

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
November 15, 2021**

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Co-Chair Onastine Jaramillo – 12:05 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Onastine Jaramillo; Louis Carlentine; Havens Levitt; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Steve Borbas; Henry Shonerd and Lucy Lopez
 - b. Absent: None
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Steve seconds. Evan motions for approval of the agenda, Henry seconds.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. No public participation.
- IV. Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center Manager Report – Natasha Montoya
 - a. Natasha reported that they just hired a new Youth Coordinator, Esperanza Molina. They are excited to have her and her experience she brings, she was previously a Student Supervisor for 7 years with the department. She also reported that they are trying out a new program that brings older adults back in to the workforce as interns. He has been helping out a lot and brushing up on his computer skills. They just hired a new part time Office Assistant she is doing well so far and they are excited for the help. They also just posted another 30-hour Office Assistant that they should be hiring for soon. Lastly, they are interviewing tomorrow for a General Service Worker.
 - b. Natasha reported on some of the fun intergenerational activities they had a volunteer come in and make tortillas with the youth staff and they loved it. The youth program has 75 spaces available and they are currently at 70 so that program is doing well. With that they offer before and after school programs. They will also be hosting a *kids*-giving that Cracker Barrel sponsored, this event for just kids, but there will be a family night event coming up on December 10. There will be cookie decorating and showing the movie Elf. Decorate for thanksgiving.
 - c. Some recent upgrades to the center include painting around the facility, additions of the new little library's, they were attempting to be cost effective by having the couches reupholstered. There have also been some upgrades to the playground structure, which is more ADA accessible.
- V. Administrative Reports
 - a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos

- a. Agnes reported that there were 118 homes scheduled for HEATS On, and a few days before the event, list was down to 80. It seems a lot of folks already had their heat turned on and they think it may have had to do with having the event a little later in the season than normal. They ended up servicing approximately 88 homes, there were 80 volunteers, and 5 home services staff members. One volunteer group completed 9 homes in 8 hours.
 - b. Agnes reported that they started firewood distribution. The plan is to deliver to 200 homes in November and December. Agnes also wanted to announce a couple of changes in personnel; Bernadette Garcia-Sanchez, their Case Management Supervisor will be retiring at the end of December. She was with the department for 21 years and takes a lot of institutional knowledge with her. While they are happy for her, it is definitely a loss for DSA. Also, a staff member from I&A will be retiring this week, she said she can't wait to get into the private sector. Agnes shared client letter from a client who was thankful for work they did in her yard. It was especially touching as she recently lost her husband and said that they did such a wonderful job, "just the way he would have wanted it".
- b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
- a. Tim reported that he continues to be occupied with NM Grown grant, and he is working his way through some of those hurdles. He also reported that the turkeys arrived 2 weeks ago in preparation for Thanksgiving. They will be distributing those starting later this week. They recently filled some vacancies; Stock Keeper II, a General Service Worker, and a Kitchen Aide just started, so they are happy to have the help.
- c. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone
- a. Nikki reported that there were several Veterans Day events last week. Normally, the weather tends to be very cold and blustery during these events, so it was nice to enjoy the wonderful weather. There was a garden ceremony at Barelas, and it was so nice. Also, there will be a Veteran job and Resource Fair on Wednesday at Bear Canyon. It is geared towards Veterans but anybody can attend, and the City will bring their mobile hiring bus which is a Human Resources unit to assist people apply for jobs directly on the bus.
 - b. Nikki reported that the Thanksgiving luncheon will take place at North Domingo Baca on Thanksgiving Day. It will be from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and tickets are still available for \$4. There is plenty of room, so they will be pushing ticket sales this week. They are also selling tickets for the Christmas Luncheon, those go on sale December 1 and will take place at Highland Senior Center.
 - c. Nikki reported that the Aging and Long-Term services conference is coming up and will be a free conference. It will be a hybrid model this year. It will take place on November 17 and 18 and there will be a viewing party taking place in person as Barelas, North Domingo Baca, or Manzano Mesa from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. Evan asked what the format for lunch will be for Thanksgiving and Christmas? Nikki responded that it will be full lunch and full capacity.

- d. Director – Anna Sanchez
 - a. Anna reported that they are working on the budget for FY23. They have also been dealing with significant staffing challenges. It has been difficult recruiting people, and folks retiring. Unfortunately, there is not much flexibility to be able to telework with the work the department does. Some other challenges they have been facing in regards to COVID is the vandalism across all the centers and enforcing the mask mandate. Some folks complain that it's hard to breath and the staff is having to explain the City's commitment to protect the public and it jeopardizes being able to have the centers open when we aren't able to follow the rules and risk getting shut down again.
 - b. Anna reported that the age-friendly resolution will be heard today at 3:00 pm at the City Council meeting. The aging population study is a topic of priority. They will be working on bringing in the E18 Strategic Planning Manager to drive this initiative, and thereby creating a whole strategic planning division. Additionally, they will be meeting at Los Duranes soon for a major brainstorming session for the upcoming budget. The plan is to give them a lot to consider for funding that let them choose. Some of these items may include funding to hire businesses or partner with them to help repair sidewalks or cut back trees, for instance. It could also include adding more staff to lessen the load and allow them to go out in pairs to complete home chores and home repairs. They will be focusing on recruiting more volunteers to help out which will free up the team to allow for training. Also looking at partnering with AFR to help out our older folks. Henry suggested that we tap in to the high schools who might have kids looking for on the job training for credits. Havens added that charter schools seem to be easier to work with as far as getting students on board and not as much red tape. Anna mentioned that the new Foster Grandparent Supervisor is meeting with APS to create a job training to partner up with DSA.

VI. Council Member Reports

- a. Onastine was curious about the accreditation process the centers have to go through. Nikki responded that 4 centers recently underwent the process during the height of COVID and the other 4 centers will soon begin working through the NCOA to start their process.
- b. Lucy reported that while eating lunch at Highland she witnessed the cook help to diffuse a situation with a possible mental health issue with one of the members and another member and he handled it really well and showed compassion and thought that it would be beneficial for staff to have that kind of training to help when they face that situation.

VII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Nominations/elections to take place in January. Anna thanked Evan and Onastine for serving as Chair and Co-Chair for as long as they have.

VIII. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

IX. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time

X. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.