Governor's Council on Food Security
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2014

Meeting Locations (Videoconferenced)
Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way Suite 303, Carson City
Desert Regional Center, 1391 S Jones Boulevard, Las Vegas

Members Present

Sarah Adler
Jim Barbee
Donnell Barton
Dale Erquiaga
Amy Hill
Guy Hillyer
Kevin Hooks (via phone)
Cherie Jamason
Adam Kramer (via phone)
Christy McGill
Dr. Ken Osgood
Kathleen Sandoval
Jodi Tyson
Mark Walker
Mary Wherry for Richard Whitley
Mike Wurm

Members Absent

Wendy Baroli
Mary Liveratti
David Weaver

Also Present
Steve Fisher, Administrator, DHHS, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services
Romaine Gilliland, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Erin Hasty, Office of the Governor
Laurie Olson and Gloria Sulhoff, DHHS Director's Office, Grants Management Unit
Angela Owings, DHHS Director's Office, Office of Food Security

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements.
Council Chair Kathleen Sandoval greeted the members and called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

II. Public Comment
Romaine Gilliland, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, advised the Council of recent changes in the Department. He has appointed Steve Fisher as Administrator of the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). The Office of Food Security (OFS) has moved out of the Grants Management Unit, but remains within the Director's Office. Angela Owings, OFS Coordinator, now reports directly to Mr. Fisher. Mr. Gilliland stated that this move will facilitate collaboration between the OFS and DWSS on projects such as enhancing the SNAP program.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 30, 2014
Ms. Owings stated that the minutes of the previous meeting include the Council's approval of the bylaws, and that once the minutes are approved, the bylaws will also be in effect. She asked the members to review the changes that were made to the bylaws as requested during the last meeting. Mark Walker pointed out some inconsistent language between Article IV, Section G and Article VI, Section B regarding the frequency of meetings. It was agreed to change the verbiage in Article VI B from "not to exceed six meetings per year" to "a minimum of six meetings per year".

Donnell Barton requested a correction to the minutes of the previous meeting. Her report, described on page two under Item VI, third bullet-point, was on the school breakfast and lunch programs, not the summer food program.

- Dr. Ken Osgood motioned to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2014 meeting with the changes as noted above. The motion was seconded by Guy Hillyer and, there being no further comments or discussion, carried unanimously.

IV. Present Council Member Assignments and Workgroup Documents

Ms. Sandoval reviewed the Member Assignments and Workgroups documents that were provided at the meeting. She explained that clarification from the Attorney General's Office resulted in a change in structure from the original subcommittees to workgroups, and now to tasking members with specific fact-finding tasks to include seeking best practices, reviewing policies and legislation, and reviewing systems and procedures for outreach and education. This change will enable the Council to work more effectively without violating Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

V. School Breakfast and Lunch Presentation

Matthew Beltrami, of No Kid Hungry/Share Our Strength, presented a review of best practices identified by his organization to increase participation in school breakfast and lunch programs. Strategies included implementing a "school breakfast challenge"; developing a target list of high-need schools and districts; implementing a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program; pursuing grants to cover start-up and expansion costs; identifying sources for technical assistance through private-public partnerships; conducting a media campaign; obtaining memos or Executive Orders from the Governor and state agencies to encourage adoption and implementation of breakfast programs; and holding a summit to bring together stakeholders to discuss strategies and raise awareness.

Council members discussed the various strategies presented and other topics including Provision 2; identifying the gap between student eligibility and participation; the potential for advocates to assist school principals in determining the cost-effectiveness of CEP; and the availability of advocate training for volunteers. Mr. Beltrami indicated that his organization could provide basic training in order to begin conversations with school principals and food service workers. Donnell Barton indicated she should have participation statistics for September available by November to share with the Council.

