



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL (via teleconference), GALATI, MOZDEAN, DRUMM (via teleconference, excused at 2:30 p.m.) and WILLIAMS

EXCUSED: MEMBER PATTARETTU

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAL, Assistant City Attorney, and CHEYENNE LARANCE, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2022

Motion made by Yvette Weinstein Hall to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Vito Galati, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Caroline Mozdean, Tim Williams, Jennifer Drumm; Excused-Elizabeth Pattarettu;

5. Presentation of the Senior Recognition Award to Dr. Chad Kingsley, Southern Nevada Health District, and Cassandra Lewis, Recreation Coordinator, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, for their outstanding service to the senior community

Minutes:

CASSANDRA LEWIS introduced herself as the Recreation Coordinator for the Doolittle Active Adult Center. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and offer a variety of programs. She enjoys every moment with the seniors, and she thanked the Board for the recognition.

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, acknowledged MS. LEWIS' commitment and passion for seniors. She goes above and beyond her duties to make sure seniors have their needs addressed, even for situations that are outside the realm of parks and recreation.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recalled seeing MS. LEWIS every time she visited Doolittle, and commented on how active the seniors are there. She asked MS. LEWIS how long she has been there, to which she said 11 years at the center, but she has been with the City since 1993 as a full-time staff member. Doolittle is a family, and when people come to the door, they try to know who they are and make sure they are served well.

MEMBER MOZDEAN thanked MS. LEWIS for encouraging the new programming at the senior center in Ward 6. She has shared Doolittle's calendar with the local seniors, and she reminded everyone that seniors are welcome at any of the centers.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced that DR. CHAD KINGSLEY, Southern Nevada Health District, has relocated to Arizona. He was an amazing support to seniors across the Valley during the pandemic, and she will make sure he receives his certificate.

6. Presentation by Melanie Knepp and Elizabeth McCurdy, Community Outreach Coordinators, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Adult Protective Services, regarding elder abuse

Minutes:

Using a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, ELIZABETH MCCURDY, Social Service Manager, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD), Adult Protective Services (APS), said APS's mission statement is to assist vulnerable adults, ages 18 to 59, in addition to persons 60 and older who are abused, neglected, exploited, isolated or abandoned by investigating, providing or arranging for services to alleviate and prevent further maltreatment while safeguarding their civil liberties. They have four offices in Nevada located in Reno, Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas. Their hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; however, a third party answers after-hours calls and will refer them to law enforcement if necessary.

Types of vulnerable adult abuse include: abandonment, abuse (physical, psychological or sexual), neglect, exploitation, isolation, and self-neglect. In Nevada, an 'older' person is defined as a person 60 years of age or older. A 'vulnerable' person is defined as a person 18 years of age or older who: suffers from a condition of physical or mental incapacitation because of a developmental disability, organic brain damage or mental illness, or has one or more physical or mental limitations that restrict the ability of the person to perform the normal activities of daily living. MS. McCURDY said the abandonment allegation type was added on October 1, 2015, and it is defined as the desertion of an older or vulnerable person in an unsafe manner by a caregiver or other person with a legal duty of care; or withdrawal of necessary assistance owed to the older person or vulnerable person by a caregiver or other person with an obligation to provide services to the older or vulnerable person. Many times, these cases turn into an educational opportunity for families.

Abuse is the willful infliction of pain or injury on an older person or a vulnerable person; deprivation of food, shelter, clothing or services which are necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of an older or vulnerable person; infliction of psychological or emotional anguish, pain or distress; non-consensual sexual contact; or permitting any of the acts described. MS. McCURDY said although her staff are not experts, they have been trained to look for anything unexplained as it relates to physical abuse and physical or chemical restraints. She said psychological abuse is very damaging, and APS takes every opportunity to see the client alone and make sure they feel safe speaking about the allegation(s). As social workers, APS does not investigate the actual allegation of sexual abuse, but they will get law enforcement involved as soon as possible. There is often a communication issue with the vulnerable adult populations, and APS does not have specifically-trained interviewers on staff; however, they are learning how to better serve the population and ensure victims are not re-traumatized.

