



**MINUTES OF THE  
WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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

- 1. Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Vice-Chair Connie McMullen.
- 2. Roll Call** – Connie McMullen asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

**WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:**

**PRESENT**

Connie McMullen  
Marsy Kupfersmith  
Garth Elliot  
Dennis Chin

Donna Clontz, Alternate  
Wayne Alexander  
Sandra Dexter  
Stan Dowdy, Alternate

**ABSENT (EXCUSED\*)**

Ken Romeo  
\*Barbara Korosa  
\*Gary Whitfield  
\*Dr. Larry Weiss

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Ken Retterath  
Sandra Vasquez  
Crissy Lessard  
Chris Ciarlo

Stephan  
Hollandsworth (DA)  
Abby Badolato

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**

Victoria Edmondson

Request to move #4 up to #9 and #17 up to #8 was made by Connie McMullen. Motion to move items was made by Garth Elliot and seconded by Stan Dowdy. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. \*Public Comment –**

Sandra Dexter stated she had called to Reno police to do a welfare check and they refused to do it. She thought it was appalling and she is checking into it since the tenant had fallen and passed away.

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on May 11, 2017.**

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Donna Clontz.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 1, 2017.**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Wayne Alexander.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Retreat Meeting on March 8, 2017**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Wayne Alexander.  
Motion passed unanimously.

**17. \*Introduction of Washoe County Community Outreach Coordinator, Chris Ciarlo – Ken Retterath**

Ken introduced Chris Ciarlo to the Board. Chris stated he has 12 years of experience with television and radio. He was on KTVN channel 2 news and worked there as a producer, associate producer and worked his way up to news anchor. He was also on Fox Sports Radio and received his Bachelor's degree in Communications. For the past 3 years he was the communication specialist in the manager's office. Currently his role with Social Services is similar and he is the main point of contact for any internal or external messaging. He stated that if the Board has any messages they would like to get out to the public, to please go through him because anything that goes out to the public the county is responsible for it. Chris stated he is a journalist at heart and loves people and he is amazed at what Social Services have done as a whole.

Donna stated that having City, RTC, and County media really helps get the word out; she also expressed her thanks to staff on the great Older American Month booklet.

Dennis stated he read that budget cuts are being made to the Meals On Wheels programs and in Washoe County there is an active Meals On Wheels program and he believes it should be publicized that this is a problem.

Garth asked how many departments Chris is interacting with Social Services and it is important to not oversaturate the public with media releases because then the public tends to tune out new releases.

**4. \*Member Announcements –**

Garth stated after 12 years Sun Valley Senior Center now has an electronic message board. It was difficult because WC had a new sign code that made it tough to put up an electronic sign. Marsy stated she is moving to Sparks and therefore is resigning from the Board and as secretary since she will no longer be in district 2. She has also resigned from City of Reno Board and hopes to start an Advisory Board in Sparks. She didn't want to move, but affordable housing was the issue due to her moving.

Dennis stated he attended a Sparks Senior Center meeting and shady things have been going on around the center and it would be a good idea to have police conduct surveillance in the area.

**8. \*Update on WCSSAB ordinance change**

Ken stated Amber has been working with Donna and Larry and changes are being made at the DA, from there it will get posted again for the 30 days. Ken requested Sandra send out an email and let the Board know when the ordinance has been posted.

**9. \*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee – Donald Abbott**

Donald stated he, Donna, Stan, Mr. Driscoll, Tracy Domingues had a productive meeting and are talking about creating an advisory board in Sparks.

Donna stated that at the meeting, one of the things they did agree on is that there are quite a bit of seniors in the Sparks area and Sparks staff would be contacting the university and getting an idea of how many seniors are in the area.

Connie stated it is great to have Donald attend the Board meeting as the Sparks liaison and it would be nice to see the other liaisons at the meetings. Donna stated after July, Alan Roney will be attending the meetings as the City of Reno liaison since Andy Bass is finding it hard to attend the meetings.

**10. \*Update on activities for Older American Month in May 2017 – SCAC Chair Donna Clontz and Larry Weiss**

Donna stated for all Board members to try and attend events for Older American Month. There will be a Safety Fair and a Legal Panel; there will also be a closing ceremony where there will be a raffle and light food for attendees. Donna asked help from the Board for the events and for Stuff-A-Bus. Barrels for the Stuff-A-Buss will be distributed throughout the county and Donna and Stan will be talking to staff about collecting items for seniors. Donna would also like Board members to be point of contact for different locations for the barrels so that when a barrel gets full, the point of contact can pick up the items. It will also be necessary to get the Board to help on the last day at the stadium and greet people for the last Stuff-A-Bus collection and also to help unload the bus, sort, and count the items that were collected. Donna also stated they have received \$2,350 in cash donations.

