

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

### Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting  
April 17, 2023

## Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:11 PM
  - a. Present:
    - i. Advisory Council Members: Evan Thompson, Steve Borbas, Henry Shonerd, Ray Taylor, Havens Levitt, Martha Medina, Lucy Contreras. Louis Carlentine
    - ii. DSA Staff Members: Anna Sanchez, Chris Sanchez, Alan Armijo Tim Martinez, Julio Santisteban, Maria ReQua and Agnes Vallejos
    - iii. Guests: Dennis,
  - b. Not Present: Teresa Haering, Sheila Hundley, and Dubra Karnes-Padilla.
- II. Approval of Minutes & Agenda
  - a. Evan motions to approve minutes, Steve seconds. March minutes approved with corrections to attendance.
  - b. Evan motions to approve agenda, Henry seconds. The April agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation- none
- IV. Center Manager Report – Julio Santisteban, Barelás Senior Center
  - a. Newsletter provided
  - b. UNM Community Clean up occurred with 8 students participating in this intergenerational event.
  - c. ACE Leadership High School will be working on refreshing the garden beds in the community garden and will create new accessible garden beds for people living with disabilities.
  - d. Open Space donated 60 bags of soil for the garden beds
  - e. City of Albuquerque Office of Sustainability awarded a grant to purchase compost bins.

- f. The reception area of the center is in process of being remodeled; bids for construction are being submitted and reviewed.
  - i. The construction may require the front entrance be closed for 3 months with the center being accessed through an alternative entrance. Julio is working with IT to ensure clients cards can be scanned at the new entrance. Materials for construction have been secured.
- g. Today is the last day of taxes at the center.
- h. Upcoming Events are planned for Earth Day including an intergenerational event with Barelas Early Childhood program; Cinco de Mayo and Mother's Day.
- i. Barelas Park construction- phase I is complete. The public reveal is on hold until all punch list items are complete. The Community Center will plan the celebration of the park's official opening. Trees that were near the Senior Center were removed resulting in an open view of the park. More community members are using the park.

V. Home Services Program- Repair/Rehab and Chore Services Revamp – Maria ReQua Social Services Division Manager

A deep dive into Home Services operation occurred resulting in a 90% reduction in the current waiting list for services. The program intends to work more efficiently and better manage client's expectations by not taking on jobs that can't be completed efficiently and timely. "Be Great at What We Do."

- a. Supply chain issues are an issue that has required the program to search for new vendors
- b. Vacancies are being filled as rapidly as possible. Helen Rogers and Eddie Cisneros are the "Superstar Supervisors" leading the program's efforts to become more efficient and effective.
- c. Revamp included a deep dive into scheduling during a 3 moth pause that allowed the program to address the backlog and reassess program offerings.
- d. One Pager has been created that outlines the new structure of program offerings and answers the question of what is the purpose for each service-Age in place safely.
  - i. Henry asked if beautification could be accomplished by the City as a project- Maria explained that these projects and others can be accomplished in partnership with VIA-Volunteer program.
- e. Seasonal yard work will be prioritized for homeowners to add address safety and code concerns.
- f. Painting will be eliminated and will be considered only as a volunteer opportunity with the potential for the development of new program that would solicit nominations for beautification and preservation of an older adult's home.

- g. Consideration was given to reduce the potential of duplication of resources and therefore certain services will be referred to the appropriate funding source- ie. Centennial care, Veterans' Administration.
- h. Another adjustment was to the timeframe in which a renter will obtain permission for durable equipment or safety equipment.
- i. A number of services will be allowed for existing case management program clients and will be by internal referral only.
- j. Program has established a referral list of service providers who offer a senior discount for those services we cannot provide or that are out of our scope.

Steve asked how referrals can be made. Maria encouraged calling 764-6400. Anna reiterated that Home Services is not an emergency response service. This program's success is linked to volunteerism and as such Home Services and VIA/RSVP will be working closely on identifying service projects that are readily implemented and developing volunteer opportunities such as chore runners, who, once trained, can assist with small projects in client's homes.

#### VI. DSA Administrative Updates

- a. Tim Martinez, Nutrition & Transportation Division Manager
  - i. Senior Prom is April 21 at Taylor Ranch from 10am -2pm
  - ii. 5 vans have been wrapped with another one being completed today
  - iii. Anna reported that HDM trucks will also be wrapped in the future
  - iv. The wrapped vans will be put into service for the upcoming State of the City Evnet.
- b. Maria ReQua, Social Services Division Manager
  - i. I&A Supervisor interviews have been held to fill that vacancy.
  - ii. Hard to fill vacancies are being strategized-these include I&A Specialists
  - iii. Outreach Plan for FY24 is being developed with purposeful client finding strategies being developed that include ACS/APD partnerships
  - iv. Deep dive into Case Management caseloads is being completed with a pilot for record retention being developed.
- c. Agnes Vallejos, Strategic Program Manager
  - i. DSA received a National Council on Aging (NCOA) grant to support COVID and Influenza vaccine uptake. The award was for \$100,000.
  - ii. Anna reported that DSA is also submitting 3 program accomplishments for national recognition through a NCOA program.
- d. Chris Sanchez reported on behalf of Angel Montoya, Recreation Division Manager

- i. The Tech Fair will held on 14 April 2023 at Palo Duro Senior Center had 250 attendees.
  - ii. Need a Ride to Visit a Loved One program is a collaboration between DSA, Railrunner and City of Santa Fe Senior program to provide transportation and meals for people who want to visit the National Cemetery.
  - iii. 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration was held on April 10. The event was spotlighted on the front page of the Albuquerque Journal.
    - 1. Statistics: 854 new members
- e. Alan Armijo: No updates.
- f. Anna Sanchez
  - i. City Council meeting tonight to review CIP. Anna presented a list of the projects being considered for DSA and the council amendments. She will keep the Advisory Council informed of the outcome. The Department is building a good case for additional support and funding by being strategic and methodical.

VII. Advisory Council Business

- a. Bylaw Review- Chris provided a review of the bylaws
  - i. Purpose
  - ii. Quorum
  - iii. Excused absences
  - iv. Membership at center
  - v. Annual service objectives
  - vi. Committees
  - vii. Retreat
    - 1. Henry spoke about the need for recognition, ease of documentation, socializing & retreat.
    - 2. Evan spoke about name badges
  - viii. Evan let the council know of the recent death of a former Council member, Bobbi Carmona Young
- b. May Meeting- Professional photos of the group will be taken. A reminder will be sent out.

VIII. Council Member Reports

- a. Ray asked about the upcoming RSVP recognition event- drive by event at which gifts will be distributed to volunteers.

IX. Adjournment

- a. Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Steve seconds. Meeting Adjourned at 1:24 pm.