

MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

June 3, 2015

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

1. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. – by the Vice-Chairman of the Board, Connie McMullen.

2. ROLL CALL – Connie McMullen asked for roll call; Lisa Bonilla took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

<u>PRESENT</u>		<u>ABSENT</u>
Connie McMullen	Jeanne Herman	* Clinton Smith
Dennis Chin	Marsy Kupfersmith	* Diane France
Donna Clontz	Wayne Alexander	* Dr. Larry Weiss
Gary Whitfield		* Victoria Edmondson
Karen Davis		

*Excused absence

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Grady Tarbutton
Lisa Bonilla

3. *PUBLIC COMMENT – Dennis Chin suggested Washoe County Senior Services hold a symposium regarding senior affairs and activities, where the leaders would meet with seniors and discuss senior issues. Dennis proposed having a joint committee consisting of members from the Washoe County Senior Advisory Board and the City of Reno Senior Citizen’s Advisory Committee come up with a program that would tie in with Older American’s month 2016. Donna Clontz followed up Dennis’s idea, which she will be bringing up with the Reno SCAC, suggesting a meeting with commissioners, committee and board members involved in Senior Services or senior related agencies and programs, to talk about some of the main senior issues topics, including the strategic plan. Reverend Augustin Jocquez referred back to Donna and Dennis’s comments, explaining he has noticed more participation from the Native American communities and wanted to thank Grady for establishing relationships with them and other senior communities. Amy Dewitt-Smith from the Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada, representing the Sierra Nevada Transportation Coalition, informed the group of a pilot project they are currently working on that will model a service program that is similar to the village concept that is aimed to bridge some of the transportation gaps inside the McCarran loop as well as some additional services in the North Valleys areas. Dennis made an additional comment, explaining an incident in which he was asked by some clients about recreational activities for seniors. He felt that the

information he provided to them was fairly limited and suggested having an information app that would have that information, as well as other publications that would share community resources available to seniors. Vice-Chair Connie McMullen stated in the past 20 years of printing she has never seen such a list as local businesses that offer senior discounts but believes that it is a good idea. Darryl Feemster, City of Reno, stated that there is a publication known as the Golden Pages that is an excellent resource for community based resources for seniors, and that perhaps a list of senior discounts could be included.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE June 3, 2015 ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA – Vice-Chair Connie McMullen stated was an error in the date of the agenda. Dennis Chin motions the approval of the date change for the minutes. Gary Whitfield seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE May 6, 2015, ADVISORY BOARD MEETING- Dennis Chin motions the approval of the minutes as presented. Donna Clontz seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. *Presentation of Budget – Grady Tarbutton – The Home Delivered Meal program has expanded from 212,000 meals to 335,000 meals a year. The County is funding the increase and Senior Services is receiving additional state grant money. A 38% increase was requested for the HDM program.

7. *Discussion on increasing public awareness of senior issues and ideas on program topics for print, television, radio and presentations- by Nancy Leuenhagen, County Manager's office, Communications Manager – Nancy gave some general information regarding the role of her department within the county. The State of the County focused heavily on Senior Services, although more work is being done to expand publicity for Senior Services. Nancy explained she now has Reprographics under her department, which is responsible for printing and publications. She is currently working with Catholic Charities to roll out a company message regarding the nutrition program. Nancy currently does not have a graphic designer employed. Nancy is also responsible for the Washoe County Website, which has been already receiving positive feedback. Nancy reported the Board of County Commissioners has approved the budget, which will allow the opening of a full-time Media Communications Specialist position, which includes public information. Another resource she has available is WCTV, currently contracted, who produced the Senior Services Video as well as all of the video for the State of the County.

8. *Primer (briefing) for the Board prior to the Legislative session (standing item)-Connie and Donna- Donna provided an update to the group regarding the legislature and the involvement of seniors in the legislative process. There have been over 100 participants that partook in legislative events and advocacy training programs. Donna explained they have been following bills in 4 different areas that were related to senior issues; elder abuse, guardianship, caregivers and the need for more social services. Of the 17 bills that were being followed, 9 of them have been approved, signed and chaptered.

9. *Discussion of the definition for an Advisory Board Associate Member and their possible role- Donna motioned the approval for changes of the definition for an Advisory Board Associate Member. Marsy Kupfersmith second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

10 *City of Reno Staff Report – Darryl Feemster provided the group with an update. The City of Reno is closing out their fiscal year. Registration for the Senior Summer Games will be open June 15th and the games will begin in August 15th through the 30th.

11. *Directors Updates – Grady Tarbutton

- a. **Older Americans Month update** – Older Americans Month was a huge success, with more events and more requests to participate in the Opening Ceremonies and throughout the month. There were more than 90 events, a 50% increase from 2014. WCSS is looking for more partnerships with other organizations throughout the community.
- b. **Stuff A Bus update** – City of Reno staff made a delivery of donated items from the community to the Washoe County Reno Senior Center. The Lions Club will also be making a delivery of donated supplies later on.
- c. **Master Plan update**— Item deferred to a later date.
- d. **Human Services Agency Update** – County Manager will be moving Senior Services to Social Services, which will bring more support to the administration department.
- e. **Update on senior demographics and maps** – Not discussed
- f. **Update on Senior Service program waitlists (standing item)** – Item deferred to a later date.
- g. **Senior Law Project update-** The original goal to return to the same level of services as in 2007 was reached in 2014. There is a continued expansion of the services provided. Karen Zavora provided additional updates. The Senior Law Project is starting a Hoarding Taskforce with Reno Housing Authority, which will provide assistance to clients who are at risk of being evicted due to hoarding. The grant funding will be changing to offer deliverables, including nursing home abuse, Medicaid, and fair housing violation cases. There are plans to begin doing outreach in Incline Village. Will preparation cases have been sent out to pro-bono attorneys due to the changes in grant specifications, allowing the Senior Law Project to focus more on consumer issues.
- h. **Update on Veterans Resource Center outreach** – There is additional funding through indigent funds in the upcoming fiscal year for Veterans Outreach Services. They will be adding at least couple more Veterans Services Officers positions.
- i. **ADRC Date Base update (standing item)** – Item not discussed
- j. **Other Updates** – Grady made an announcement to the group that he will be retiring by the end of this year, although the actual date has not been established as of yet. His schedule will be changing his schedule, and Leslie Williams will be taking on some of the responsibilities, including the Advisory

Board Meetings. Grady wanted to clarify he was on sick leave and not on vacation

12. *Member Items – Donna Clontz provided an additional update on the Stuff-A-Bus event. The business community has donated a large amount of different items, from clothing to cleaning supplies. County staff will be working on getting a final inventory done on all donated items to be shared at a later date. Connie informed the group she has an outline regarding Amstead and will have a completed update for a future meeting.

13. Discussion of agenda items for the next Board meeting –

- a. Update on new state's veterans home in Sparks,
- b. Symposium/White House Conference on Aging
- c. Marketing and media update for the joint meeting.

14. *Public Comment – Tracy Dominguez, City of Sparks, informed the group she is currently working on a flag pole installation at the Sparks Senior Center. Donna updated the group regarding the Strategic Planning session Reno City Council recently had for the upcoming fiscal year. The points of focus were Vibrant Downtown, Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods, Planning for Growth, Fiscal Stability and Sustainable Services, and Efficient Business Environment. The new Reno City Council is supportive of seniors and the growing senior population.

15. Adjournment – Dennis Chin made the motion to adjourn. Karen Davis seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.