Neglect is the failure of a person or manager of a facility who has assumed legal responsibility or a contractual obligation for caring for an older or vulnerable person, or who has voluntarily assumed responsibility to provide food, shelter, clothing or services which are necessary to maintain the physical or mental health of the person. MS. McCURDY said neglect is not always intentional, and APS hopes to see these cases early to get support to the caregiver. As a special consideration, she said older and vulnerable persons can be highly susceptible to

weather extremes for many reasons including chronic health conditions, medications and metabolic change. They may be unable to express their needs in response to the weather, which leaves them at high risk of dehydration, hypothermia and death. Self-neglect is the most reported allegation, and it is defined as the failure of an older or vulnerable person to provide for his or her own needs because of an inability to do so. This is not a crime, as the person has the right to make their own choices unless a judge declared the individual incompetent. If somebody may need guardianship, APS thoroughly discusses the case with the Deputy Attorney General and their disability advocacy attorney. She further noted that they can only assess what they see; however, if they see the client is unkempt or witness potential hoarding, staff will try harder to connect the client with services.

Exploitation is any act taken by a person who has the trust and confidence of an older or vulnerable person, or any use of the power of attorney or guardianship, to obtain control or convert assets through deception, intimidation, or undue influence with the intention of permanently depriving the person of their ownership, use, benefit or possession of their assets. In relation, undue influence is the improper use of power or trust in a way that deprives a person of his or her free will. This does not include the normal influence that one member of a family has over another. MS. McCURDY has seen many cases of individuals who know they are being exploited, but they do not feel comfortable taking any action. She said APS will work with these clients and figure out how to alleviate the situation.

Isolation is preventing an older or vulnerable person from having contact with another person by physically restraining and/or intentionally preventing the person from receiving visitors, mail and phone calls, or knowingly providing a false statement contrary to the wishes of the person with the intent to prevent visitors and callers. MS. McCURDY clarified that this does not include an act intended to protect the property, physical and/or mental welfare of the person or an act pursuant to the instructions of a physician.

The following were listed as signs of vulnerable adult abuse: inadequately explained bruises, cuts or burns; dehydration or malnutrition; overly medicated or extremely sedated; unusual confinement; or lack of cleanliness/grooming. She also noted that bed rails can be a safety risk if someone does not know how to maneuver around them. Those being abused may exhibit the following behaviors: fear of speaking for oneself in the presence of the caretaker; anxious to please; anxiety, confusion, withdrawal or depression; shame, fear or embarrassment; sudden change in financial activity; or unusual cash withdrawals. Further, characteristics of abusive caretakers may include: threatening remarks or behaviors; conflicting stories; insults and aggressive behavior; withholding of attention, security and affection; attitude of indifference or anger toward the vulnerable adult in their care; unusual fatigue or depression; obvious absence of assistance or attendance; or a history of abusive family behavior.

MS. McCURDY said persons over 80 years of age are two to three times more likely to be abused, and they are likely to have dementia or cognitive impairment. Sixty percent of reports are female victims, and 40 percent are male victims. Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities are more likely to be victims of a crime as opposed to a perpetrator of a crime. Additionally, more than 90 percent of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives. She stressed that non-verbal does not mean non-communicative, and her staff is constantly learning new methods of communicating with their disabled clients. She also explained that a victim may deny the reported abuse and put up barriers to assistance because they are: ashamed that their children or caretaker have mistreated them; dependent on the abuser; fearful of being sent to a nursing home or being taken away; worried that if the abuser is taken away, they will be alone; or fearful of retaliation.

