

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
March 21, 2022

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:07 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Louis Carlentine; Lucy Lopez; Henry Shonerd; Sheila Hundley; and Havens Levitt
 - b. Absent: Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Steve Borbas; Raymond Taylor; and Martha Medina; Teresa Haering
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Henry seconds. February minutes are approved.
 - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda. Chris has asked for the committee to table a few items on the agenda since about half of the council members were not in attendance. The items that will be stricken are; the Department overview presentation, the community impact report, and the committee roles review. These items will be moved to next month's agenda. Evan motions to move forward with the remaining items on the agenda, Lou seconds. The March agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. No public participation.
- IV. Welcome New Council Members
 - a. Dr. Sheila Hundley joined the meeting by Zoom. Chris stated that he was excited to welcome this new group of council members as each one has something unique to bring to the committee, given their backgrounds. Dr. Sheila Hundley specializes in adult-geriatric primary care and Chris is thrilled to have her join the council. The roundtable introductions will take place at the next meeting.
- V. North Valley Senior Center Manager Report – Anita Hamel
 - a. Anita welcomed the advisory council and shared a copy of the center newsletter which shows upcoming activities and programs. Anita reported that they are working on hiring a Program Coordinator for the center and that the position just closed so she is hoping to have someone hired soon. They also recently just hired a new General Service Worker, Victoria Hernandez, who comes to them from North Domingo Baca, and they are happy to have her.
 - b. Anita announced that they will be having an open house event this month, which they are trying to have quarterly, on Tuesdays from 4-6pm. There will be live music to welcome folks. Lastly, they are offering some intergenerational programming by

hosting an event called Abuelos y Ninos, in which seniors can bring their grandkids to decorate easter eggs, they also have about 20 kids coming from a nearby school to join.

- c. Anita reported that they recently installed new blinds in the social hall which helps a lot with all the light and heat coming in. They had large rocks removed that people were using to vandalize the property and break windows, and replaced with smaller rocks. They also got the electrical outlets removed from outside which helps to deter vandalism. They are working on getting their electrical wiring upgraded which will help with the computer room issues.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos

- a. Agnes reported that her shop has had the opportunity to participate in the AAA area plan and part of that included providing demographic information and she wanted to share some of what they learned while compiling the information. In calendar year 2020, I&A took 19,791 calls which was about a 200% increase over the previous year. In 2021, they dropped about 1,600 calls; and this year they expect it to be about that same number of calls. What's interesting is a lot of people don't look at COVID as a good thing, but in some ways COVID helped DSA programs because people need the support more than ever and now, they know what is out there available to them. KUDOS to that team especially since they have been experiencing some turnover.

b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Chris Sanchez for Tim Martinez

- a. Tim was unable to attend the meeting, so Chris reported on his behalf. They are piloting a new meal site program and the Westgate Community Center. They opened the doors on March 15 and had about 20 seniors come in for meals. There are no other meal sites on that side of town, so they are excited to reach the folks in that area. They have been working on meal planning now that Patty is on board, they are also working on making the meals look and taste more appetizing. Lastly, Chris reported that the transportation program switched to a different GPS system through Verizon that will allow for better mapping and coverage. They also placed cameras in each of the itinerant vehicles so that it provides added safety for staff and participants. Henry asked what type of vehicles they have? Chris answered that there are the vehicles that deliver meals to homes and meals sites. There are vehicles that take seniors to run errands and to medical appointments, and there are vehicles that take folks to centers within the 5-mile radius of their homes.

c. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone

- a. Nikki reported that they continue to offer the booster shot clinics. It has been slow for the month of March. They are hoping that with the recommendation of another booster by the CDC here soon, that things will pick up in April. Nikki also reported that they will be having the Senior Tech Connect Fair on April 1, from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm at North Domingo Baca. They will also be providing transportation to the event from each of the centers so folks can catch a ride from their center of choice. Lastly, Nikki mentioned some construction projects that will be taking place at two of the centers that will

affect parking, but there will not be any closures or cancellation of programs. One location is at Barelas Senior Center, they are redesigning the park area by the community center. The other is at Los Volcanes Senior Center, they will be working on energy-saving, lighting fixtures in the parking lot.

d. Associate Director – Alan Armijo

- a. Alan reported that he didn't have much to say other than he has been visiting centers and it has been nice to meet with folks. He will be meeting with the billiards platers at Palo Duro on Wednesday to talk about the billiards room.

e. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez

- a. Chris reported that the policies and procedures that they are working on have proved to be instrumental in helping with disciplinary issues. It allows the participants to have a formal appeal process in which the advisory council members also play a role in. Evan recently helped out with a participant suspension that was appealed. The formal hearing took place, and they were able to come to an agreement and hopefully squash the issue.
- b. Chris shared the results of the health and wellness survey. They are still working on finalizing them, but he wanted to share some of the results. There were 1,170 surveys completed, of those, 82.4% reported that DSA facilities are important and that they contribute to their general health. 76.8% indicated that within the last 6 months programs have contributed to their overall health. Social Engagement continues to be the single most important factor in the healthy lives of older adults.

f. Director – Anna Sanchez

- a. Anna reported that a lot of these new activities and initiatives have brought on a lot of sponsors and community partners, especially with the Tech Connect event. This is a new endeavor for the department to be able to enhance the capacity of the budget and programs. Also, they are working with long-time supporters such as Blue Cross Blue Shield who is looking to expand their supports to Senior Affairs, such as sponsoring a volunteer recognition day, or older adult fitness activities. She wanted to remind council members that at times they may be asked to publicly thank these sponsors and help give them some recognition. Anna also stated that they received a significant amount of money to revamp the North Valley Senior Center. They are looking at overall center renovations as well as revamping the entrance area. Lastly, Anna reported that they will be interviewing for the Fiscal Manager tomorrow.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. None at this time.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. None at this time.

IX. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time

X. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting, Henry seconds. Meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.