



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

September 7, 2016  
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 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Dr. Larry Weiss.
- 2. Roll Call** – 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:**

<b>PRESENT</b>		<b>ABSENT (EXCUSED)</b>	
Dr. Larry Weiss	Jeanne Herman, BCC	Gary Whitfield	
Dennis Chin	Barbara Korosa	Connie McMullen	
Marsy Kupfersmith	Sandra Dexter		
Garth Elliott	Ken Romeo		
Wayne Alexander	Stan Dowdy, Alternate		
Donna Clontz, At-Large			

**WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT**

Amber Howell  
Ken Retterath  
Diana E. Carter  
Joti Bhakta  
Sandra Vasquez

**ADVISOR (ABSENT)**

Victoria Edmondson

**3. \*Public Comment –**

Dennis Chin made a suggestion that Washoe County Library be available to seniors 80 or older and that are homebound. He explained that he read from a survey that 80% of the seniors get their information from the library.

**4. \*Member Announcements –** No member announcements

**5. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 7, 2016.**

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Dennis Chin and seconded by Ken Romeo. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on August 3, 2016.**

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

**7. HOPES Nurse Report on Activities.**

Joti Bhakta stated that the contract is with Trudy Italiano with HOPES. Data is from 7/2015-6/2016. During that year there were 2285 seniors seen for the blood pressure clinic. It was a combination of home visits, Cold Springs Senior Center, Reno Senior Center, Sparks Senior Center, Sun Valley Senior Center, Gerlach Senior Center, Neil Rd Senior Center. At the Reno Senior Center at 9th Street alone there were about 900 seniors seen. There are 15 medication management clients that are homebound; this is done until they move to a higher level of care. These 15 homebound clients mean that she actually goes to their home and sets all their medication for the day/week. HOPES also provides services for coordinating care or referral to senior services, Medicare counseling (SHIP) and links to finding primary care physicians. Hand out provided by Joti (see attached). Garth Elliot asked about doing a study on how immigrants are using services and how it is affecting the services that are out there for the seniors like the services HOPES does. He explained immigrants are going through Washoe County and using services and they may be depleting funding and services that are available and he said it would be good to know how they are affecting services. Dennis Chin stated he really doesn't believe immigrants have had an impact on depletion of services or funds because a lot of immigrants take care of their own people and you don't see them a lot asking for services. Funding for HOPES comes from indigent funding, can't ask immigration status because of funding. Ken Retterath will revise grant rules, but they don't want to jeopardize the grant, want to follow the grant rules.

**8. \*Strategic Plan and Budget Update – Ken Retterath**

Amber Howell reports there is a bit of a break and stated that in regards to the merger the code changes should be going before the BCC in September. It was also reported that the meal grant was increased by \$90,000. By October a coordinator will be hired, that person will oversee all senior centers and will not only be at the Reno senior center. The coordinator will be a combination of both what Leslie Williams and Grady Tarbutton's positions were. Dennis Chin expressed that it would be preferred if there was someone at Reno Senior Center all the time, not just once or twice a week and expressed it would not be very good if there wasn't a boss at Reno.

**9. Discussion and assignment of Advisory Board liaisons to Senior Services programs and initiatives**

Amber Howell stated the matrix was sent out with seven categories and briefly spoke about each category. Donna Clontz said the Board should get time schedules so they can go to the events and talked about collaboration to know of other events going on for seniors. Donna Clontz also asked to look into department data and Ken Retterath asked about getting state data for seniors.

**10. \*Senior Services / Integration Update-Amber Howell**

Amber Howell reports there will be an 8 page spread about the integration of WC Human Services, release on 9/8. It will give an overview of what it stands for and what they do.

