

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs

Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council, In-Person Meeting
1st Street Offices- 1620 1st Street NW, 87102
Monday, October 16, 2023

Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:04 PM
 - a. Present:
 - i. Advisory Council Members: Evan Thompson, Steve Borbas, Henry Shonerd, Shiela Hundley, Louis Carlentine, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, Havens Levitt, Raymond Taylor.
 - ii. DSA Staff Members: Chris Sanchez, Tim Martinez, Nikki Peone, Agnes Vallejos, Angel Montoya, Maria ReQua, Bernice Chacon, Alan Armijo, Victoria Velarde.
 - b. Not Present: Martha Medina and Theresa Haering.
- III. Approval of Minutes & Agenda (May & June)
 - a. Steve motions to approve minutes, Dub seconds adding she appreciates the great work on the minutes. September Minutes were approved.
 - b. Henry motions to approve October Agenda, Louis seconds. October agenda was approved.
- IV. Public Participation- Michelle Matters
 - a. Ms. Matters advised she has been a user of senior centers for many years and enjoys them very much. Ms. Matters stated she wishes more people knew about them and that is the reason why she is here today to suggest more marketing ways to promote senior centers.
- V. Marketing Presentation – Victoria Velarde, Marketing Coordinator
 - a. Ms. Velarde introduced herself to the board and advised she was here to present on her role within the department to help with designing materials, approving promotional items and working with the media.

- b. Ms. Velarde provided a couple of highlights for the Department. DSA was featured on the cover of the Albuquerque Journal twice, which was a big win for us. With beautiful photos, senior members who were turning 100 years old were featured and so was the Senior Prom. Ms. Velarde advised she printed out the article for everyone to take a look.
- c. In June, DSA had a major groundbreaking for Martineztown Multigenerational Center that is going to be open early next year. This was also featured in the news.
- d. Another big month for DSA as far as newspapers was the month of July. DSA did a lot of different collaborations with other City departments, which is also a good way for the department to get recognized. One collaboration was The Operation Cooldown, which was to turn on all of the sprinklers of our splash pad at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.
- e. Another item Ms. Velarde shared is a senior member who participates in the art classes and sells her work. The funds she earns, she utilizes it to raise money for cancer research in honor of a brother who passed away from cancer. Ms. Velarde mentioned the reason why she is sharing this with everyone is because the department has a lot of folks in the senior centers who are doing really great, amazing things, and if you know someone who hasn't been featured who you think has a really good story, you can notify the department.
- f. Lastly, Ms. Velarde advised September was another great month. DSA won NM Golden Chili Award to for their use of homegrown produce. As a result, DSA was featured as one of the winners for that as well as our volunteer initiatives. Ms. Velarde advised this concluded her presentation and is happy to answer any questions.

VI. DSA Administrative Updates

a. Agnes Vallejos, Strategic Program Manager

- i. Ms. Vallejos thanked everyone present for attending the Age Friendly Summit last month and wanted to provide a quick update. The initial idea of what the conference could look like was to start foundationally with ageism. This is one of the things that DSA recognized through our work at the Department. As ageism can affect anyone at any age. This is the reason why the Age Friendly Summit invited individuals of every age to share their experiences with us. The goal was to have that conversation of it's not just about older people being discriminated against, but it can happen for younger people, too.
- ii. Ms. Vallejos reported that some of the feedback received was that it was not interactive enough. Therefore, this feedback is great as next year we can focus on making it more interactive. Overall, the Summit was a great success with a total of 84 people in attendance. Ms. Vallejos advised she is happy to obtain any feedback or thoughts.
- iii. Lastly but not least, starting Wednesday, DSA will be having four meetings about the different quadrants of the City. DSA will be

presenting Age Friendly at the comprehensive public hearing public meetings. Ms. Vallejos advised she will provide everyone with more information.

b. Maria ReQua, DSA Social Services Division Manager

- i. Ms. ReQua welcomed everyone to 1st Street Offices and advised everyone to grab refreshments as well as cupcakes.
- ii. The Home Services Program was chosen to take a new inventory software and try it on. This new system will help the division tremendously to work better with purchasing orders and identify when running out of items. Ms. Requa advised the staff has done a really great job with it and are happy to launch it approximately by December.
- iii. Grateful to Associate Director, Alan Armijo for joining the team at the “31st Annual Heats On” event with the local 412 plumbers and pipefitters union. There weren't as many volunteers as previous years, however, the department still received help from a total of 66 handymen. With their assistance, the division was able to accomplish to turn heaters on for a total of 92 senior homes.
- iv. Ms. ReQua reported the division is almost done with some reclassification of positions within the I&A program. This will allow to be fully staffed and to be able to have a couple of call center representatives who are able to take tougher cases. The goal is to improve the quality of the resources and referrals that our information and assistance staff provide.
- v. Lastly, Ms. ReQua reported the Case Management Program continues with their normal operations as usual. This program has been very busy as demand is high. Therefore, the division is working in providing supplemental training to case managers in order to handle the more critical cases they're being presented with. For this, the division is currently working with DSA's funder on some flexibilities that are going to be needed as the current demand is going to put each case manager with a caseload of approximately 170 cases per each case manager and there is a total of six case managers.

