



Senior Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON and MEMBERS PERAZZO, MOZDEAN, BIENENSTEIN and DRUMM

EXCUSED: MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL, PATTARETTU and GALATI

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, JULIE PEACOCK, AmeriCorps VISTA, JEFF DOROCAR, Deputy 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 State of Nevada Executive Department Declaration of Emergency Directive 006: 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 July 2, 2020

Motion made by Kathleen Bienenstein to Approve

Passed For: 5; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 3

For-Kathleen Bienenstein, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, John Perazzo, Caroline Mozdean, Jennifer Drumm;
Excused-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Elizabeth Pattarettu, Vito Galati;

5. Presentation by Dr. Chad Kingsley, Regional Trauma Coordinator, Southern Nevada Health District, regarding COVID-19 – All Wards

Minutes:

DR. CHAD KINGSLEY, Regional Trauma Coordinator, Southern Nevada Health District, said since the pandemic started, he is also acting as the Incident Command Liaison for the Valley. Since March, the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has been actively engaged in the COVID-19 response in Clark County. Currently, it continues to be a day-by-day response because information is always changing and evolving. He said COVID-19 is a novel virus from the coronavirus family, and it is transmitted through droplets. Common symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, and loss of taste or smell. More recent symptoms include: nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, headache and sore throat. Much of their knowledge comes from treating patients, and although some of their responses are not the best practice, they are the best way to treat the virus at this time. He noted that COVID-19 symptoms are similar to many other diseases, which has created problems and confusion in many communities. From the beginning of the pandemic, testing and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) were challenging to obtain because many of the resources are shipped in from other countries. At different times, SNHD experienced difficulty in obtaining various testing resources. They were able to get stabilized in May and

June, but they are now experiencing more difficulties. At this time, SNHD is still able to test and target any vulnerable populations within the community.

DR. KINGSLEY said efforts are being made to provide for contact tracing, and SNHD went from employing four tracers to 100 tracers, which will provide more stability in the community. He advised that most test results are returned in 24 to 48 hours for a positive case, and 10 days for a negative case. Currently, the SNHD is focused on training private and charter schools that are resuming their operations within weeks. They also plan to deploy additional strike teams in vulnerable communities amongst the Latino, African American and senior populations. Capacity in hospitals continues to hover between 60 and 80 percent, and the highest infection rate are among those between 20 and 50 years of age. A vaccination is in the works with November being the earliest completion date, but DR. KINGSLEY opined that a vaccine will not be available until early 2021. Until a viable vaccine is created, everyone should utilize other methods of mitigation such as wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what type of assistance is available within senior communities, and DR. KINGSLEY said many facilities are experiencing a shortage of nurses. As a response, Clark County stands ready to deploy strike teams to test the staff and senior residents if there is an outbreak at a facility. Until then, the County and State are continuing to address those shortages. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she knows of a lot of people in the senior industry that are willing to be on a task force once one is formed. DR. KINGSLEY said although many people are willing to volunteer their time, there is a concern that those volunteers are being put at risk of contracting COVID-19. As a response, SNHD is looking for ways people can volunteer virtually. Lastly, CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON asked what is needed to support the SNHD, and DR. KINGSLEY said individuals could help the community by communicating their wealth of knowledge and experience along with being an advocate for seniors. He invited the Board members to volunteer their time for a weekly call that takes place between senior centers and the State. He also promoted the use of social media and encouraging others to wear masks, practice social distancing, and have patience.

DR. KINGSLEY referenced questions submitted to him ahead of time by MEMBER PERAZZO, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup, and spoke of a shortage of antibiotics. He said while SNHD has seen some shortages of medications, there is a strategic national stockpile of antibiotics that has not been tapped in to yet. MEMBER PERAZZO inquired about a Capacity-Building Toolkit, and DR. KINGSLEY said it is a course that teaches about incident commands and how to respond to emergencies; therefore, the Board members should pursue this education if they feel the need to learn more about emergency response. Lastly, DR. KINGSLEY spoke of the ways in which seniors isolating during the pandemic has affected overall data. He said there is not much concrete data on how effective these measures have been because this is a new virus, but he believed that these efforts lowered the number of positive cases and deaths. Although everyone wants answers on how to respond to this pandemic, it will take years to understand. Once a vaccine is developed, more data can be put together that will support future mitigation and response efforts.

MEMBER MOZDEAN spoke of a machine that sanitized people as they reported to work, and asked if the SNHD was supporting this use. DR. KINGSLEY said the SNHD is not involved in any private business ventures, and they are behind on technology because they are focusing on testing and responding to the public health crisis. Further, Nevada is short on funding, and COVID-19 has exposed many other problems in society and the economy. He said many of the resort hotels have a body temperature scanner, and the SNHD also utilizes this technology. He clarified that the funds in their budget pay for the response aspect, and they do not have the funds to provide technology for the entire city. The SNHD encourages any new technology that is proven to work, and that also adhere to CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines. DR. KINGSLEY also noted that the SNHD must be cautious to not promote things from the private sector, as they may be sued for promoting one business and not the other.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said many senior facilities have sought in-house testing. She wondered if those results are being reported back to the SNHD in a timely fashion, and asked if facilities can use outside testing. DR. KINGSLEY said due to delays, strike teams were deployed to assist with outside testing. Additionally, Clark County has partnered with UMC (University Medical Center) to target any outbreaks at senior facilities, and results are received in a timely matter.

