



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

June 11, 2025

Washoe County, 1001 E. 9th Street Reno, NV
Building A, County Commission Chambers
&

Zoom Webinar

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

1. Call To Order [Non-Action Item] - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair - Pamela 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
Denise Myer
Adolfo Correa
Edward Lamb
JoEllen Keil
Thuy Tran

Pamela Roberts
Mary Ann McCauley
Mac Rossi
Patricia Gallimore
Benecia Price
Craig Bronzan

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

* C. Mark Neumann
* Mary Ann
McCauley
*JoEllen Keil

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Cara Paoli
Abby Badolato
Herb Kaplan
Chris Lopez

EX-OFFICIO PRESENT

Donald Abbott
Commissioner Mike
Clark

ADVISOR PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Donna Clontz

3. Public Comment [Non-Action Item] –

Donna Clontz, mentioned that the Reno City Council decided to pause some of their boards for up to a year including the Senior Center. The City of Reno had a public engagement survey which was only accessible via QR code, which she mentioned could be a challenge for seniors.

She mentioned concern for Senior Services losing their activity coordinator, Bill Sero, and looked for assistance in finding ways to keep the activity coordinator position alive. Bill played an important role in community outreach and helping seniors socialize. Commissioner Mike Clark supported Donna in praising Bill Sero. He expressed disapproval with Washoe County for not being able to keep Bill's position. informed that the Sparks Senior Center would be closed in the future to replace the flooring. He expressed concerns about where the Sparks seniors would receive services during the Sparks Senior Center renovation.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting on May 14, 2025 [For Possible Action] Advisory Board members may identify any additions or corrections to the draft minutes as transcribed.

Attachment: [WCHSASAB](#)

Donna mentioned Marsy Kupfersmith's correct e-mail address is RenoTigerTiger@Yahoo.com.

Craig Bronzan mentioned Item #4 should state April 2nd.

Mac Rossi mentioned Chad Blackburn should be corrected as Chaz.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Pamela Roberts and seconded by Mac Rossi. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Older Americans Month, including the Senior Center grand re-opening, and Stuff-A-Bus. [Non-Action Item] Abby Badolato – (10 min)

Abby Badolato mentioned that Older American's Month was a success which events such as the Information Fair at the National Automobile Museum, Sock Hop, & Stuff-A-Bus which acquired nearly \$10,000 worth of donations for seniors. She plans to form a small committee with the Older Americans Planning group to find out any pros & cons of the event for next year.

6. Update on the PEARLS program. [Non-Action Action] – Cindy Heldenbrand & Timothy Pershing (15 min)

Cindy Heldenbrand, Senior Services Supervisor, presented with caseworker, Timothy Pershing, about the PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives) program through the University of Washington. Participants need to be over the age of 60 or actively participating in one of our social services programs. Anybody experiencing depression or a loss of interest may be referred to the 19-week program. The goal is to help assist seniors alleviate depression. They received some grant funding through Lutheran Church to help hire interns & assist with transportation.

Cara Paoli stated the program is inexpensive, costing the County \$500 for a worker to be a certified PEARLS trainer. They were also able to assist a senior that was suicidal.

7. Report on Age Friendly Reno and Age Friendly Washoe [Non-Action Item] – Donna Clontz & Benecia Price (15 min)

Donna Clontz briefly went over the goal of AARP, which is to make the community more age-friendly working in partnership with the Senior Advisory Board's masterplan. Benecia Price is the AARP Age Friendly contact from the Senior Advisory Board.

8. Update on Our Center for Pride Month [Non-Action Item] – (20 min)

No one present from Our Center.

9. 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 (15 min)

Attachment: [Seniors Monthly Data for SAB - May 2025](#)

Cara Paoli announced Bill Sero, the activities coordinator, leaving Senior Services. She stated Sparks Senior Center would be closed for 2 weeks beginning June 30th. Activities & meals will continue at Our Savior Lutheran Church during construction.

Abby Badolato mentioned the Senior Fan Drive with KOLO 8. City of Reno plans to have some fans. Seniors who are 60 years old and Washoe County residents are eligible to receive a fan. Teen Tech is a summer volunteer program where two teenagers come in on Tuesdays & Thursdays to assist seniors with their smart phones.

Donna Clontz asked Cara to elaborate on Bill Sero leaving. Cara commented that Senior Services plans to continue keeping the activities & senior engagement that Bill has created ongoing. Due to funding cuts, Senior Services needed to make a difficult decision whether to use the funding for the position to supplement any future budget cuts to the nutrition program or homemaker program. Senior Services is exploring all options. Cara & Pamela Roberts offered to discuss this topic as a future agenda item.

10. Update on Sparks current activities for seniors [Non-Action Item] – Donald Abbott, Sparks City Council Ward 1 (5 min)

Donald Abbott informed that the Sparks Senior Center will be closed, and Seniors will be at the Lutheran Church next door. He reminded that the Sparks Boards have been consolidated from four boards into one main board.

Pamela Roberts suggested that since there is not an official Sparks Senior Citizen Board, and because Donald is an ex-officio member, Donald could begin presenting during the agenda item for Advisory Board member announcements, reports, and updates.

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

No one present for Reno Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

Mac Rossi stated he was present at the Reno Board meeting. They were able to acquire \$20,000 in funding which would partially be used for donating fans to Seniors and possibly donating heaters during the winter.

12. Update on Northern Nevada Legal Services [Non-Action Item] – Sarah Molleck, Northern Nevada Legal Aid Supervising Attorney (5 min)

Sarah Molleck introduced Noah Rotoroff as a summer legal intern from the University of Michigan assisting Northern Nevada Legal Services. The Senior Law center returned to the Senior Center on May 20th. For May, they provided legal services on 51 matters, attended the Older Americans Month Information Fair, attended the U.S. District Court Conference to obtain a few volunteers for pro bono cases, the Livestock Event Center event on May 20th, and participated in the Scam Jam event for City of Reno and AARP. Sarah mentioned a few bills they are following such as AB 283 which changes the summary eviction process in Nevada to benefit seniors who don't understand the eviction process.

13. 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)

Pamela Roberts reminded everyone about the food & nutrition presentation from Trio for July's Senior Advisory Board meeting. Cara Paoli explained that Trio would be presenting their business model, costs, food preparation, & processes. The County would be presenting on comparing the number of clients served through Washoe County versus other agencies, counties, and senior centers. Pamela brought up the people that continue to bring up Washoe County's nutritional program comparing the program to other nutritional programs and the importance of knowing the facts, data, situation, and the need to comply with federal nutritional guidelines in order to receive money from the federal government.

Craig Bronzan announced that the Reno City Council approved \$223,000 to hire a consultant for creating a recreation and park district. He mentioned usually there are senior programs attached to these projects which would open up a lot of possibilities to seniors.

Donna Clontz asked if it would be possible to meet next month at the Senior Center to explore Trio's new kitchen as she recently took a tour with the manager, Marc Frias. She mentioned they are teaching bocci ball at Paradise Park on June 21st with Mac Rossi. Benecia Price had a question on how to track bills in the legislature. Pamela & Donna suggested contacting the local assembly person or senator to assist with following bills in session.

Mac Rossi suggested holding the Senior Advisory Board at the Senior Center to make taking the kitchen tour from Trio convenient.

14. Public comment [Non-Action Item]

Comments heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Advisory Board agenda. Comments are to be made to the Advisory Board as a whole.

No public comment was made.

15. ADJOURNMENT [Non-Action Item]

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. by Chair - Pamela Roberts.