VI. Council Vision

<u>Chair's Report</u>

Ms. Sandoval stated that she had assigned fact-finding tasks to several members of the Council on the basis of their professional expertise and thanked them for their efforts to gather the information in a short period of time. Each will make their presentation, which will be followed by a question and answer period. The group will then come up with a list of next steps to move forward.

<u>Council Member Reports</u>

1. Legislation (Dale Erquiaga). Erin Hasty, Policy Analyst with the Office of the Governor, reviewed the Breakfast Legislation Report that was provided in the handouts. Dale Erquiaga added the following comments:
    - "Breakfast After the Bell" would be a good place to start. Previous discussions about this program identified fiscal issues, lost instruction time, and the concern of insects and rodents in the classroom as key barriers to implementation.
    - Reporting requirements would be the least painful to implement because the schools already provide statistics for The Nevada Report Card. If participation rates were added to the reporting requirements, he feels certain participation would increase.

- Requiring wraparound services would present a hurdle overcoming fiscal; however, some schools in poverty areas already provide these services.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) launched a Hunger Partnership to bring public and private sectors together in providing nutrition assistance to those in need. Nevada Senator Debbie Smith (District 13) chairs the NCSL and could be a champion for the Council's work.
- Any bill requests should be developed and sent to the Governor and Legislature by November.

Next Steps: Review comments from Council members, look at 2015 options, and provide a menu of potential bill drafts for the Council's review in November.

- Motion to accept next steps as outlined: Jim Barbee
- Seconded by Dr. Osgood
- Carried unopposed

2. Outreach (Cherie Jamason). Ms. Jamason reviewed her findings as included in the Policy Options for Improvement of School Breakfast/Lunch Participation document. She noted the following:
   - Utilizing Provision 2 or CEP would eliminate the stigma associated with applying for free/reduced cost programs and lead to a general increase in participation.
   - Loss of instructional time is a barrier to implementing Breakfast in the Classroom. Routine tasks such as roll call and morning announcements could be conducted during this time when children are eating breakfast.
   - Smaller school districts and those in rural areas are challenged with higher food costs in addition to the higher costs when purchasing in smaller quantities.
   - Ms. Jamason provided several handouts including a "state of the state" profile of hunger, poverty and federal nutrition programs in Nevada and policy recommendations from the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC); 2015 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Priorities from Feeding America; a basic family budget vs poverty threshold comparison sheet for Nevada localities (Carson City, Reno/Sparks, Las Vegas, and Rural Nevada) compiled by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada; and a Basic Family Budgets briefing paper from the Economic Policy Institute.

   Council discussion included the suggestion of peer parent advocates to engage the community. Jodi Tyson explained Three Square's backpack weekend food program and how they educate school counselors, and work with families to complete the SNAP application.

   Next Steps: Jim Barbee sees lack of information to principals and schools as a barrier. He volunteered to provide a digital media training video for counselors and parents. Mr. Erquiaga indicated that there is a licensure renewal requirement for teachers and counselors, and he could propose the inclusion of educational materials to the Commission on Professional Standards. Ms. Jamason added adapting policies in the rural areas to increase breakfast/lunch participation. Mary Wherry suggested creating models for schools to adopt. Ms. Sandoval added the task of investigating whether these need to be formalized policies.

   - Motion to approve next steps as outlined: Dale Erquiaga
   - Seconded by Guy Hillyer
   - Carried unopposed

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3. Outreach (Jodi Tyson). Ms. Tyson noted that Mr. Beltrami from Share Our Strength did a thorough job of covering outreach. She has sent a list of recommended strategies to certain community members and Council members for review. A teleconference will be scheduled within the next two weeks to flesh those out and she will report back to the Council in November. She added that outreach requires a twofold approach, both to stakeholders within the school system and to students and parents. A question was raised on how to reach families who lose their eligibility for benefits once they acquire work or a better-paying job, but remain in need of assistance. Ms. Tyson stated she would add that to her list for outreach ideas.

   Next Steps: No additional tasks assigned; no vote required.

4. Education (Darnell Barton). Ms. Barton reviewed her handout, School Breakfast and Lunch Education/Promotion, which included results of the California Project LEAN describing why parents participate, what motivates them to get involved, barriers to parent participation, and optimal methods of communicating with parents. Connecticut's Best Practices in Education" included having a clear and common focus; develop high standards and expectations; have strong school leadership; develop supportive environments; foster parent/community involvement; monitor accountability and assessment; encourage nutrition education at all levels in a clear and consistent message; provide professional development for school staff; flexibility in schedules to maximize the use of time.

   Council discussion included engaging the Governor in challenges in the schools and providing incentives for parents to get involved; involving youth in their schools; the importance of delivering a consistent message and education among all sectors, including nonprofits.

   Next Steps: Implement a "School Breakfast Challenge"; work with Mr. Erquiaga on alternate ways to earn CEUs on nutrition education; utilize the Dept. of Agriculture's Public Information Officer to develop promotion campaigns; ensure a consistent nutrition message among all agencies; engage businesses and the Chambers to adopt/endorse flex time policies to allow employees to spend time in the schools with their children.
   - Motion to approve next steps as outlined: Sarah Adler
   - Seconded by Jim Barbee
   - Carried unopposed

5. Best Practices (Christy McGill). Ms. McGill stated that most of her information had already been discussed, and that Mr. Beltrami's presentation laid-out the evidence-based practices and programs and evidence-based strategies nicely. While evidence-based programs may be a component of the Council's work, evidence-based strategies are important to show behavior change. Research has shown the importance of using multiple strategies in achieving your goal. By including all the strategies together, education, outreach, policy change, and legislative change, you achieve the greatest impact;

   Next steps: Ensure strategies are evidence-based and continue to monitor that; and don't be linear, juggle all the balls and roll it all out together, the multiple task list, for best success.

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Ms. Owings volunteered to review the next steps that were tasked during the meeting and measure them against the Food Security Strategic Plan, identify pieces being addressed and what's missing, and provide her evaluation to Council members at their next meeting.

After discussing logistics of communicating between members without violating the State's Open Meeting Laws, it was decided that Council members would send their correspondence, questions and documents to Ms. Owings, who could redistribute it among all the members. Ms. McGill suggested creating an Action Plan to track progress among the individual Council members and plan timeframes for future projects. Ms. Sandoval agreed that was something Ms. Owings could do.

VII. Public Comment

Paula Berkley, a lobbyist for the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, offered several comments, these topics having been a part of her efforts for the last six legislative sessions.

- Ms. Berkley is in support of performance measures, and would like to see them developed for all the federal nutrition programs. She noted that the Food Strategic Plan also calls for performance measures.
- Instructional time was included in the bill draft two years ago but was the piece that caused the bill to fail; she suggested implementing the change through school policy, citing the Superintendent in California, who included breakfast in the classroom in the definition of instructional time.
- The Community Eligibility pilot program two years ago increased participation by 28% for breakfast and 27% for lunch, and revenue increased as more kids were fed. CEP also helps reach those kids who never qualified before. Direct certification is a numbers game with SNAP, TANIF, homeless and foster kids, and you come up short if you don't count all the numbers.
- Ms. Berkley recommends defining the school breakfast bill depending on what the school is attempting to do; the same program may not work for all areas because they don't have the volume of students. For those schools that don't have the numbers but still have hungry kids, a "cents per meal" subsidy would be a benefit, especially in the rural areas.
- As schools update their wellness policy, there is the opportunity to integrate our ideas and create synergism. Communicate with parents more than once a year. Include school meal information in the new parent packets, and communicate more often, not just once a year.

VIII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Ms. Sandoval polled the members for their availability to attend the next regularly scheduled Council meeting on November 25, which is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It was determined that, among the members present, availability would be sufficient to reach a quorum.

There being no further business, Ms. Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 4:09 PM.

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