

City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

714 Seventh Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
Zoom Meeting
February 28, 2022

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Co-Chair Onastine Jaramillo – 12:12 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Louis Carlentine; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; and Steve Borbas; Henry Shonerd
 - b. Absent: Havens Levitt; Lucy Lopez
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Steve seconds. Evan motions for approval of the agenda, Dubra seconds.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. No public participation.
- IV. Los Volcanes Senior Center Manager Report – America Bencomo
 - a. Nikki introduced America as the acting Center Manager at Los Volcanes Senior Center and also announced that America will now be the permanent Center Manager as she has accepted the position. Congratulations to America! She has been with the DSA for 17 years and with the City of Albuquerque since 1998.
 - b. America reported that she has been interim center manager at Los Volcanes since early December and since then she has quite a lot of projects going on. There is a lighting project ongoing and new signage placed throughout the building. She reported that they are working on getting a new projector for the computer lab.
 - c. America reported that there are some special events coming up to include a Valentine’s Day dance and an open house on February 17 at 1:30pm. There is some new programming returning such as pickleball, line dancing, salsa and stretch and tone classes.
 - d. America reported that they are piloting a new program through the meal service at the center in which they are offering an a la carte menu like some of the non-congregate meal sites do where members have the option to pay for certain menu items. Lastly, they are working launching a new loaner tablet program in February where a senior can come “borrow” a tablet to use for a certain period of time to try it out and/or learn more about how to use one.
- V. Welcome to DSA – Associate Director, Alan Armijo
 - a. Anna introduced Alan as the new, and additional, Associate Director that the department has gained. Anna is excited for the department to gain not only a

Deputy Director, but to have 2 Associate Directors. Alan has many years' experience within the City, especially in constituent services. Welcome Alan!

- b. Alan reported that he will be splitting his time between Senior Affairs and the Mayor's office, definitely focusing on constituents. Previously, as a City Council member, Alan attended the ribbon cutting for Los Volcanes Senior Center, and was able to be a part of that event, as well as the opening of the fitness center there. He looks forward to meeting with members at the centers and getting more involved with the senior centers. At this time, all advisory council members take a moment to introduce themselves.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone

- a. Nikki reported on some of the events that are happening at the centers. Beginning tomorrow, there will be free COVID test kits distributed at several locations throughout the City to include a few of the Senior and Multigen Centers. A list was provided by Jenifer which gives the dates, times, and locations of the distributions. 4 boxes of test kits will be given per person and each box contains 2 tests.
- b. Nikki reported that there are also upcoming COVID booster and flu shot clinics beginning next week at all of the centers as well as Palo Duro Sports and Fitness Center. Will be partnering with Best Buy Drugs to make these easily accessible to folks in the neighborhoods. They continue to partner with them because it seems to work well so Nikki hopes to continue offering them for as long as there is a demand for them. She has received a ton of good feedback from the members who are happy that they provide this service.
- c. Lastly, Nikki touched on the loaner tablet program; each of the centers will be offering the tablets to folks who would like to be a part of the program. It is a six-month loaner period and folks can sign up through the center. There are really no requirements other than needing to be 60 and older. They are partnering up with Adelante to offer classes to help them navigate the tablet and learn to email if needed and keep track to ensure they are utilizing the tablets. Evan asked if DiverseIT will also be helping out those folks that do not have internet that are interested in borrowing a tablet? Nikki responded that the member can utilize low cost services through Comcast, or they can also use the free WiFi at the centers or various locations throughout the City. Many companies offer free internet as well, such as Starbucks.

b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez

- a. Tim reported that the nutrition division continues to work on the NM Grown grant and getting that money spent on adding fresh, local produce to the menus. He reported that they had a new cook start at CASA. In the transportation division they had new drivers start recently and they are working on getting them through the training process so having them on board will really help in balancing out transportation shortage they have been dealing with. The meal sites are working on continuing to improve their daily counts reporting and streamlining processes. Lastly, he reported that they are wrapping up the paperwork to hire an E16 -Program Manager to help out within the division. Anna added that Tim has been working without

a “number 2” in his program for a couple of years so they are excited to fill that position to help alleviate some of the pressure. Henry asked what CASA stood for and Anna responded that it means “City of Albuquerque Senior Affairs” Kitchen. She explained a little about what services come out of that facility to include meals for the meal sites and transportation. She also mentioned that it will be good to do a departmental overview when the new advisory council members start here soon, since there are currently 4 vacancies. Once those members come on board, they will provide a presentation on DSA services.

c. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez

- a. Chris gave a report on Social Services Division since Agnes was unable to make this meeting. He reported that she is working on finalizing the prioritization scale on home service requests in which they will analyze those services that have not yet been completed and those that are coming in and prioritize them based on urgency and critical services needed immediately. She is also working on filling the few vacancies they have in their I&A program and Program Supervisor in their case management program.
- b. Chris reported that they are analyzing the programs and services offered in the centers to evaluate their impact, they are also working on a zip code analysis to identify areas of the city in reach to perform outreach and how we can better engage the entire city. He mentioned how excited they are to have the new E16 in Tim’s shop come on board, as they are learning from visiting some of the centers concerns have come up about the nutritional content of the food and the caloric intake to ensure that meals have the adequate nutrition required, and this new E18 has the nutritional education background to help folks with aging healthy.

d. Director – Anna Sanchez

- a. Anna added on to what America mentioned earlier regarding the pilot program for the a la carte menu. They are offering this program at Los Volcanes and Manzano Mesa and evaluating whether it should be expanded to all meal site locations. The reason for this is because they often get constituents asking why they are able to purchase items at certain locations and can only receive the free meals at others. It also helps to determine if each kitchen has the proper capacity and resources such as staffing or more kitchen space to be able to handle the offering of a more expanded menu.
- b. Anna reported that there have been some recent changes in personnel, administratively. She announced that Karen, the department’s Fiscal Manager, has left to work at another department. She takes with her a lot of institutional knowledge and going into the budget session this year will be a bit of challenge, but they are certainly working to stay on top of it and ready to tackle what comes. She also announced that Deb Brinkley will be retiring and wish her well on her new adventure and thank her for her time with the department.
- c. Anna reported that the Age Friendly plan was adopted by City Council last week and, along with the age friendly committee, continue to build on the plan and push the plan forward to engage the older adults in the community.

At the next City Council meeting, they plan introduce the new DSA advisory council members and hopefully roll out an overview presentation of DSA services which will benefit both new members as well as offer a refresh to the established council members.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. None at this time.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Elections took place for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council. Henry and Steve nominated Evan and Dubra as Chair and Vice Chair. Both were happy to accept; Evan as Chair and Dubra as Vice Chair. A unanimous vote for yes for both positions was heard.

IX. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time

XI. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.