

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

### Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
October 24, 2022

## Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Co-Chair Dubra Karnes-Padilla – 12:04 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Henry Shoner; Raymond Taylor; Louis Carlentine; Steve Borbas; and Havens Levitt
  - b. Absent: Lucy Lopez; Sheila Hundley; Teresa Haering; and Martha Medina
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
  - a. Dubra motions for approval of minutes, Havens moves, Henry seconds. September minutes are approved.
  - b. Dubra motions for approval of agenda, Henry moves, Haven's seconds. The October agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
  - a. None
- IV. New Introductions
  - a. Nikki introduced Cristina Romero-Baca as the new RSVP Supervisor. Cristina was previously the Meal Site Supervisor with the Nutrition/Transportation division and was a major asset during the National Senior Games while she worked with Visit Albuquerque. Cristina is excited at this new opportunity and has enjoyed working with the senior volunteers.
  - b. Tim welcomes Marie Llamas as the new Meal Site Supervisor. Marie comes from Family and Community Services department and has a lot of City knowledge and experience. Marie has jumped right in to her role and hit the ground running.
- V. Center Manager Report – Antoinette Sigala, Palo Duro Senior Center Manager
  - a. Antoinette reported that she has two staffing vacancies. Amber Maestas was recently promoted to Program Coordinator and she has been a big help. They also have two Goodwill workers who are in training and help during this staffing shortage. Some special events coming up are the AARP defensive driving course, that is always a big attraction. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual spooktacular ball which is an intergenerational event. Veterans' celebration on November 9. And lastly, they have been working on completing the accreditation process. Antoinette reported that they have recently have some upgrades done with the Rectrac system that is used to track money, activities, and meal counts. They are running two registers a day which helps streamline customer service. They are also gearing up to turn in to a meal site in December.
- VI. RSVP Presentation – Cristina Romero-Baca, RSVP Supervisor

- a. Cristina reported that RSVP is funded through a Federal Grant of AmeriCorps Seniors. They currently have 289 active volunteers. The program took a major hit during COVID, but they are working to rebuild. They currently have 79 active volunteer stations throughout the City of Albuquerque. The program is designed for volunteers 55 and older and the volunteer can contribute as many hours as they would like. Those that join the program are entitled to benefits such as accident insurance and mileage reimbursements up to \$25/month. There will be a volunteer recognition breakfast ceremony on November 9<sup>th</sup> where volunteers can come enjoy a breakfast and bring a guest. The event will be from 9:00 am – 11:00 am and the doors will open at 8:00 am for vendors.

## VII. Administrative Reports

- a. Strategic Planning – Agnes Vallejos
  - a. Agnes shared a draft of the strategic plan with the council members that give an overview on the 5 goals DSA will be building work plans around. In working on the aging population study, they have identified needs along with DSA supervisors and managers to develop these goals and build a strong foundation and create a clear vision for which the department operates.
- b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
  - a. Tim reported that they have three Kitchen Aide positions posted and that the Program Manager position is pending approval for hire so he hopes to introduce them at the next meeting. They also have a full time Dispatcher that they are working on getting posted. Marie mentioned that meal site Raymond G will be hosting a fall festival and there will be a costume contest, photo booth, live band, and they will be transporting members from the other meal sites.
- c. Social Services Division – Maria ReQua
  - a. Maria reported that they have scheduled interviews for their Program Manager position and are working to fill the three vacancies for Case Management Coordinators and two vacancies for the I&A Specialists. They have been working hard at outreach events and client finding and will be working that the PNM assistance fair. Maria reported that the HEATS On events was a success, they were able to turn the heats on in 97 senior homes in one day.
  - b. Maria reported that home services are in very high demand so they have been working on retooling by analyzing their capacity and restructuring eligibility criteria. They are working with AAA to change the requirements to focus on those that need the services the most. This will involve reeducating not only the public, but internal staff on up to the Mayor's office.
- d. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya Social Services
  - a. Angel reported that she has been working individually within the centers on their upcoming holiday events, more information to come. They are still working on drumming up interest for community partnerships for senior tech support with the letter of interest that went out. Angel invited council members to attend the Ageless Artisan Fair -Winter Edition at the Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center on Saturday, November 19 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. There will be at least 38 vendors on site and is a great holiday shopping opportunity. Angel also highlighted some of the other upcoming

events such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pool tournament, annual fall festivals, ongoing flu and COVID vaccine clinics, and the BCBS care vans. Dates and time were provided in the activities calendar provided to council members.

e. Associate Director – Nikki Peone

- a. Nikki reported that they have made their selection for the Community Volunteer Engagement Manager. This position will oversee all of the AmeriCorps Seniors Programs to include the Senior Companion, Foster Grandparents, Retired Senior Volunteer Programs and the overall DSA volunteer program. Nikki spoke about some of the emergency funding requests that were submitted and the ICIP capital funds requests that will cover major projects at Highland Senior Center, Palo Duro, Los Volcanes, Manzano Mesa, and some general upgrades throughout all DSA facilities. Nikki asked the council members if they could show their support in January when it comes to the legislative session.

VIII. Council Member Reports

- a. Henry was reading a neighborhood newsletter recently about a 78-year-old man who lives alone and only had 3 people visit him in the last year. Henry asked the question how do we find out more about these people? Alan mentioned that there used to be a volunteer program during COVID that would call and check on folks to help battle isolation and that perhaps that is something we could look into offering through the help of volunteers. Maria mentioned that home services could perhaps have service learning projects in which they would engage in community development projects. Lastly, Havens mentioned that she can help connect them with SAGE who has a program called “friendly voice”.

IX. Advisory Council Business

- a. Jenifer announced that there will be a “December Social” luncheon at CASA Kitchen and will send the information out to council members.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time.

XI. Adjournment – Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Henry moves and Steve seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.