c. Angel Montoya, Recreation Division Manager

- i. Ms. Montoya advised one of the division's bigger events coming up now in November, is the “Ageless Artisan Craft Fair.” This will be on November 18th from 9am-2pm facilitated by the North Valley Senior Center but will be hosted at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center as it is a bigger facility. You are all invited to attend, Ms. Montoya advised.
- ii. The next event is this Saturday, October 21 at North Domingo Baca hosted by the Sports and Fitness Program providing “Active Adult Fitness Exams.” Senior members get the opportunity to obtain a fitness exam to obtain information about their flexibility and balance.

This is hosted every year and every year the division has a great turnout.

- iii. Med-Fairs are still being offered, the next one is on October 25th at North Valley. Ms. Montoya advised is invited to participate.
 - iv. Carevans have partnered with the department again to offer toenail trimming services and will also present a Medicare presentation to provide more information to seniors. The next one is on October 25th at Bear Canyon Senior Center. A second one will be offered in November and a third one in December at Highland Senior Center.
 - v. Ms. Montoya reported the division will have our fourth annual billiards tournament on November 13th. There will be a small entry fee, \$10, which will go towards the awards.
 - vi. Palo Duro Senior Center hosted their first intergenerational activity, which consisted of billiards and board games. For this, DSA partnered with Family & Community Services and had a total of 23 people in attendance. The seniors were really happy and got the opportunity to play board games with the kids, therefore, it was a great success.
 - vii. The stats for this past month were, 417 shots (Flu, Shingles & RSV) provided. The division had a total of 605 new memberships and 864 renewals as well as a few more trips this month. Last month, the division had 39 trips on all of our facilities.
- d. Tim Martinez, Nutrition & Transportation Division Manager
- i. Mr. Martinez announced the Bear Canyon Senior Center kitchen has reopened. A soft reopening was hosted on Monday October 2nd and operations are back up and rolling. The division is going to set up a more of a grand opening celebration and will provide everyone with more detailed information.
 - ii. Another update is about the Shelf Stable Meals. In the winter months, the division distributes shelf stable meals twice a year to Home Delivered Meals clients. Mr. Martinez reported those meals went out October 2nd and the division is working on ways of being more proactive for clients in the eastbound communities.
 - iii. Lastly, Mr. Martinez reported a food vendor bid has been released and will be used for all food DSA produces. This was posted on October 3rd through the City's purchasing department and will be closing on November 2nd.
- e. Nikki Peone, DSA Associate Director
- i. Ms. Peone shared a couple of updates on Capital Facilities Branch. A project DSA is currently working on is the Martineztown Multigenerational Center; walls will be going up by end of this month and the estimated completion date is January 2024. Ms. Peone invited everyone to drive by and check it out.
 - ii. Ms. Peone reported her as well as Director Sanchez and Deputy Director Sanchez are meeting with every Center Manager at each center each month to review the facility assessments that was

conducted last December. This is to determine which projects need to be prioritized. Ms. Peone advised these meetings will take a couple of months and will be providing updates moving forward.

- f. Chris Sanchez, Deputy Director
 - i. Mr. Sanchez advised that Director Sanchez could not be here with us and apologized for that.
 - ii. Mr. Sanchez reported two positions have recently been posted on the City website for Martineztown. The department also continues working on the operational side developing the programming for this new multigenerational center in order to be ready once it is completed.
 - iii. DSA has partnered with Meals on Wheels. Meals on Wheel received a contract from AAA to assist the department in Mr. Martinez' area with meals. Mr. Sanchez reported this new partnership is going to allow DSA to be able to focus on the underserved areas. This partnership will officially start in November.
 - iv. Lastly, Mr. Sanchez advised DSA is looking at how we can request funds through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The goal is to focus on our youth programs to get into a strong Enhancement Enrichment Program to improve reading skills, literacy, math and science.
- VII. Advisory Council Business
 - a. Mr. Shonerd advised he will meet with Deputy Director Sanchez tomorrow to talk about the election in the Los Ranchos Village. Mr. Shonerd stated he wants to present to them DSA's Age Friendly package. Mr. Shonerd's goal is for the Mayor and Board of Trustees to look at the community thriving as more than just building apartments.
- VIII. Council Member Reports (Optional)- Ray Taylor
 - a. Mr. Taylor provided an update reference the new Naming Tribute Opportunity Program within DSA. This new program provides opportunities to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to our client base. Previously, there wasn't a process in place to suggest that somebody be nominated, therefore, the department has come up with this process. As a result, a small subcommittee has been created to review these requests. So far, the department has received and reviewed two applications.
- IX. Announcements
 - a. Ms. ReQua will be giving everyone present a tour of 1st Street Offices.
- X. Adjournment
 - a. Mr. Shonerd motioned to adjourn meeting, Steve seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm.