



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 PATTARETTU, GALATI, MOZDEAN, LEE, and GRAHAM

EXCUSED: MEMBERS WEINSTEIN HALL and DRUMM

ALSO PRESENT: GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, JEFF DOROCAK, City Attorney, CHEYENNE LARANCE, Senior Deputy City Clerk, and VANESSA CHAVEZ-HOLMAN, 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 October 5, 2023

Motion made by Caroline Mozdean to Approve

Passed For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 2

For-Elizabeth Pattarettu, Deanne O'Rear-Cameron, Vito Galati, Caroline Mozdean, Charles Lee, Nicole Graham; Excused-Yvette Weinstein Hall, Jennifer Drumm;

5. Presentation by Senior Medicare Patrol regarding health literacy for seniors

Minutes:

MARIA REID, Benefits Counselor and Outreach Coordinator for the Medicare Assistance Program of Nevada, shared that the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), Nevada Senior Medicare Patrol, and Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act (MIPPA) merged three years ago. Now they all fall under the Medicare Assistance Program (MAP), and their office supports both northern and southern Nevada. In hopes of the Board gaining a better understanding of the program, MS. REID went on to explain the benefits of MAP. She stated the eligible enrollment age for Medicare assistance is 65 years old; however, enrollment can

be delayed, with no penalty or late fee, if you or your spouse still have coverage through an employer. There are two options available when you enroll for Medicare coverage. The first option is known as the original or traditional Medicare plan. The second option is one of the Medicare Advantage Plans. The state of Nevada provides over 40 different Medicare Advantage Plans. The biggest difference between the two options is that original Medicare follows you out of state, and Medicare Advantage Plans are restricted within the networks of Clark County. Changes can be made to any plan during open enrollment as well as the month of and following your birthday; however, if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, there is a second opportunity to make a change starting January 1st through March 31st of each year. She added that some members are eligible for the supplement Medicare plan, Medigap, which covers the remaining 20 percent of medical expenses that Medicare does not. Additionally, MS. REID wanted to make the Board aware that Medicare scammers are very prevalent, and she stated that Medicare never calls beneficiaries to confirm their member ID number. She added that not all billing errors are fraudulent, and sometimes it is simply an administrative error that can be corrected by contacting the provider. She noted that in order to help mitigate billing errors, it is important for Medicare members to submit claims to all of their health insurance companies. She reported a recent increase of phone calls regarding transportation assistance and dental coverage. The original Medicare does not cover dental expenses, but there are available resources that can help, and new information is always being gathered as the data base continues to grow.

Further, MS. REID included that the cost of co-pays are not only different depending on the Medicare Advantage Plan, but also the pharmacy filling your prescriptions. She advised that those reviewing the different types of plans should list the prescriptions they take regularly in order to get an accurate estimate of the plan's costs. She also suggested purchasing through GoodRX or SingleCare as another way to save money.

MEMBER GALATI noted there were several seniors that did not know this information, and he inquired as to how they spread the information. He also wondered if MS. REID knew whether doctors were receptive to sharing this information. MS. REID reported that they often present at libraries, senior centers and health fairs throughout the city. She stated she was unaware of a doctor's willingness to share the information, but she did hear from a Medicare member that a MAP representative was in a doctors lobby providing information. She added that they are part of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and have several volunteers assisting them in their efforts to spread information. MEMBER GALATI suggested obtaining a fund for multimedia advertising.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she has helped many seniors avoid the wrong plan, and she opined that what MS. REID does is understated due to the market being drowned out with all the different types of advantage plans. The Chair wondered if enrollment periods are for specific conditions and whether a beneficiary could reach out to her department for clarity on billing. MS. REID clarified that any member can switch plans without a specific reason during the allotted enrollment period. She offered to assist anyone who calls requesting assistance in understanding a bill, as well as submitting appeals for claim denials.

For MEMBER PATTARETTU, MS. REID confirmed that if you have a Medicare Advantage Plan you can switch back to original Medicare during open enrollment; however, it is only with original Medicare that you are able to enroll in a Medigap Plan. She noted that the application goes to underwriting if it is not during the initial eligibility period.

MEMBER LEE shared that his wife is covered with health insurance he has under his employer, and asked if she could opt out of her current Medicare plan. MS. REID suggested MEMBER LEE give her a call to provide all the information and steps necessary to start the process.

MEMBER GALATI noticed that it appears the prescriptions listed on a Medicare member's account can be replaced with premium medication if specific words are selected, and he wondered if this is something that MS. REID could confirm. MS. REID stated this would be a question for a beneficiary's physician; however, she reiterated purchasing through GoodRX or SingleCare could help save money. MEMBER MOZDEAN added that asking for a written prescription from your doctor could make looking for cost effective medications easier.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said that she uses GoodRX, and she liked the way pharmacies are listed with different prices for each prescription. The Chair thanked MS. REID for all she has learned through the organization, without which she would not have been able to help as many seniors through their own unique and complicated experiences. She opined that the doctors are the front line for patient questions and concerns, and if those doctors are not willing to help then you need to find out why and demand the help you deserve.

In response to MEMBER GALATI'S question regarding the GoodRX, MS. REID confirmed that it is separate from Medicare.

MEMBER PATTARETTU inquired about the financial assistance programs available through MAP. MS. REID stated there are a few different options to choose from. The Medicare Savings Program, managed through Medicaid, helps pay for premiums. Extra Help, administered through Social Security, helps pay for prescription drug co-pays, and Limited Income Net (LINET) assists in obtaining medication for those transitioning to Medicare.

MEMBER MOZDEAN asked for additional pamphlets to distribute to seniors. MS. REID stated she would work with the Chair to provide them to all the Members. Additionally, she pointed to her contact information on the pamphlet, a copy of which was submitted and attached as backup.

6. 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, reported he is in communication with the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department regarding MEMBER LEE'S request to provide funding to update the Doolittle Senior Center entrance. He stated there could be conflicts with the 2050 Master Plan for the community center, and staff is awaiting approval from PATRICK O'MARA, Deputy Parks and Recreation Director. Additionally, MR. GRAY informed the Members of OLGA FLOWERS, Professional, the new part-time employee that was hired to help supplement Senior Service efforts. MS. FLOWERS is expected to attend the next Board meeting to introduce herself.

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

Minutes:

Ward 1 – MEMBER GRAHAM stated that she has been working with COUNCILMAN BRIAN KNUDSEN on the holiday meals and treats that will be handed out this month at James Downs Towers, Stella Fleming Towers, and Decatur Commons Family Apartments.

Ward 2 – MEMBER GALATI attended the monthly breakfast meeting held by COUNCILWOMAN VICTORIA SEAMAN, which he believed to be the largest, informative gathering for seniors. In addition to the representative from the Summerlin Area Command speaking to issues with traffic, crime, and the unhoused, the Las Vegas City Marshals were present. He said it was nice to be informed that Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and City Marshals are two separate agencies. There are over 50 facilities in the city of Las Vegas that are protected by the City Marshals, and they enforce traffic laws. MEMBER GALATI reminded the Members of the annual Holiday Christmas Mingle in Ward 2 on December 7th, and was glad to see COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN extend the invitation to all wards.

Ward 4 – CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON said she enjoyed November's First Tuesday at the Starbright Theater, and she noted GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, COUNCILWOMAN FRANCIS ALLEN-PALENSKE, a representative from the Multi-Outreach Resource Engagement (MORE) team, and a Summerlin Hospital representative were all present. The Chair stated the event was very informative as she now understood why the term unhoused is used rather than homeless, and she obtained further information regarding LVMPD's Legal 2000 (L2K) form protocol. She opined that it was important for all Members to be knowledgeable of the form. She shared that LVMPD has specific boxes they check off to determine whether someone with mental health issues should be taken to the hospital. If the form determines someone should be taken to the hospital, LVMPD searches for the location with the most availability rather than the closest location. There were some concerns from Summerlin residents regarding L2K patients that were brought to the Summerlin Hospital and released in the area. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON recounted a recent challenge with an unhoused individual that had been breaking windows in her apartment complex. Further, she explained that LVMPD should be notified of incidents that happen on private property and the MORE team should be notified of the incidents that happen on public property by calling (702) 229-6673. She added that due to the holidays COUNCILWOMAN ALLEN-PALENSKE will not be having a monthly meeting, and events will be limited; however, the events will resume in January. Additionally, the Chair stated she will be hosting an event at the East Las Vegas

Community Center on January 11, 2024. She expressed her gratitude for MATT PAXTON, Television Producer, for his assistance in this event. A copy of the event information was submitted for the record and attached as backup.