MEMBER PERAZZO spoke of data quality and asked DR. KINGSLEY to speak to the integrity of the data in Nevada. DR. KINGSLEY opined that the data is very sound. There is always a margin of error in data, but it still has integrity. There are challenges communicating with the State at times, but a new program is coming that will

provide the data to the State first before it comes back to the SNHD. He also clarified that nobody has directly told him that they were never tested but received a positive case result.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON expressed her gratitude to DR. KINGLSEY and thanked him for all of his efforts and time. DR. KINGLSEY said the Board members could e-mail him at any time with questions.

6. Report by Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician, Office of Community Services, regarding senior issues received by the Office of Community Services – All Wards

Minutes:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, said his office is still receiving calls from seniors that need assistance. There is a delay in the flow of information, services and resources for seniors due to COVID-19, and his office is asking seniors to be patient. They are also working on alternatives to senior programming, including the use of digital methods, and said he would have an update at a later meeting. Lastly, he is drafting a more solution-oriented senior project, and he will keep the Board apprised on its progress.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN is still making sure people are getting what they need during isolation, such as food and water, and checking on their overall well-being. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON commended COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN for his efforts, and said she had seen him assisting community members.

Ward 3 – MEMBER DRUMM said she had been updating herself on the services available to seniors. She said COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ is working in the community, and she expressed her concern for the mental health of seniors and wants to know how she can help.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON has been attending a lot of virtual events on senior issues to keep herself abreast with local and national agencies that can offer assistance. She has been getting calls and e-mails from people who are having a number of issues, and she feels overwhelmed at times. Although she does her best to connect them with services, many agencies are at capacity. She hoped for better communication between agencies and seniors so nobody is forgotten. The Chair spoke of the number of healthcare workers who are working tireless hours and reusing their PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). She had been reaching out to places that may help with quarantine and isolation services, and wants to be proactive in her approach. She has lost many of her senior friends, even those who had been isolating; therefore, she said it is important to continue reminding people about mitigation and safe practices. Lastly, she asked that everyone complete the Census in order for Nevada to receive the funding it needs.

Ward 5 – MEMBER PERAZZO went back to work in June, and his employer is very diligent in sanitation and safety practices. The casino he works at is never busy, and the primary clientele is from Hawaii. His employment status had changed to part-time, and he remains on-call. He spoke of graphs with COVID-19 data, and said various zip codes are more affected by the virus than others. MEMBER PERAZZO said he was in contact with the Census Bureau, and he discovered that the City uses American Community Survey data. He asked MEMBER DRUMM how much technology is available in Ward 3, who said it is very limited. MEMBER PERAZZO said he would like to encourage story-telling, and said data often comes from stories. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she is putting together a report on stories from individuals in the senior industry, and suggested that people should remain anonymous if they want to. MEMBER PERAZZO said he is working with a senior that lets him record his story, but the technology he is using is not always the most accurate.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN said she often sees seniors who wander by the senior center in hopes it is open, and she lets them know to continue being safe and patient. She had been utilizing e-cards to reconnect with friends outside of the state, and wondered if the Board could use this format to reach out to seniors they had previously been in contact with, to which DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK said this would be permissible. She asked if the e-card can be from the entire Board, and MR. DOROCAK said it should be from "Caroline Mozdean, Member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board". Speaking to the possibility of voting by mail this year, MEMBER MOZDEAN asked how they can help seniors with this task, and CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON wondered as well. MR. DOROCAK said this may be a good topic for a Subcommittee meeting, and said someone from the County Election Department may be able to expand on that topic.

8. Discussion regarding topics for future agenda items of the Board's Senior Living and Senior Outreach Subcommittees. Comments made during this portion of the agenda by individual members must refer solely to proposals for future Subcommittee agenda items and any discussion must be limited to whether or not such proposed items are within the purview of the Board and its Subcommittees 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:

GREGORY GRAY, Community Program Technician, clarified that all Subcommittee meetings are on hiatus until further notice; therefore, any suggestions would be for the next Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting.

MEMBER PERAZZO said he would like to focus on election integrity and how the Board can help in that realm. Additionally, he spoke of an incident where a Mulberry Tree connected with an electrical wire, and the Fire Department could not find his address. Afterwards, he was able to obtain a copy of the report and it had the wrong address. He would like to have someone from the Fire Department come speak to reassure the Board that the quality of their work remains the same despite their budget shortfalls.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON would like to discuss giving out awards to the senior workers in each ward and acknowledge their hard work. Lastly, she wanted to have more discussion about utilizing e-cards.

9. **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:

ALFREDO TORRES, CaptionCall, explained they offer free phone captioning services for those with hearing impairments. Their phone will display easy to read, large text, and he thought this service is important to the senior community especially during this time. He has been utilizing social media to continue spreading information about their services, and he thanked MEMBER PERAZZO for reaching out to him.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON thanked MR. TORRES, and agreed that this service is vital to seniors, especially those who are isolating.

MEMBER PERAZZO thanked MR. TORRES, and asked for his contact information.

MEMBER BIENENSTEIN said many individuals within her senior living complex have taken advantage of this. MR. TORRES clarified that internet is no longer needed for this service, and provided his contact information of 702-337-5270 and atorres2@captioncall.com.

10. **Adjournment**

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON announced the next Senior Citizen Advisory Board meeting would be held on September 3, 2020, and there would be no Subcommittee meetings until further notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

Gregory Gray, Community Program Technician

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE OF NEVADA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DIRECTIVE 006

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
and
The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov