

# City of Albuquerque Department of Senior Affairs Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

714 Seventh Street SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
April 18, 2022

## Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:05 pm
  - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Steve Borbas; Lucy Lopez; Sheila Hundley; Havens Levitt; Raymond Taylor; and Martha Medina
  - b. Absent: Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Henry Shoner; Louis Carlentine; and Teresa Haering
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
  - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Steve seconds. March minutes are approved.
  - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda, Sheila seconds. The April agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
  - a. No public participation.
- IV. Leadership Personnel Changes and Announcements
  - a. To kick off introductions, Anna introduced herself, Department Director and Chris Sanchez, Deputy Director to the new advisory council members. Next, she introduced Helen Rogers as the new Program Supervisor at the Home Services Division. Helen has been with the Department for over 5 years, holding the position of I&A Specialist, then moved over to Sr. Office Assistant. Helen played a huge role bringing the new equipment inventory program over the finish line for the division. Helen stated that she is looking forward to helping the department serve the seniors in the community.
  - b. Anna announced that Agnes has taken on the role of Strategic Program Manager she will not only help with the department's strategic plan but will also oversee the Age Friendly initiative. Agnes will assist in creating and maintaining performance measures, and they are excited to have the passionate energy and wealth of expertise she will bring to the table. They will begin searching for a new Division Manager for Social Services here soon.
  - c. Anna announced that Nikki Peone has begun her new role of Associate Director, with that it will also leave a vacancy of Recreation Division Manager. As Associate Director Nikki will oversee the state capital grants, facilities management, and all things having to do with volunteerism, including the AmeriCorps Senior programs. Having another Associate Director will give the volunteer programs the needed guidance and visibility in the community, especially coming out of COVID.

- V. Welcome New Council Members
  - a. New council members in attendance include Dr. Sheila Hundley, Raymond Taylor, and Martha Medina. Dr. Hundley is an adult practitioner and is a faculty member and UNM as a gerontologist. Ray and his wife just moved here from Cleveland. His wife is a guidance counselor at St. Mary's. They came out to NM for a conference and thought this would be a nice place to retire. The community has reached out and he is excited to give back. Martha is a licensed clinical social worker with the Carelink program at BCBS. She has historically worked with seniors and is looking forward to connecting with the seniors at DSA. They went round robin to do introductions with all other advisory council members and DSA leadership.
- VI. Overview of Department Presentation
  - a. Anna kicked off the department overview presentation as a refresh to the established committee members and to show new committee members what programs DSA offers. Each Division Manager took a turn to cover their respective divisions which took about 20 minutes to cover.
- VII. Barelas Senior Center Report, Julio Santiesteban, Senior Center Manager
  - a. Julio introduced himself as the center manager for Barelas Senior Center. He has been with the department for 8 years and has served in several capacities. He reported that Barelas Community Center, which is right next door, is undergoing construction so parking has been an issue recently. They have an estimated completion date of October 2022 for phase I.
  - b. Julio reported that they just recently wrapped up tax season with AARP volunteers. This service is offered free to seniors and folks with low-income. He also reported that they will soon be starting driver safety in partnership with AARP. Julio reported that students from Amy Biehl charter High School has partnered with the center to offer free one-on-one technology classes to the seniors. Lastly, Julio reported that they will soon begin renovation on the front counter and install ADA compliant doors in the bathrooms.
- VIII. Administrative Reports
  - a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos
    - a. Agnes handed out a proclamation signed by the President of the United States recognizing national volunteer week. She also gave a shoutout for one of her AmeriCorps employees for the SCP, Jenna, who received a call from a senior who needed immediate intervention and services due to him constantly falling. Jenna sprang into action that they were able to quickly get this senior the help he needed, meals, safety equipment, and home services. That's the beauty of the program, they were able to work as a team to get this gentleman help.
  - b. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone
    - a. Nikki reported on all the activity's the recreation division is having in recognition of Older Americans Month in May. She spoke of the "A Senior I Know" essay contest coming up on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 -6:30pm at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center. This year is the 40<sup>th</sup> annual event and will be a drive thru parade cheering on all elementary-level 32 winners, teachers, and principles of APS who participate.
    - b. Nikki also highlighted the Ageless Artisan crafts fair will take place on May 21, from 9:00 – 1:00pm at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center in

the parking lot under tents. This will be an opportunity for seniors who attend the center classes to sell and display their wares that they craft at the centers. So please come on out to check it out, there will be food vendors and a car show.

- c. Nikki reported that there will be an event at the BioPark in the Botanic Gardens to celebrate National Senior Health and Fitness Day. There will be booths, break out areas such as Tai Chi, power walks, and is free to seniors. In partnership with BCBS, it will be on May 25 at 9:00am and you can register ahead of time, more information to come. Havens added that perhaps they can extend the ASIK event to high school students where they can interview a senior and tell their story to help with that intergenerational aspect and could be held at a different time of year, so it does not interfere with the elementary level kids. Nikki thought it was a great idea and could be looked at in the future.

- c. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Chris Sanchez for Tim Martinez

- a. Tim was unable to attend the meeting, so Chris reported on his behalf; one of the meal sites, Taylor Ranch Community Center, will hold a Senior Prom on April 22 and invited all committee members to check it out if they can.

- d. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez

- a. Chris reported only has to report that they just finished collecting information on the staff survey and they are excited to learn how well they are doing with employee engagement and what improvements can be made. Chris reported that they are excited to move forward with hiring the Fiscal Manager position.

- e. Director – Anna Sanchez

- a. Anna reported that they have been focusing on the budget with the Committee of the Whole meeting coming up soon. She is happy to report that they are pleased with the amount they are proposed to receive. She will highlight how the department works to be part of the solution and addressing the concerns and needs of the older population. They have been working with a subject matter expert to work on housing options to help seniors in conjunction with the Age Friendly initiative. Anna reported that their upcoming strategy is to hit pockets of the city that are perhaps underserved, and our services do not reach them. She talked about the Westgate Community Center opening as a senior meal site.

IX. Council Member Reports

- a. Havens announced that SAGE will be holding a fundraiser at Revel where all day a portion of the proceeds will go to SAGE. Jenifer will send out the information.

X. Advisory Council Business

- a. Committee Roles Review – Jenifer went over the subcommittee roles that are available and asked council members to let her what which they were interested in participating in.

XI. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time

XII. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting, Steve seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.