Ward 5 – MEMBER LEE stated he is attempting to get streets restriped as several seniors have said they are having trouble seeing the lines at night. He shared that more reflective paint may help people with this issue. MEMBER GALATI suggested MEMBER LEE call his Councilperson to help get the process started. CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK said when locations of specific issues are obtained MEMBER LEE can inform Public Works or MR. GRAY so that it can be forwarded to the appropriate department.

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON briefly added that she has been attempting to invite the Secretary of the State's Office to present and discuss questions and concerns regarding senior voting.

Ward 6 – MEMBER MOZDEAN hoped everyone had a happy Thanksgiving and stated the Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off event was to be from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on December 9th. Additionally, she shared Crime Prevention Specialist are offering a free security assessment. She encouraged everyone to take advantage of this opportunity, which takes roughly 30 to 40 minutes. She reminded everyone that starting August 1, 2024 all pets over the age of four months will be required to have a microchip, and the Animal Foundation will be providing free microchips for a limited time. She suggested making an appointment as soon as possible, as there is a limited supply. Further, the Posada Ecuestre Christmas Festival, an equestrian parade starting at the Teton Trails park with a celebration at Bradley Park will be held on December 9th, and a Santa Run will be held on December 16th. Lastly, the Member informed the Board of a giving tree at the Centennial Hills Community Center if any of the Members would like to participate.

MEMBER GALATI stated he will be approaching his Councilwoman regarding a microchipping event within his ward. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN is a major pet advocate, and would very likely be open to the idea.

Ward 6 – MEMBER PATTARETTU stated she wanted to add to CHAIR O'REAR CAMERON'S previous statement regarding the L2K patients. She shared a recent issue with a person taking someone to the hospital without that form, and said hospitals can keep the patient upwards of 72 hours while they conduct their evaluation. A court hearing takes place within the hospital to determine whether a patient is healthy enough to be released; however, if the hospital is not accredited by The Joint Commission (JCACHO), they cannot keep the patient longer than 72 hours. Additionally, during the month of November MEMBER PATTARETTU attended a presentation by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). She added there will be luncheon in Ward 6 at 11:30 a.m. on December 13th, and she encouraged the Members to attend.

8. Discussion for possible action regarding next steps and future meeting topics of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board – All Wards

Minutes:

CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised that she is attempting to contact the Secretary of State for a presentation. MEMBER GALATI shared information from a recent article he read regarding the issues patients face after being released from hospitals. He said the article did not address the procedures and regulations for releasing patients, and inquired as to whether a representative from a hospital could explain how someone could be released without anyone being notified. GREGORY GRAY, Management Analyst I, noted that there are social workers that work with patients regarding discharge planning; however, the City is also attempting to deal with this issue, which includes getting them to the Recuperative Care Center that helps with the unhoused or medically fragile patients. He stated he would need to do further research as to who the most appropriate individual would be to speak on this issue.

MEMBER PATTARETTU said she had been in this field for a long time. She explained the steps taken when a patient is discharged from the hospital and how several people would not use the resources offered to them once released. She opined that a lot of the actions done once released resulting in behavior issues. CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON stated that there are two sides to every story, which the Board needs to hear both sides to be able to properly help those in need. She believed having speakers explain what happens on their side would help the Members better understand where the gap lies. MR. GRAY added the issue is also a matter of consent. If someone is not willing to accept help then they cannot force someone to accept their services. He

reminded the Board that this matter was not on the agenda for discussion and inquired whether any Members had further meeting topics they would like to discuss.

MEMBER MOZDEAN suggested a presentation from American Associate of Retired Persons (AARP) on tax assistance available to seniors. MR. GRAY noted there are tax assistance programs through the community centers, but he will look further into specific times and dates, as well as reserving a representative from AARP to present to the Board. MEMBER MOZDEAN expressed her appreciation nothing there is a lot of confusion regarding appointments for tax assistance. MR. GRAY stated he is aware of the issue and he has been receiving similar phone calls; however, due to how late in the year it is, obtaining a representative to provide tax assistance information may be difficult.

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:
None.

10. **Adjournment**


Minutes:
CHAIR O'REAR-CAMERON advised that the next Board meeting would be held on January 4, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Vanessa Chavez-Holman, 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