legal needs of low income people that go unmet in NV. Legal aid is beneficial to the community, an economic impact study shows every dollar spent on legal aid. Jennifer suggested they do a study or assessment of the civil legal needs of Washoe County residents to better serve Senior needs, as well as continuing community partnership with social services agencies. Requested funding and assistance from their partners make that possible. Stated clients come with more than legal issues at times, which is why partnership is important. She mentioned this will be her last time presenting and will forward the new supervisor information when she can. Pam congratulated Jennifer on winning the Justice Court election.

14. 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.) (5 min)

Mary Ann wanted to go over an orientation for new members of the board. Pam suggested making it an agenda item. She also mentioned reaching out to Cara and Abby to discuss the Senior Center food contract. Donna made an announcement that the age friendly Reno group was awarded the challenge grant. On Dec 15th, the bocce court will be completed at Paradise Park; equipment can be rented at the activity center. She suggested collaborating with Bill Sero on bringing Seniors from the Reno Center to play. Also asked if it is possible to install a bocce ball court on County property or another senior center. Pam suggested reaching to Abby to have this as a future agenda item.

15. Public comment [Non-Action Item] –

Michael Clark clarified he is not just complaining about food as he has visited Carson City, the jail, and Catholic Charities. He asked Mr. Kaplan for legal opinion, if members of the Board would be in violation of open meeting law by visiting other centers to sample. Mike stated these other organizations are willing to mentor and coach Reno Senior Center staff. Noted that the Sheriff’s Office is able to accommodate dietary concerns, religious diets, and medical restrictions. Cindy stated Dec 20th, Sun Valley Center will have a Christmas potluck & ugly sweater contest and 30-35 people attended for Thanksgiving.

Autumn Blattman, the Washoe Regional Coordinator with Aging and Disability Services Division, introduced herself to the Board. She is interested to hear the community concerns related to older adults and see if the state can address any issues.

Patricia was granted \$25,000, for environmental climate justice. Planning to educate on smoke alarms, carbon dioxide detectors, radon, and other similar issues in the house. Will be purchasing smoke alarms and giving them out to the community.

Sue stated the Senior Volunteer Fair will be Jan 25th at the National Automobile Museum, with more than 20 organizations.

Norm talked about different types of seniors and being able to disperse and reach out with information properly to seniors. He is working to create a Senior Citizens resource manual with Washoe County Sparks, Reno, and Senior Spectrum.

Larry commented on the Center for Healthy Aging program called “Dig In to Grow Healthy”, it is a multi-generational program in the spring to learn about health, food, fun and fitness. If interested in volunteering, please contact Martha Malone at (775) 848-1260.

Cara mentioned PEARLS program launched in September for seniors dealing with depression. Program is going really well with the interns. Provided brochures.

16. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.