Ken stated staff can be the point of contact to empty out the barrels when they are filled. He will also talk to Chris Ciarlo about coordinating the placement of barrels.

Marsy expressed her thanks to Connie for placing the entire OAM events calendar in the Senior Spectrum. She also stated that the Safety Fair is mushrooming and there are about 14 vendors who are attending, now they just need to have people attend. The vendors attending are demonstrating that seniors are important to the community and the Board needs to give their support and get the word out of the events.

Stan stated they really need help from the Board and when Donna was out of the country, they thought Board members would step up and help with events, but the only person who helped was Barbara Deavers, who was in the public.

**11. \*Update on allocated resources in North Valley for bus roundtrip transportation from Cold Springs to Reno (requested by Commissioner)**

Ken stated he is working on getting more information on the item. The bus is in the car pool and he is waiting to talk to Ken Schiller because they need to find the logistics on how to be able to use the van, how gas is going to be paid, and who will be driving it.

**12. \*Update on Senior Legislation – Connie McMullen**

Connie stated they are more than halfway through the session and they are facing a deadline on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May for all bills to get introduced and out of the second house. Then on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May all bills on exempt status will be heard. It looks like there will be an increase in Home Delivered Meals, but the bulk of it may go to the Las Vegas area and the increase in waiver requested by the governor also went through. The Ombudsman program received 3 extra social workers and SB71 will be giving about \$14 million to the Ombudsman program. There is extra money which is about \$98 million but she suspects it might be going to the school voucher program. Regarding senior legislation, the elder rights position may expand to cover not only seniors, but also all ages and cover the whole age span. Out of the three bills that she has, two have made it and one of them is for when a caregiver sleeps in a client's house and they don't have to charge for it. The other bill that went through is the vital signs bill which means

homecare workers are now able to do vital signs in the home. There is a bill that was recently introduced and is very confusing because it re-vamps the system of the interim committees. The other bill that is being introduced is about getting internet companies to register, since currently registration is not required, but they are still able to put workers in people's homes. Connie asked Marsy to send out the update of what Jane Gruner provides every month for the bills and their status. Marsy asked Sandra if she would send the bill list update to the Board; Sandra will send it to the Board.

Donna congratulated Connie for all she has done with the bills she is responsible for.

Connie stated she believed seniors, people with disabilities, and children were very big issues in the session, especially guardianship issues.

**13. \*Update on Commission on Aging Day – Connie McMullen**

Connie stated there hasn't been a meeting because of the session and the next meeting will be June.

**14. \*Update on areas in senior services each Board member would like to focus on**

Connie stated this item is from Kevin Schiller.

Ken stated the item is from meetings he and Abby had with each Board member and the retreat meeting.

Stan stated she believed the retreat meeting went very well.

Connie stated they will come back with a report from either Larry or Amber.

**15. \*Information on Budget Report for Senior Services- Ken Retterath**

Ken stated the County went through their budget process and it was essentially flat throughout all departments in the County. In the senior services world, there were no new additions to the budget. Commissioner Berkbigler did put in some dollars for expansion in Incline Village. The goal is to wait 6 months and see what is happening, because of the emergencies that have happened throughout the county in the recent months, it has cost millions and the hope is to get reimbursed by FEMA. That means no capital improvement projects as it stands.

Connie asked what will be done with the bus that Jeanne Herman acquired for Cold Springs seniors and Ken stated they need to figure out how to staff it and use it. Ken also stated that he doesn't believe there is a cut to the second meal and one of the things they are looking at is modifying the meals and make a small breakfast.

Connie stated she spoke with Scott from Catholic Charities and their partnership with WCSS is a really good thing that works great.

**16. \*Nutrition Program update – Ken Retterath**

Ken stated they looked into Incline Village as a meal site, but seniors are expressing their desire to actually have a senior center where they can go and congregate with seniors and do activities. At the moment they are looking at the old library as the site, but they would need to look into setting it for what is wanted.

Ken also stated nutritional grants are being applied for and are due June 7<sup>th</sup>. The refund of the bill for each nutrition meal was \$2.65.

**18. Agenda items for the next Board meeting**

Guest speaker Jeff Scott, Director of WC Library System

Larry to report on Retreat meeting discussion

Report on OAM/Stuff-A-Bus  
Discussion on Board members coming up

**19. \*Public comment -**

As part of OAM, Donna attended Sparks City Council and received the Sparks proclamation. Donna and Marsy also accepted the City of Reno proclamation and the County Commission proclamation will be received on Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Donna stated to the Board to talk up the Stuff-A-Bus event.

Connie stated they will be doing the Senior Fest right after Labor Day.

Ken expressed his thanks for everything that has been done for Older American Month and he also expressed his thanks to Marsy for all she has done.

**20. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Donna Clontz. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:21 pm.