

MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2016

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

1. Call To Order - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. – by the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Larry Weiss.

2. Roll Call – Chairman Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Diana Carter took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

<u>PRESENT</u>		<u>ABSENT</u>	
Dr. Larry Weiss	Marsy Kupfersmith	Victoria Edmondson	
Connie McMullen	Donna Clontz		
Dennis Chin	Jeanne Herman, BCC		
Wayne Alexander			
Gary Whitfield			

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Leslie Williams	Ken Retterath
Kevin Shiller	Michelle Bays
Diana E. Carter	Jeff Scott

3. *Public Comment – No public comment.

4. Member Items –

Donna – Volunteer Initiative – January we had info on best practices using volunteers – the training is a 16 hour process – City of Reno Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Washoe County Senior Citizens Advisory Board fielded teams, two trainings done so far. Of the 5 teams, 2 are focusing on seniors. Its research based, best practices. Hopefully it will expand how we use volunteers.

Gary – Hot August Nights staff has done the training; they have 5 staff and 550 volunteers; all staff have done the training.

Larry – asked Donna for a report when the training is finished. Also asked for Todd Acker to report on Senior Volunteer Program. WCSS has about 55 volunteers currently; Tadd can explain about any appreciation program being planned.

Dennis – WCSS did a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in the past. There hasn't been one in several years, what about doing one? Maybe we could get Reno Aces and/or the Bighorns to donate tickets for our volunteers?

5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 2, 2016 – Marsy made an amendment to the Agenda - #15 should be Washoe County Library, not Friends of the Library. Gary Whitfield moved for the approval of the minutes as corrected. Donna Clontz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting on February 3, 2016 – Dennis Chin moved for the approval of the minutes. Wayne Alexander seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Strategic Plan Update – Moved to after Item #13

8. *Budget Update - Moved to after Item #13

9. *Senior Service / Integration Update - Moved to after Item #13

10. *Senior Services Program Updates - Moved to after Item #13

11. Legislative Update – No update

12. Older Americans Month Update - No update; Planning Committee has not met. Interns were not able to attend this meeting due to classes and tests. The Stuff-A-Bus activity usually happens at the end of May with RTC, the City of Reno and Washoe County. It seems to be mostly focused on Reno City employees; The collection barrels seem to be all over the city. Seniors all over the county benefit, so it would be helpful to figure out how to have more involvement from the county with getting the word and the collection barrels. The Christmas drive is the same, but smaller. Dennis mentioned the Fan Drive; we always have more than enough fans for the seniors. How would the volunteers help? Marsy stated that this should be a joint activity. Jeanne said the county has many locations where the barrels could be placed and there are many methods of getting the word out. Discussion about Candidates' Day / Senior Issues Forum was held. It was left to the OAM Planning Group to decide when to schedule the event.

13. Senior Issues Forum Discussion – Donna Clontz

Dona restated some of the discussion from the February Minutes, #11. She also stated that because it is so late in the OAM scheduling process and there are so many candidates, it makes sense to wait until after the primary. There's no time to build relationships with all the candidates before the primary. After the primary there would be time to go over senior issues with those who are left. Perhaps invite all the candidates to OAM Opening Day? The list could be acquired from the Voters Department. The event could be held at a Senior Coalition meeting. It would be nice to be able to just talk one-on-one with the officials and candidates. All the providers in the community would be notified about the event; it would include candidates, incumbents, and the County Commission.

3:23 – Kevin Schiller arrived.

7. *Strategic Plan Update – Kevin Schiller

The BCC has adopted seniors as an identified goal. There are three focal areas – data gathering/research in combination with the county, university, and state. Having a centralized database for the data is necessary. The next area is mental health. An identified contract menu of services is needed. Providers are identified by that contract; it's much cheaper to contract a provider than fund a position. It's currently a struggle to find providers in the gerontology field. The big area is nutrition. The base budget is not known; should be by tomorrow. The cost for nutrition is constantly increasing. By March 2017 we will be at capacity for meals; we will not be able to increase the program at that point. Looking for liaisons in five areas; this is one that will need two. There is a CIP (Capital Improvement Project) request for equipment, but there is competition with many other departments. Also looking at models to increase capacity; there's a storage component (we have space for one day) and a production component. What is the most cost efficient way to manage the increased production and capacity? Also, how to tap into more funding from the state and other sources? Capacity is 400,000 meals per year. Discussion about getting some expert advice on production and capacity, using the Sparks Kitchen, adding a shift, speeding up the turnover from raw food to finished meals, maximizing the facility, leasing out kitchen space. Cost per meal and quality control is also important. It would also be good to be able to do specialized meals for different health issues.

8. *Budget Update – Kevin Schiller

Kevin gave an explanation of the handout on the budget. We are on track, should finish the current fiscal year in the black. Looking at FY16-17, we started with the base budget. \$750,000 in indigent funds has been built into the budget. As required by statute, the indigent fund balance is increased by 5% per year (total in Social Services budget). That is not part of the overall general fund; the increase is about \$3,000,000. Next is the above base request from the general fund. The CIP request is a separate item also, no answer on it yet. Once approved, some of the items can be shifted within that budget. We are also looking at the grants from the state. The Advisory Board members will be asked to serve as liaisons by area to be part of the process with discussions with the BCC. The budget is first presented to Budget then the final approval is from the BCC.

9. *Senior Service / Integration Update – Kevin Schiller

The County Code revisions are being worked on by staff and Senior Services' DA to create a draft master document. It will be brought to the Advisory Board then to the BCC. Perhaps dedicate a meeting to discuss the revisions, or have it as an agenda item. Funding is one of the key components of the integration.