**11. \*Senior Services Program Updates-Amber Howell**

Ken Retterath reports TADS (Temporary Assistance for Displaced Seniors) building may be open by Oct. 1, which is their opening goal. There is also a process going on of de-centralizing of services for seniors. They'd like to see more services provided in other centers so that not everyone has to go to Reno center when they need a service. Community Outreach Coordinator is being sought after, hiring process will start in the near future, they are looking for someone that has PR skills to different areas of expertise and knows people. Dennis Chin stated that he believes Connie McMullen should be the person who should work with the county on doing an annual seminar for people who are becoming seniors to help them on how to go through the process of becoming a senior. Stan expressed her desire to volunteer with the PR person since she has experience in that area. Amber Howell stated that a slice of money will be used for PR and specifically for adult and senior services and not for child services. Marsy Kupfersmith stated she and Donna Clontz along with Wayne Alexander could do outreach with the Regional Collaboration. Donna Clontz complimented Joti Bhakta and the Washoe County Community Resource Guide and she asked if it was possible to make them readily available on the information wall and other areas with seniors. Dennis Chin also suggested putting some of them in the library. Joti stated they will put them out in all the senior centers. Amber Howell stated that the Community Outreach Coordinator will be taking inquiries in because what is happening is that people are searching in the Washoe County Senior Services website and then they end up calling the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline because they are looking to talk to a live person.

**12. \*Senior Issues and Advocacy Forum Update-Donna Clontz**

Donna Clontz stated three candidate forums are being coordinated by Reno Advisory Board and Senior Coalition and she asked about meeting some of the advisory board members at the candidate forum. About two to three are being asked to volunteer from each board to meet and greet and be in charge of time. Marsy Kupfersmith, Wayne Alexander, and Stan Dowdy volunteered; Donna Clontz will be at all of the forums. There will also be training for seniors after elections are over to educate them on how to speak for seniors at different levels of government. Larry Weiss stated that Donna and the troops are doing impactful events; there were about 150 seniors that went to Carson City to the legislature. Donna Clontz handed out the information for the three candidate forums and asked that they are shared with as many people as possible (see attached). Ken Retterath stated Washoe County staff has to sit back on political dealings. February 23 will be Senior Day at the legislature and transportation might be provided by RTC. Marsy Kupfersmith stated the candidate forum for Neil Road Center is filled and she called all candidates for Reno City Council and Reno Judges and of the candidates that have opponents, 5 of the 6 answered and are attending. For Sparks' candidate forum, most of the candidates who are opposed are attending. For the candidate forum at the Renown Offices for Nevada Assembly and Senate, replies are still trickling in.

**13. \*Commission on Aging Update-Connie McMullen**

Connie McMullen not present, no information update.

**14. Agenda Items for the next Joint Board meeting**

City is hosting next joint meeting of the advisory board members. Ken will look into TADS building and see if the joint meeting may occur there. In the meantime, Donna Clontz will schedule at Evelyn Mount Senior Center on Oct 5th, 3pm. Reno will be creating the agenda for the joint meeting. Donna Clontz states she is the chair of the Reno group and Larry Weiss is chair of the county group and usually the two chairs get together and talk about what they want in the agendas. She also stated one of the purposes of a joint meeting is to be informed of an important senior topic and then talk about what they can do as the advisory committees. Joti Bhakta will cancel suicide talker for the October meeting since main focus will be housing and homeless issues. Marsy Kupfersmith and Stan Dowdy have been trying to get CJ Matthew from Nevada Division of Housing because they deal with low and moderate income housing for seniors. Ken Retterath said to let him know if they need help and suggested calling Amy Jones at Reno Housing Authority. TADS building tour will be scheduled for separate tours and the Advisory Board members can attend a tour that works best for them. Ken Retterath explained that TADS building will house 14 displaced seniors and the goal is to have them in the program for 30 days or less. Larry Weiss requested a presentation of TADS to Ken Retterath to be presented in the joint meeting. Dennis Chin asked what city of Reno is doing for temporarily displaced seniors that lived in the torn down motels.

**15. \*Public comment.**

Marsy Kupfersmith introduced Commissioner Herman, a liaison supporter for seniors. Garth Elliot stated that Commissioner Herman helped the senior center at Sun Valley get a grant for \$20K for a new sign. He also stated that Washoe County came up with a new sign law that limits the height of the sign to 6 feet and an electrical sign can be put up if it's in 10 acres or more.

**16. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Garth Elliot and seconded by Dennis Chin. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.