

**City of Albuquerque
Department of Senior Affairs
Advisory Council**

**714 Seventh Street SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102**



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
Zoom Meeting
April 19, 2021

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:04 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Louis Carlentine, Lucy Lopez, Steve Borbas, Allison Weber, Jennifer Roth, Bobbi Carmona-Young, Onastine Jaramillo, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, and Havens Levitt
 - b. Absent: None
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Evan motioned for approval of March minutes, Lou seconds. March minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of April agenda, Dubra seconds. April agenda approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. No public present during this virtual meeting.
- V. Transit Initiative – Update from Advisory Board Members
 - a. Anna introduced Chris Ramirez and Patricia Salisbury who are two members of the transit advisory council to brainstorm ways to communicate free rides to seniors 60 and older via sun van and the public bus system. Asking the department to suggest ways that public transit might be useful for seniors and how the department can assist in getting the message out to seniors. Dubra asked how are they going to assess the success of the program and how often the service is used and what the needs are? Patricia stated that they do keep track of the ridership every month however it is way down due to the pandemic. Dubra suggested putting information in the senior meals about the free fare. Jennifer suggested advertisements with large print, finding a tag line such as “where do you want to go?” She also suggested breaking down outreach by neighborhood, or senior center, visually to show this is where a route goes. Havens stated one of the issues is not driving at night, and also safety concerns about taking the bus at night. She suggests more conversation about ways to bridge that gap. Patricia happy to set up information tables at the different centers if the department thinks that would be beneficial. As far as safety issues, Patricia uses sun van at night because it is a door to door service. Also, the Railrunner is free to seniors and that is another transportation option. Onastine suggested a scavenger hunt to make seniors more comfortable riding the bus. Also placing advertisements on the bus. Bobbi suggested to use the

DSA newsletters to get information out as well as the news stations. Anna mentioned how this can tie in with the Age Friendly work and during the committee meetings, it can be discussed and explored more deeply what transit has to offer not only seniors, but the community as a whole.

VI. Welcome new employee – Eddie Cisneros

- a. Agnes welcomed Eddie Cisneros to the Home Services program as the new Assistant Supervisor. Eddie hit the ground running and he has brought some innovative thinking to the department. Eddie stated that he is happy to be here and looking forward to working with everyone and making the departments initiatives a success.

VII. Virtual Programming Update – Joel Mahoney

- a. Nikki introduced Joel to provide the council with an update on how the sports and fitness program pivoted during the pandemic. While most of his staff was helping to hand out meals at the lunch sites, he and his team began to offering virtual programming starting with exercise videos for seniors and it just grew from there. As things progressed staff began learning how to use their work phones to make videos and programs to upload them to social media sites. Steve asked if the exercises were modified so people with injuries or difficulties could also do them? Joel answered that they offer different modifications if they can. Onastine suggested that the department can leverage YouTube to encourage folks to sign up for notifications and the channel will get more hits. Anna gave a kudos to Joel for putting this together, this is certainly something that can grow and become permanent for those folks that are homebound or don't venture out to the centers.

VIII. Administrative Reports

a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos

- a. Agnes reported that home services and case management staff went back in to the homes of clients. They are making taking all precautionary measures to conduct visits safely. The clients are happy to see them and things are going smoothly.
- b. Agnes reported that some of her team members attended the 2021 American Society on Aging virtual conference and they were reflecting on what they learned. She wanted to share one surprising thing was that every second someone over the age of 59 falls and get injured. It was definitely an eye opener and more important than ever to find ways to keep folks safe in their homes.

b. Nutrition/Transportation Division - Tim Martinez

- a. Nikki reported on behalf of Tim who was not able to attend the meeting. Emergency home delivered meals concluded the 9th of April. The number of meals prepared went from 1400 per day to 650 per day at CASA kitchen. It's been a big transition so the team has been focusing on conducting training and refreshers for the staff.

c. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya

- a. Angel reported that virtual programming is still a big hit. Bingo will be offered on the 5th and 19th of May. Daytime dancing will air on May 5th, which is another member favorite. The centers restarted their monthly newsletters in April. Friendship coffee events can be found in the online newsletter.

- b. The attendance number for the youth program since March 2020 was 8,504. During the pandemic, the multigenerational centers were able to incorporate virtual learning and posted some arts and crafts on Facebook. They planned some intergenerational activities with grandparents. With school back in session, the multigenerational centers recently pivoted back to an after-school program which allows them to open the fitness centers back up on April 26th. They will be taking reservations for 8, 9, 10, and 11 am to work around the grab and go schedule.
- c. Angel reported that due to emergency home delivered meals being stopped, some of the drive thru lunch sites have distributed up to 500 meals per day. She also mentioned that in honor of Older Americans month in May, the department is celebrating the 39th annual A Senior I Know essay contest event drive thru style at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center on May 6th at 4:30 p.m. This year, there were 900 submissions, which was pretty good considering the pandemic.
- d. Associate Director – Deb Brinkley
 - a. Deb reported that things are winding down at the EOC. They are working on getting things billed out. There are vaccination sites happening the week of April 19th on T, W, and Th, they are expecting to vaccinate around 900 people.
 - b. Deb reported that Risk is conducting staff training at the facilities in the next couple of months. Those include; fire extinguisher training, de-escalation training, and refresher ladder/loading and unloading training.
- e. Director – Anna Sanchez
 - a. Anna spoke about the recent media events the department has had. The news story that ran in the Journal highlighting the low-impact, reservation-based programming the department is offering, while still in compliance with the public health order. There were some issues brought up regarding to halt to emergency home emergency home delivered meals. The department has been answering questions and offering additional services and supports. It has also seen an influx of visits to the pick and go sites. There was an article published regarding some employees reported to not wearing masks. After looking into the matter further, it was discovered that two employees were frosting cupcakes while the department of health was conducting their visit and one employee removed their mask to take a drink of coffee. There was no programming in the building during that time and was an isolated incident.
 - b. Anna showed the council members the department’s ‘Year in COVID’ report and covered some quick highlights on how it pivoted its programs and saw an increase in services. It showcased how staff did so much as such a lean department. It notes some of the partnerships that were stood up to serve the community. The designation with AARP is a big deal, and of course, when the time is right, the department will announce it as such.

IX. Council Member Reports

- a. Onastine suggested that the senior companion program could present on what they have to offer so everyone on the council is aware of the program. Also, if the

council could schedule some time at one of the meetings to cover roles and responsibilities of the council member in the centers when they reopen.

- X. Advisory Council Business
 - a. Jenifer shared the final list of subcommittee assignments with the council. Please review and send any questions and changes by email to her to finalize.
- XI. Old/New Business
 - a. None at this time.
- XII. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.
 - a. None at this time.
- XIII. Adjournment – Evan calls for motion to adjourn, Onastine seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.