



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

August 7, 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 3:00 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 | Jane Baudelaire |
| Thuy Tran | Pamela Roberts |
| Adolfo Correa | Mary Ann McCauley |
| Denise Myer | Patricia Gallimore |
| Charles Mark Neumann | |

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

*Mavis Kay Bonzer
*Mac Rossi

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Abby Badolato
Cara Paoli
Pamela Mann
Herb Kaplan
Sandra Vasquez

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Michael Clark
Donald Abbott

ADVISOR PRESENT

Sue Meuschke
Connie McMullen
Dr. Larry Weiss
Donna Clontz

3. **Public Comment [Non-Action Item]** –

Timothy Johnson, VP of Outreach for the Better Business Bureau stated a workshop is coming up on how to avoid scams on 8/28 at 2pm at the Washoe County Senior Center. Craig Bronzan, applicant for one of the open Alternate positions for the Board introduced himself, he worked for the Parks and Rec department for several years and is passionate about serving the senior community. Benecia Price, applicant for alternate position, introduced herself and stated she has 30 years experience in mortgage banking background and is passionate about affordable housing and aging in place.

Joellen Keil, applicant for the alternate position was not able to be at the meeting today and submitted a written statement:

Hello, my name is JoEllen Keil and I thank you for the invitation to introduce myself today as an applicant for an at large board member for the Washoe County Human Services Agency Senior Advisory Board. I am very interested in serving on this board and providing insight and suggestions through collaboration with the board members and sensing of the senior community in Washoe County. I have been a member of the University of Nevada, Reno, Osher Lifelong Learning Institution (OLLI) since 2016, which is a national organization for people over 50 years of age. I look forward to meeting with you in person at future board meetings.

Jennifer Richards introduced herself from Northern Nevada Legal Aid, she runs the Senior Legal Center and would like to be a regular agenda item. In 2024, they have opened 400 cases. They are trying to help facilitate the rental assistance program and working with a number of clients who have eviction concerns. See report:

[8-07-24 N NV Legal Aid Report.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Ed Lamb, applicant for the alternate position from District 4 has a finance background. Abby Badolato stated Wordly AI is a new tool being used to do real-time translation during this meeting.

4. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on July 3, 2024 [For Possible Action]
Advisory Board members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Attachment: [7-3-24 SAB minutes.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Pam stated agenda item 6 should read 'neighborhood support' instead of transportation.

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

5. Presentation of Master Plan Goal 5 [Non-Action Item] – Presentation from housing advocates; Marsy Kupfersmith, Senior Housing Advocate, Monica DuPea, Executive Director, Nevada Youth Empowerment Project and Dana Searcy, Division Director, Housing and Homeless Services (45 min)

Marsy Kupfersmith states there is not a lot being done to help seniors on fixed incomes relative to rent increases. There is now a new non-profit called Senior Rescue that helps seniors 62 and older with a subsidy for 12 months to pay the difference of a rent increase which gives time to the person to figure something out. Reno Housing Authority will also provide seniors with \$250/month subsidy for rent. SeniorRESQ.org <https://www.seniorresq.org/>

Monica DuPea, Executive Director from Truckee Meadows Housing Solutions and Nevada Youth Empowerment Project reported on the following presentation.

[8-07-24 NYEP Presentation.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

There is a very large housing shortage, approximate shortage of 40,000 units for people making lower AMI (area median income). We are catering to the luxury apartments and we don't have enough housing for the low-income residents. These low-income people have to cut back on other expenses including food and medical care. Average retired senior in NV gets on average \$1422/month from Social Security. Washoe County senior population is expected to increase significantly in the coming years and the number of homeless seniors has increased by 15% in the past year. They are working on an international site which includes activities for seniors and all aspects of a senior life. This will take 8 or more months to build and rent is going to be capped at \$500/month. The intention is reducing isolation and provide a full life for seniors. Recommends to support a full spectrum of affordable housing options which are accessible; continue to

advocate and show up at community meetings to talk about the issue. Truckee Meadow AMI is \$28,000/year.

Dana Searcy, Washoe County Housing and Homelessness Division Director, reported there is an increase in the population of seniors entering the homeless population. See presentation.

[8-07-24 Housing and Homeless Presentation.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Washoe County Housing and Homelessness Division supports several programs including Northern Nevada Continuum of Care; the shelter services include supporting the Cares Campus and Joy House. Coordinating the data and understanding the full picture of the problem in the County and connecting people to resources are priorities. They also offer some emergency rental assistance. They are also working on the trust fund for affordable housing – there was \$2million granted in 2024 and they are looking for ongoing funding for these programs. They are partnering with the Housing Authority to identify where the units are or could be that would meet the requirements. Pam Roberts wants the “sweetheart deals” with developers for luxury housing to stop and asking what Dana’s organization is doing about this. Dana stated they are working with the Planning Board to incentivize developers to create affordable housing, some ideas including waiving fees to developers for planning and those fees become absorbed by the County. Operation budget averages \$17M for housing and homelessness division.

Who is on the continuum of care and how do you get on the continuum of care? There is a monthly meeting – Regional Homeless Alliance meeting and people are nominated to be included on the CoC. Anyone interested in attending these meetings can contact Dana Searcy.

6. Update from Washoe County Senior Services [Non-Action Item] – Cara Paoli, Human Services Division Director, Adult and Senior Services (5 min)

Attachment: [monthly data 8-24.pdf \(washoecounty.gov\)](#)

Cara introduced Grant stated Grant has provided a lot of support since joining the Karma Box program. There will be interns starting soon to support all the programs. Events Coordinator Bill took seniors to see Twister. There will also be free haircuts on 8/14 from 10am – 1pm at the Washoe Co Senior Center. August 21st at 8:30am is the National Senior Breakfast at the Reno Center. There will also be card making event on 8/28 at the Reno Center.

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

Donald reported that August 28th at 9am is the next Sparks SAB meeting. AARP grant money is being used to put together “go bags” in September.

8. 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 Reno Senior Center has technology classes coming up and more information is on the website. There will also be a resources Fair 8/21 at Neill Road Rec Center.

9. Discussion of the Age Friendly Survey results and next steps [For Possible Action] -Abby Badolato and Donna Clontz (5 min)

Abby stated staff will work on this data for next month’s meeting

10. Senior Services Budget Discussion [For Possible Action] -Pamela Mann, Human Services Division Director, Administration and Finance (30 min)

Pamela Mann's department services people from cradle to grave and her budget covers all these people and not exclusively seniors. Senior budget is \$10million a year and the indigent budget is separate \$6 -8 million. There are things they have to do per the funding requirements and there are things they should do because it is good for the community and then the things the public requests them to do.

Sue asked if there is a monthly budget report available. It is possible but it changes all the time as grants come in. Board would like Pamela to come to this meeting on a regular basis with updates.

11. 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)

Tomorrow is the last day of the senior free swim until next year.

Per Donna Clontz AARP grants were recently given to improve parks; emergency go-bags; City of Reno technology classes and downtown Reno partnership. They are looking for new leaders for the Paradise Park senior walks.

Senior Fest coming up on September 3rd at Reno Town Mall across from the Atlantis from 9am – 2pm. Patricia Gallimore states Reno Sparks NAACP annual banquet will be August 24th, it is their only fundraiser event for the year.

12. Public comment [Non-Action Item] –

Public comment [Non-Action Item]

Anonymous person states she is grateful and a happy community member, recommends diversity training available through the County.

13. Adjournment [Non-Action Item]

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.