10. *Senior Services Program Updates – Kevin Schiller

Commissioner Hartung just dedicated district funds to the Sparks Senior Center for computers. New computers were not purchased; Crossroads just updated their computers so the old computers were moved to the Sparks Senior Center. So now funds are being sought for furniture and to subscribe to the internet. A second room at the Sun Valley Senior Center has been leased to increase programs and services. We have to figure out

how to manage that differently. Commissioner Hartung is focused on dementia and the Daybreak program; went to Las Vegas to look at their program which is not funded by the county. Some items have never tapped into state funding and need to be looked into. One thing to look at is that Daybreak is cost prohibitive when staff is absent. For example, a nurse can't just be hired; supervising staff has to be present. That needs to be fixed in the budget. The other items is how to case manage a client having a crisis. The TADS program assists clients during a crisis; it's been significantly reduced as a state program. The county does more of a TADS program. The Avatar program is a single case management system for social services. Also we are looking at a private/public partnership for Daybreak where someone could have investment in it, but that's difficult with the regulations.

Once the budget is approved, there needs to be a working plan with set outcomes. Also to set initiatives, where we are going, and work through them. This should help us legislatively, as in attaching to a BDR? Maybe there is something we can help elected officials with that they introduce that also helps us.

Regarding indigent homelessness, the County helps fund the VOA shelter at about \$1.3 million and four staff positions. There is a nexus of relationships on how we manage programming. Crossroads is a result of that. 30+% of the indigent population are seniors. And its growing. In terms of strategic goals, there may be crossover from indigent to seniors to mental health issues; what services are needed. Questions about what ages might be more populous in the indigent numbers than others. Indigent funds also are used for legal services – child attorneys, public defender, alternate public defender, conflict contract. The funding comes from the state and is split between Washoe Legal Services and Nevada Legal Services. Nevada Legal Services has offices in the Reno Senior Center. The attorney from Nevada Legal Services talked about the increase in eviction issues and capacity.

Donna asked about getting stats relating to seniors, for instance – homelessness, hunger, percentage of seniors, what proportion is vets. Kevin talked about veterans with PTSD and other mental health issues and agreed that a fact sheet of stats would be helpful. Jeff Hardcastle, Nevada State Demographer, is scheduled to attend the joint meeting in April. Larry stated that the homeless count was done and of that 40% were indigent in the state, 20% lived on \$5,000 per year, 20% on \$11,000 per year. Connie stated there were gaps in the data – transportation, for instance. Check with Veterans Administration for stats on veterans.

14. Commission on Aging Update – Moved to after Item #15

15. Washoe County Library Update – Moved to after Item #18

16. *Advisory Board Appointments Update – Moved to after Item #10

Kevin Schiller – the Advisory Board candidates are on the Board of County Commission's meeting on March 22. Kevin would like to send out the liaison assignments to the board now to get it started and then ask the new board members once they come on.

17. *Agenda items for the next Board meeting – Moved to after Item #14

18. *Public comment – Moved to after Item #16

Michelle Bays, Supervising Investigator, from the Washoe County District Attorney's Office stated that she would like to come to an Advisory Board meeting to present what the DA's office does regarding public safety in the community. They are looking for feedback from the community and neighborhood advisory boards. She gave a synopsis of types of cases the DA's office handles – thousands of criminal cases, along with civil cases, including fraud check, family support, elder abuse, how to protect yourself against contractor fraud. Connie mentioned it would be good to have her present at a joint meeting.

15. Washoe County Library Update –

Sarah Jaeck, Librarian II, with Washoe County Library, along with Jeff Scott, Director of Washoe County Library System, spoke about the programs and events held by the library system. The Senior Center Library was remodeled in November to make it easier to hold computer classes; the number of computers was increased from 5 to 13. The classes started in January; there were 56 people total taking the classes. In October there were about 360 people using the computers monthly; in December that increased to 450. In January the hours were increase to include Mondays and the users increased to 570. The numbers of users last month was up to 700. The internet librarian is working with AARP to host some social media classes. Dennis asked about having more of the musical programs at the Senior Center Library. Sarah stated that she would look into getting more of the programs held at Senior Center Library. They are continuing to look at meeting the needs of the seniors. The funds for these improvements came from a donation from Friends of the Washoe County Library.

14. Commission on Aging Update – Connie McMullen

The Ohlmstead subcommittee (the NRS committee for seniors, Commission on Aging, and the Commission for Services for Persons with Disabilities) had a meeting yesterday and submitted the preliminary report. She spoke about the group home that was in the news and the ensuing problems due to the lack of oversight. The oversight was overlooked and there is liability for the department and their inspectors. They are trying to keep the state from being sued by the Department of Justice. She will bring the final report to the Board. Nevada doesn't fund their entire department appropriately, so there are problems. The Commission is going to hire a contractor this upcoming week to do the strategic plan updates. The managed care piece is hiring a vendor today to help facilitate the role of models used in other states that do managed care well.

17. *Agenda items for the next Board meeting –

Gary – have someone from the VA attend the April meeting? Lisa Howard and/or Dr. Corea?

Dennis – discuss emergency help for seniors during an emergency; how to assist Jeff Hardcastle, Nevada State Demographer, will be attending the April Joint Meeting

Older Americans' Month update

Future Speaker List –
Someone from NV Energy
Michelle Bays, Washoe County DA's Office

19. Adjournment –

Motion to adjourn by Dennis Chin, seconded by Donna Clontz; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm.

Items discussed in the following order –

1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12,13,7,8,9,10,16,18,15,14,17,19