



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

December 4, 2019

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

1. ***Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair-Dr. Larry Weiss.
2. ***Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT

Dr. Larry Weiss
Stan Dowdy
Jennifer McMenomy (phone)
Mark Miranda
Linda Hardie

Rick Sorensen
Danada Rausch
Sarah Deardorff (Arrived
3:08pm)
Donna Clontz

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

*Barbara Korosa
*James Doyle

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Abby Badolato
Sandra Vasquez
Steve McBride

Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Amber Howell

ADVISOR PRESENT

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ADVISOR (ABSENT)
Victoria Edmondson
Connie McMullen

3. ***Public Comment** –
No public comment.
4. ***Member Announcements** –
Larry stated Elvis will be performing here on December 6th from 10:30-11:30am.
Donna states Toccata is in town and if anyone is able to go to the lake, entrance can be free.
5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 4, 2019 (For Possible Action)**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Rick Sorensen.
Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on November 6, 2019 (For Possible Action)**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Update and discussion on Washoe County issues and activities relating to seniors – Steve McBride

Amber Howell distributed a handout 'Completed Goals in 2019' (see attachment) for goals stated. Larry thanked Amber for the report. Donna asked about the length of stay at TADS, Amber replied it's about 6 months and there are a total of 18 beds. Rick inquired about the Stuff-A-Bus items and if things are still being disbursed, Amber replied yes. Sarah asked about the volunteer program in ServTracker. Abby stated they have not fully utilized the volunteer information in ServTracker. Sarah suggested using it since it is a very beneficial tool. Donna stated they would like more information on the volunteer program since they can be ambassadors for it.

8. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations on Senior Services Strategic Plan (For Possible Action)

Amber stated that there are multiple strategic plans in the county and she likes to use the five areas of the Washoe County Senior Services Plan (see attachment). They may start looking into mental health as well. As for the nutrition program, they are looking at increasing both home delivered meals and congregate meals. They Adult Day program is also something they are trying to expand. The Caregiver Support program involves the Caring For You, Caring For Me classes and also helps with home modifications.

Danada asked what the factor is for someone to qualify. Age is a factor; the age is 60 or over. Abby replied there are few restrictions with income, it depends on the program.

Larry states the board does not have a strategic plan and he would like to have one. He would also like to know what services are provided and the waitlist for each program.

Donna asked if it would help to write letters to say that they support the needs for the community. Amber stated yes.

Sarah inquired about how the Caring for You, Caring for Me and Train the Trainer program has been going. Abby replied that the first class was pretty full.

Danada stated the census is coming and asked if they know how many people are retiring here. Amber stated they rely heavily on the state demographer and census.

Donna stated she attended a meeting where Kate Marshall and Mike Moreno talked about trying to count as many people as possible for the census.

Amber stated she would like to send the matrix to look at it and revisit it. Donna replied she would like to do see it and also have an orientation meeting since many members are new.

Larry stated he is working on getting an Elders Count and doing it every 2 years.

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

Donald stated their next meeting will be January 8th, which is the joint meeting at 97 Richards Way, Sparks. The February meeting will be at 9am on the 26th at the Larry D. Johnson Building. They have a full board and have rotating council members and the mayor as an introduction at each meeting. They are also working on starting a newsletter to try and reach seniors that don't know how to use a computer and reach seniors that need a friend. Three members of the board are going to be doing the letter and will be dropping them off at different business areas. The newsletter may be coming around summer of 2020.

10. Discussion and possible recommendations on assignments of tasks for Stuff-A-Bus and Older American Month 2020 activities and programs (For Possible Action)

Donna stated each board committee is in charge of coming up with 5 to 7 ideas. They would need to take the booklet to press by April so it is ready by May 1.

Also, Barbara will be contacting museums to see about getting free admittance for seniors during O.A.M. Rick stated he would like to do a follow up on Fraud Prevention. Stan stated she is on the Task Force for fraud prevention and she can get good contact information for Rick. Mark stated he can look into events for the North Valleys. Donna stated that as ideas come up, Sandra can receive them and send them to her and Ryan. Amber stated she will ask about bocce ball. Sarah stated she will look into adding transportation for the most participated events.

11. Report and discussion on process of receiving donations in accordance to Board of County Commissioners – Abby Badolato

Abby stated there is not much of an update. They are looking at small cards. They can accept donations, it's just that when big events happen, they are working on an easy stream process for people to donate. Amber stated they are looking at a community foundation.

12. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding a program development for registering all Senior Center participants in the 2020 census by computer (For Possible Action) – Larry Weiss

Larry stated he strongly encourages staff to come up with a plan to make sure to capture as many seniors as possible. Abby stated she is working with the library at the Reno senior center to use the computers and the Sparks senior center also has two computers and someone can help people use them. Larry stated to add to the item to the joint agenda and have a staff report on it. Sarah stated she is concerned with language barriers. Danada inquired about using the Next Door app to look for volunteers that speak different languages.

13. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recruiting new board members for District 5 and an Alternate seat (For Possible Action)

a) Alexandria Spargo (District 5)

Steve stated they just put out a notice. Abby stated they have not received any new applications. Amber stated she can have Chris put it out on Facebook.

14. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action)

Donna stated the main focus points are housing, transportation, and resource connections. They have been planning and have the AARP application packet is almost done. After it is finalized, it will be sent to AARP and they are the ones that give the ok. There is a pilot program for seniors that live at zip code 89512 to help those that have issues with loneliness and or isolation. Donna stated she did a presentation with Larry on becoming age friendly at a City of Sparks meeting.

15. Discussion and possible recommendation to co-host a community seminar regarding current senior mental health issues and services, including topics relating to suicide prevention, elder abuse, law enforcement programs and policies in dealing with crimes against elders, training seniors and staff in techniques to prevent, de-escalate and defuse negative social interactions with others. (For Possible Action)

Stan stated that she and Marsy Kupfersmith have been working on this item with Linda Hascheff. They will probably report at the joint meeting.

Diane Baranowski, from the public, asked if this event would be public; the reply was yes.

16. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)

Donna stated to add Connie on the social services box. Donna stated she listened to the Reno Council meeting and they were talking about remedying the homeless situation. Reno put aside \$250,000 to help homeless people and with cleaning up the area around the river. Sarah stated she heard about the Sage Street apartments having rooms available. Also, in regards to food insecurity, Saint John moved their project and many people did not know where they had moved to. When they started at the new location, they had about 40 people, but now they are up to 150 people. Steve McBribe stated they are working to fix the issues arising from the move. Mark stated he would like to be added to Increase Volunteers and Social Services & Community Based Seniors. Danada stated she talked to the Senior Law about contractual law and she is looking at a co-housing idea. Larry stated that for housing, the Elder Gap Program mostly has to do with rent. He is also working on the Elders Count; the previous years were for 2007, 2009, 2013. Larry stated that in regards to volunteers, the Center for Healthy Aging is working on training peers to go with patients to ensure treatment plans are understood.

17. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)

Donna stated that Commissioner Hartung will be at the Spanish Spring Library quarterly. Mark stated it's nice that most meetings are online and he will look into sharing on how to access online meetings.

18. Agenda items for the next Board meeting (For Possible Action)

Census 2020
Care Build, Renown Grant

19. *Public comment –

Diane Baranowski stated she is from the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum and her goal is to identify issues of importance for older people. She is attending different meetings in the area and also looking into interviewing people to find out what their thoughts are.

20. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Stan Dowdy and seconded by Rick Sorensen. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.