Stopping the abuse starts by making a report. There were approximately 16,000 intakes last fiscal year, which resulted in 8,300 opened cases. Just last month, 834 cases were opened in Nevada. MS. McCURDY said this proves that more people are becoming aware of APS, and she added that they have received federal funding to enact public service announcements (PSAs). Case investigations are opened and assigned to an APS worker based on the allegation, who then provide intervention steps to assist clients, and may refer cases to law enforcement based on their findings. Subsequently, law enforcement may investigate and refer the case to the District Attorney for possible prosecution.

A mandatory reporter is someone who is required by Nevada law to notify a particular state or local agency when the person, in his/her professional or occupational capacity, knows or has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being abandoned, abused, exploited, isolated or neglected. Reports should be made

immediately or within 24 hours, and failure to report is a misdemeanor punishable by law up to six months in jail and/or a fine of \$1,000. The report must contain the name and address of the vulnerable adult, the name and address of the person responsible for his or her care, and the name and address of the person who is alleged to have abandoned, abused, neglected, exploited or isolated the vulnerable adult. Further, the report should contain the nature and extent of the abuse and any evidence of previous injuries. MS. McCURDY said potential abuse is not reportable, and the reporter must state the reasons and/or facts that lead them to believe abuse has occurred.

In closing, MS. McCURDY said 702-486-6930 is their direct intake line, their 211 landing page has been revamped, and APS will have an online reporting system soon.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON pointed out that if someone is not speaking up about their abuse, there is not much that can be done. MS. McCURDY added that in these cases, they try to help the individual create a safety plan; however, they will call 911 if the abuse is apparent. Sometimes it takes several meetings to build a relationship with the client and get them to accept assistance.

MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL was glad to hear that APS is training their caseworkers on questioning victims, and she said the National Center on Law and Elder Abuse is a great resource. She also stressed that trust is another important factor in working with victims, and she thanked MS. McCURDY for her work. MS. McCURDY said they do have an allocation for training, and they understand the importance of learning how to interview properly.

MEMBER GALATI wished there was more funding to help make the public aware of APS, such as advertising on public transportation, because many people do not know who to call for help. MS. McCURDY agreed, and said only one in 24 cases is reported. APS recently installed a billboard on West Sahara Avenue, and they plan to install more. In the meantime, they will attend outreach events and visit community centers to get the word out. They also have a presence on social media, and MEMBER GALATI suggested Nextdoor as another media outlet to post PSAs. He asked if the Board could do anything to help, and MS. McCURDY said the Board should make them aware of any outreach events so they can have a presence.

MEMBER WILLIAMS asked what percentage of the 16,000 intakes were for the elder population, and MS. McCURDY said 14 percent of all reports are for vulnerable adults. Every report is addressed, and reporting parties will be reached by APS to be advised of the status of their report. MEMBER WILLIAMS gathered that 86 percent of reports are for seniors, which equates to 66 cases per day. He congratulated APS on their recent opioid grant, and he wondered if they were funded strictly through grants and if MS. McCURDY felt they were receiving all of the resources that her staff needs. MS. McCURDY said most of their money comes from grants and State general funds. She indicated they do have enough training resources and emergency funds; however, there are not enough social workers. They are trying to be creative without getting away from their core value of having licensed social workers conduct the investigations. MEMBER WILLIAMS asked where intake information was coming from for the homeless population, and if they experience a different kind of vulnerability. MS. McCURDY said the biggest problem is locating and accessing the clients within this population. APS will do the best they can, but they face a lot of barriers in finding resources the homeless individual will accept. Further, she indicated that many homeless individuals have money, but they struggle with obtaining legal documents and get scammed by people operating illegal group homes.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked MS. McCURDY for the presentation and her great work for the senior population. She also expressed the importance of grassroots-level outreach because many seniors are not on social media, and she encouraged the Board members to share MS. McCURDY'S number and e-mail address. MS. McCURDY acknowledged her staff, who were working in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve their clients. She is proud of the agency and how they continue to serve the population.

The Board confirmed through GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation would be shared via e-mail.

