

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs

Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
February 27, 2023

Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:05 pm.
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Steve Borbas; Louis Carlentine; Sheila Hundley; Havens Levitt; Lucy Lopez; Martha Medina; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Henry Shonerd; and Raymond Taylor
 - b. Absent: Teresa Haering
- III. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Steve seconds. The January draft minutes are approved.
 - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda, Louis seconds. The February agenda is approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. Guest Gilbert Sanchez is a participant at Barelvas Senior Center. He attended this meeting because he wanted to commend the Department for all its work, but asked if the Department can do something to help seniors with fraud and technology. Discussion followed on the current class offerings by Teeniors and Adelante, as well as how we can better market to reach those seniors in need.
- V. New Introductions
 - a. Anna introduced Alicia Tenorio, the new Executive Assistant in administration. Alicia came from the State of New Mexico, with the Department of Cultural Affairs and worked with the department for about 15 years at the National Hispanic Cultural Center and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.
 - b. Chris introduced Brittani Torres, the new Program Manager for Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. This position will oversee Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. Brittani recently served as the Center Manager of Don Newton- Taylor Ranch F Community Center at Family and Community

Services. Brittani is very excited to begin this new adventure, where she can continue to serve and work with the community.

VI. Center Manager Report – Thomas Gallagher, North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center

- a. Thomas reported the month of February was very busy, with breakfast being shutdown at another Center, they served 1100 breakfast the month of February. NDB hosted their daddy/daughter dance which was a huge success, over 60 guests. Intergenerational dance and dinner are really popular right now as they invite everyone and it consists of dinner, movie and dance afterwards.
- b. NDB has 4 more summer positions to fill and then summer staff will be full.
- c. La Cueva High School students are interning at the Center. It's a really nice program that teaches them personal skills and gives them work experience.
- d. Anna wanted to commend Thomas and another staff member at North Domingo for their quick response at aiding a gentleman after he had a medical episode. Anna mentioned it is that quick thinking that happens at all our centers that needs to be recognized and commended.

VII. DSA Administrative Updates

- a. Volunteer Program Updates-Nikki Peone and Cristina Romero-Baca
Nikki introduced Christina Romero-Baca with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program and also reported that the AmeriCorps Seniors grants were being wrapped up for submission.
Christina informed the Council on the Retired Senior Volunteer Program which is a federally funded AmeriCorps senior grant offered to seniors 55 and older. They have about 340 volunteers. Cristina would like to enroll any members of the council that are willing to participate in the program. Council that enroll are eligible to get paid for their time during City Advisory meetings. Cristina encouraged all council members to sign up after the meeting.
- b. Caregiver Effort Presentation-Agnes Vallejos
Agnes reported that the Department received funding from the Area Agency on Aging to put together training for caregivers this fiscal year. Agnes passed out information on the trainings and workshops to council members to review. Agnes mentioned that there is also a workshop called, Powerful Tools for Caregivers which provides an education series, empowering caregiver with tools to take better care of themselves well providing care to their loved ones.
- c. Social Services Division-Maria ReQua
Maria reported that their program has been busy filing vacant positions. They have a few vacancies left scattered throughout each program. The Home Services program is ready for the spring and they have filled two months of yard requests and soon will begin turning a/c units on in the spring. The Information & Assistance program is happy to announce that they will be hiring 2 new employees. This will allow the Information and Assistance program to be more responsive and provide valuable resources. The Case

Management program is hiring 2 new case managers as well. It will help lighten the load of the current case managers.

d. Nutrition/Transportation Division - Jenifer Gonzales

Jenifer provided an update on employee training which took place for the division in January and February. They also completed the Nutrition policies and are now working on the training needed to support those policies. Bear Canyon Senior Center's kitchen is currently under renovation, continental breakfast and hot lunch being delivered by CASA in the interim. Staffing continues to be a struggle, as the division is down 4 drivers, 6 kitchen aids and 2 meal site coordinators. The division has now completed three transportation van wraps and is working on their operational contingency plans and ways to improve their number reporting and performance.

e. Deputy Director's Report – Chris Sanchez

Chris reported on behalf of Angel Montoya, Recreation Division Manager on a handout that included upcoming special events, shot clinics and technology classes.

f. Director's Report – Anna Sanchez

Anna provided an update on the budget forecast for FY24 and that support for DSA will need to be vocal. There is concern over not filling vacancies quickly for many critical, operational position. However, Anna did announce that Victoria Velarde has been hired as the Marketing/PIO Coordinator for the Department and will be introduced at the next meeting. Additionally, Natasha Montoya, will present new information on how to volunteer with DSA through the VIA program.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

No Council Business.

IX. Council Member Reports (optional)

- a. Havens Levitt invited folks to share a fundraiser for ORCA's program supporting older LGBTQ adults at Pie Palooza on Saturday, March 11 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm! It will take place at the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

X. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- XI. Adjournment – Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Henry seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.