



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

April 7, 2021

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512

Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUxzMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

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 via Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY

Dr. Larry Weiss
Barbara Korosa
James Doyle
Linda Hardie

Rick Sorensen
Sarah Deardorff (late
3:03pm)
Donna Clontz

ABSENT (EXCUSED*)

* Jennifer McMenomy
* Mark Miranda
* Deborah Whitehouse

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride
Abby Willrich
Amber Howell

Sandra Vasquez
Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Chris Ciarlo

ADVISOR PRESENT

ADVISOR (ABSENT)
Victoria Edmondson
Connie McMullen

3. ***Public Comment** –
None.
4. ***Member Announcements** –
None.
5. **Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on April 7, 2021 (For Possible Action)**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by Rick Sorensen and seconded by Donna Clontz.
Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on March 3, 2021 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by James Doyle.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. *Update, discussion, and potential Washoe County issues and activities including housing, transportation, and meal program to seniors – Steve McBride, Division Director

Steve stated they are continuing to be prepared for a soft opening of the senior centers. It may look like a hybrid and there may be limited capacity for lunch seating, but also provide meals to go. They are also looking at opening the Daybreak program in May, there may be modified hours because of sanitation needs. The front desk will be open, and people can get connected to services needed. The library may also be opening too. More information will be known within the next two weeks. Also, they have been working with the mobile vaccination for people that are homebound.

Donna stated item 13 will also have a report on reopening centers.

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

Larry stated they were supposed to have a joint meeting today and asked if there was a reason. Steve stated there were question in specifics of the agenda and Sparks attorney asked for time to work on it to be in compliance with open meeting law. Donald apologized for the concurrent meeting not happening. Donald updated that the Sparks Board is working on OAM ideas and they have applied for the AARP grant.

7. *Presentation regarding “Teach Me to Grow Healthy” intergenerational Native American food program sponsored by the Center for Healthy Aging – Augustin Jorquez, Program Director Coordinator

Augustin stated he has worked closely with the Indian tribes. Larry asked him for help with the grant to create an intergenerational community garden. They were able to obtain some land at Lemmon Valley for the garden. There are well documented benefits to mental health when there is a community garden, it helps people’s well being knowing they are eating the fruit of their labor. This program helps with learning of indigenous foods, which brings awareness to others. In conjunction with Older American Month, they will be doing a sunflower contest to see who can grow the best sunflower in the month of May.

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

Donna stated the Community Challenge Grant is open until April 14 for submitting age friendly projects for the community. The Sparks Board and the program Teach Me to Grow Healthy have applied. The grant can be up to \$25,000. Donna expressed good luck to the two applicants.

11. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding recruiting new Advisory Board Members for District 5 and two for Alternate (For Possible Action)

a. Application from Hawah Ahmad

Attachments: [4-07-21 10 a. Hawah Ahmad rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
[4-07-21 10 aa. H.Ahmad Resume.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)

Hawah introduced herself and stated she is interested in being part of the Board. Larry she would be under an Alternate seat. Her current occupation is a lobbyist and she will have time to be a participant in the Board meetings.

- b. Application from Mary Ann McCauley
Attachment: [McCauley bio \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Mary Ann not present, may be able to join the meeting later. See minutes at end of item 11.
- c. Application from Nina Moore
Attachments: [4-07-21 10 c. Nina Moore rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
[Nina Moore \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Not present.
- d. Application from Noel Nelson
Attachments: [4-07-21 10 d. Noel Nelson rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
[4-07-21 10 dd. Noel Nelson Resume.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Not present.
- e. Application from Pamela Roberts
Attachment: [4-07-21 10 e. Pamela Roberts rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Pam introduced herself, she has an interest in seniors. Through her career, she developed a passion for seniors, and she is proud to have prosecuted crimes against the elderly. She is retired, but volunteers in the court. Donna stated she believes Pam would be a terrific addition to the Board, she has her support.
- f. Application from Casey Reed
Attachment: [4-07-21 10 f. Casey Reed rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Rick stated there was not a lot of detail in the application and he would like to see more information on it. The application is for district 5, not 4.
- g. Application from Frank Perez
Attachments: [4-07-21 10 g. Frank Perez rtd.pdf \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
[Frank Perez Resume \(washoeconomy.us\)](#)
Larry stated Frank retracted his application.

Motion to recommend Pamela Roberts for District 5 to the Board of County Commissioners was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to recommend Hawah Ahmad for Alternate to the Board of County Commissioners was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

Herbert Kaplan and Abby Willrich suggested waiting to make recommendations if the Board would like more information on applicants. If the Board wants to wait, they will have to undo the motions.
Motions stand.

Mary joined meeting and introduced herself. She is interested in giving back to the community. Larry stated they have an alternate position available.

12. Update, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding the Friendly Visitor Calls project to selected Washoe County seniors (For Possible Action)

Donna reported that there are 13 callers, and they are starting to loose some of the people that receive calls. They are still doing outreach to seniors but have not heard back from Reno Housing. It is going well, and they can use more seniors to call. Larry stated it is a great program.

13. Discussion and possible recommendations on types of senior social recreation activities that may resume in 2021 at Washoe County operated facilities (For Possible Action)

Attachments: [4-07-21 NRRCAActivityCalendarApril.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)
[4-07-21 Reno Senior Center Cldr 2020.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)
[4-07-21 Sparks Senior Center Cldr 2020.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Donna stated updates were received from Steve McBride. She, Larry, and some of Sparks Board went around the senior centers to know what was going on before COVID happened. Donna would like to find out what people are interested in. In Washoe County they use volunteers to operate activities. They would like to put out a questionnaire and get information before things open again. Andrea Pelto, from the public, stated a lot of the Sparks seniors have to pay to use the Reno centers and they would like to see if they can help them so they can use Washoe County buildings so they don't have to pay. Sarah stated she can send the surveys to Volunteers of America. Abby stated the survey looks good and will look into distributing them.

14. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding Older Americans Month for 2021 (For Possible Action)

Attachments: [4-07-21 8 b. OAM Video Settings 2021.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)
[4-07-21 8 bb. Older Americans Month Event Form 2021.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Item 14 is being reported under item 15.

15. Discussion, update, and possible recommendations regarding Stuff-A-Bus for Seniors 2021 (For Possible Action)

Chris Ciarlo stated that May 3rd would be good for a news release. An idea to incorporate is faces of seniors. A picture of a senior would be needed, may be a good idea to start with a Board member. This would give a visual for the community and faces to statistics is a good thing to have. May 17th is the news release for Stuff-A-Bus, it will be on the radio and television. Friday, May 21st, is the Stuff-A-Bus event from 2pm to 7pm and they are partnering with Sam's Club, they will be having it live and talking to staff and donators. Chris stated 75% of the people knew of this event because of KOLO; radio and television are the primary source and social media is 3rd. Also, the new Older American Month (OAM) poster is good. Items wanted for the event should be unused items, such as new clothing, hygiene products, and adult diapers. This year's OAM is looking more like a virtual OAM. Ryan Crane will be vetting videos; there is a need to be sensitive to what is being said. A sub-channel can be created under Washoe County. If there are events that are being planned, it is important to let him know. Sarah suggested some donations for the Stuff-A-Bus can be of a word search books, coloring books, coloring pencils, movie passes, a local restaurant delivery service. Also, Sarah has worked with the Notables and they may need help with video set up. Chris Ciarlo stated the Proclamation is being worked on and it should be presented at the BCC meeting on May 18th.

16. Discussion and possible recommendation on 2021 Nevada legislation relating to seniors (For Possible Action) – Connie McMullen

Attachment: [Legislative Advocacy Briefing \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Donna stated the attachment was a presentation from Barry Gold, which happened last week at Senior Day at the Legislature. The Senior Coalition had a meeting, Connie and Jane Gruner are working on a list of bills for seniors; some bills are already passing. The budget for Health and Human Services is on the works and it looks like there may be money for caregivers. It is important to make sure voices are heard.

17. 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)

Attachment: [4-07-21 Joint Goals Wrksht.pdf \(washoecounty.us\)](#)

Rick stated he has been working on the Senior Calling Project. Donna stated some members were working on ideas for OAM, but they noted that the form for OAM ideas did not have a blurb spot. The Sparks Senior Advisory Board may have the Sparks Fire Chief do a presentation. RTC may have some videos and information too. The Caregiver Coalition may have something in June too. Rick stated he has the Silver College; he sent a list of classes for May to Steve. Larry stated there is also the Elders Count and it should be in the ADSD website; it helps businesses and legislature with information. Donna stated it would be good for Larry or someone to do a video about Elders Count.

Andrea Pelto from the public asked about recording events, Abby stated should be set up by the person doing the event, but if necessary, for advice, Ryan Crane is available. Marsy Kupfersmith from the public stated she is concerned that there are seniors who are not tech savvy and may have issues connecting to OAM events.

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

Attachment: [4-07-21 Monthly Washoe County Public Meetings Chart.pdf](#)

Steve stated the OAM proclamation will be at the BCC meeting on May 18th and it would be great to have some presence from the Board. Sandra can remind the Board about the meeting.

19. Advisory Board Members' announcements, reports and updates to include requests for information or topics for future agendas. (No discussion among Advisory Board Members will take place on this item.)

Joint meeting with Sparks

Rick would like an update from Chris Ciarlo on OAM

20. *Public comment –

None.

21. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Rick Sorensen. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.