7. Report by Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I, Department of Neighborhood Services, regarding senior issues received by the Department of Neighborhood Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, Department of Neighborhood Services, announced that the Office of Community Services is now the Department of Neighborhood Services, and Senior Services has transitioned to Health and Wellness Initiatives. He hoped to expand case-by-case referrals to seniors on a greater scope, and he will report back to the Board as soon as more information is made available.

8. Report by Board members regarding senior issues and events within their Council wards and at large – All Wards

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER WILLIAMS did not have anything to report. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON welcomed him to the Board.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI announced that COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN was re-elected, and he is honored to continue serving as well. He and the Councilwoman met with ELIZABETH GALLAGHER from the City Impact Foundation, and he suggested that they present at an upcoming meeting. Additionally, he spoke of his local neighborhood watch program, and he urged others to attend their respective meetings and disseminate the information to constituents.

Ward 2 – MEMBER WEINSTEIN HALL reported that COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN'S Breakfast Buzz will be held on September 10th at Hash House a Go Go. She said Art in the Park at Bruce Trent Park is coming up, which is a very popular event for seniors. She was recently out of the country visiting Iceland and Norway, and she observed the wonderful coordination between seniors and young people.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said she has been out with COUNCILWOMAN OLIVIA DIAZ holding monthly meetings in various senior communities. Specifically, they have been working with SHANE GAMMON, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, to spread information about the Vial of Life program. She briefly described the program, and said MR. GAMMON would be happy to meet with the Board to discuss further.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON reported that she is assisting in situations that relate to housing and elder abuse, and she has been disseminating as much information as possible. She spoke about NV Energy's senior assistance program, and an informational flyer was submitted and attached as backup. The Chair encouraged the public to reach out to the Board if anybody is in need of locating resources. In Ward 4, a memorial for the victims of 9/11 will be held at Police Memorial Park on September 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and their Movie in the Park event featuring *The Lost City* will be on September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN was happy to be back, as she spent most of the summer in New York. She has been reminding seniors of AARP's (American Association of Retired Persons) internet discount. Further, she has been meeting with the two candidates for the Ward 6 Council seat, and she hopes to get them together for a discussion to encourage seniors to vote and assist them in their decision. She was contacted by a woman about the lack of trees and care at Polly Gonzalez Memorial Park, which is a morning gathering place for seniors. ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAC said he will pass that information on to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON encouraged the public to attend these meetings and stay in contact with their Board representative so they can assure their concerns are brought to the appropriate departments.

See Item 9 for related discussion.

9. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and whether such proposed items shall be placed on a future agenda. No discussion regarding the substance of any such proposed topic shall occur and no action shall be taken.

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she and GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, are working with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) on a presentation.

Dialogue took place between MEMBER MOZDEAN, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK and MR. GRAY regarding the Senior Recognition Award. MEMBER MOZDEAN wondered if the parameters should be expanded or separated to recognize individuals who are not affiliated with the City. MR. GRAY and MR. DOROCAK felt that the parameters did not need to change, as the Board members have had the opportunity to nominate and recognize any person or group who has exhibited outstanding service to the senior community, regardless of affiliation. The Board then votes on the nominee(s) based on their own parameters and discretion. MR. GRAY also noted that CASSANDRA LEWIS, who was nominated by a previous Board member, has been the only City employee to receive the award thus far. The Chair recalled a discussion surrounding a potential nominee from MEMBER MOZDEAN, and she encouraged her to present it again at the next meeting. Further, she requested that the Board discuss how often they want to present the award, along with how many awards should be presented each time.

MR. DOROCAK reiterated MEMBER DRUMM'S comments from Item 8 surrounding the Vial of Life program and a potential presentation from Las Vegas Fire and Rescue.

10. **Citizens Participation:** Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Board. No subject may be acted upon by the Board unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting would be held on October 6, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Management Analyst I

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor