

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
May 17, 2021

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:03 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Louis Carlentine, Lucy Lopez, Steve Borbas, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, Havens Levitt, and Henry Shon
 - b. Absent: Allison Weber, Jennifer Roth, Bobbi Carmona-Young, and Onastine Jaramillo
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Evan motioned for approval of March minutes, Dubra seconds. April minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of April agenda, Steve seconds. May agenda approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. No public present during this virtual meeting.
- V. Welcome New Council Member – Henry Shonerd
 - a. Henry introduced himself as a Navy brat that moved around a lot as a kid and traveled a lot as an adult. He landed in NM and became a high school teacher on the Navajo reservation. Henry moved to Albuquerque and became a professor with college of Santa Fe in Albuquerque and then became a professor at UNM. He lives in Los Ranchos and devotes a lot of time to volunteer work. Henry is looking forward to learn about what the advisory council is working on and excited to get started in this work.
- VI. Maria Requa Promotion
 - a. Anna reported that the department recently filled two critical positions. One is promoting Maria Requa to Community Volunteer Engagement Manager. Maria has been with the department for almost 8 years running the Foster Grandparent Program. Maria will oversee all AmeriCorps volunteer program managers and will engage current volunteers and work on ways to recruit new volunteers. Maria is thrilled to take on this new role and looking forward to getting creative and finding new and innovative ways to get volunteers involved. Sha has also been working closely with the Mayor’s office of Civic Engagement with a main goal of helping others who want to give back.

- VII. Welcome to DSA – Denise Parras
- a. Anna introduced Denise Parras as the departments new Marketing and Communications Specialist. Denise is a native New Mexican who has previously worked with the NM Alzheimer’s Association helping NM families facing dementia. The department is excited to have her as she works on growing its marketing efforts, especially as it moves toward reopening. Denise is excited to jump onto this team and continue to spread awareness for all older adults in Albuquerque and help promote the services DSA provides.
- VIII. A Senior I Know – Angel Montoya
- a. Angel reported on how the “A Senior I Know” event turned out in honor of Older Americans Month in May. Students submitted their artwork and handwritten essays about a senior they know. Some students wrote about a crossing guard or a neighbor in their lives. These stories tug at your heart strings and make you laugh or cry. Around 900 submissions were received, which given that school was held virtually, is a great turn out. Jenifer will be mailing each council member a copy to enjoy. This event really highlights the importance of older adults in the community and their connection to youth. Anna added that next year will be the 40th year of this event and it will be special to have the council involved.
- IX. Administrative Reports
- a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos
 - a. Agnes reported that I&A surpassed their goals for the whole year, in terms of units, a few weeks ago in calls made and received. At the beginning of the pandemic they remained critical and were taking calls seven days a week. Agnes wanted to give them a shout out as they work on getting folks connected to the resources they need and getting them information about DSA’s services.
 - b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez
 - a. Nikki reported on behalf of Tim who was not able to attend the meeting. Tim has a brief report from Tim, the main objective this past month has been focused on reopening and 3 kitchens are currently closed and during the pandemic did not produce any meals, so the teams are working on dusting off that kitchenware and getting fired up to reactivate. Those kitchens are Bear Canyon, Highland, and Palo Duro.
 - c. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya
 - a. Angel reported that recreation is also gearing up for reopening and everyone is working hard on getting the seniors back into the centers safely. She invited the council members to check out the new additions and North Domingo Baca. Nikki added that as the department begins transitioning the grab and go lunches to dine in and take away in the centers, they are focusing on the watching how the numbers of meals change. During this time, they will be working on reminding returning members how recreation operates normally and getting the message out to new folks on how they can become a member of the centers.
 - d. Director – Anna Sanchez
 - a. Anna reported that last week the department underwent the virtual monitoring visit with AAA. It went well, and the department is focusing on revamping its policies and procedures into more forward-facing documents

for participants and employees. Anna will be sending those out the council members to get their feedback. The policies will include the tracking and reporting of monthly numbers to AAA. They are also working on departmental performance measures which will help paint a better picture about what it is the department does and how to meet its goals.

- b. Anna reported that they are working on adding a new division to the department. Senior Management is looking at ways to build its capacity to ensure they have the bandwidth to carry out new initiatives. As Maria mentioned, there is a great opportunity to build that effort through volunteerism. The new Strategic Development and Engagement Division Manager will lead this charge and also oversee marketing efforts, performance measures, and age friendly initiatives. The department is working on ways to be proactive instead of responsive by building new community partnerships and surveying folks to see if they are going a good job and what can be done better. They are looking at new trends to engage older adults; is it by connecting them to technology? Dubra asked if they could see the org charts and Jenifer will share those with council members.
- c. Anna reported that as of June 1, 2021 visitors and employees are no longer required to wear masks if they are vaccinated, due to the state being in “turquoise” status. It will be on the honor system and wellness checks will no longer be conducted. Folks will be reminded to self-check, asked not to come in if they are not feeling well, and to wash their hands regularly. The department is working with ALTSD and AAA to stay in compliance with COVID-safe practices. Especially as they transition to dine in meals. Anna went over the guideline policies to ensure compliance and ensure council member agree. The department will be working on educating incoming members who are not sure how the centers work. They have been giving meals to those who do not have a membership and those that do not meet the age requirements and folks will need one in order to receive a meal moving forward. If things continue to progress, the plan is to reopen the centers to normal operations on July 9, 2021. The only exception will be that masks are still required on the transportation vans. The department is working on getting filtration systems on vehicles.
- d. Anna reported that the department has assisted over 5,000 residents in getting registered for the vaccine. Dubra asked if any of the centers will be used as a vaccination site? Anna reported that the DOH mostly used the Berna Facio Center and that they would be happy to use the centers if they reached out. Anna reported that the senior serenade is something that the department is hoping to keep ongoing to engage seniors on all levels. Dubra asked what concerns does the department foresee so the council can offer support. Nikki stated that the biggest impact will be on food services. They are trying to forecast how many people will come in or not. There is some nervousness in the demand or lack of demand in services. Some folks will not return and some will come in as new members. Havens asked about the groups that had regularly scheduled meetings will they be able to pick up those same dates and times, or will it start over as a blank slate? Angel answered that the centers will start reaching out very soon to the groups and

ask if they are wanting to come back and what that might look like. Henry asked if DSA plays any kind of role in the nursing homes such as Casa de Palomas? Anna answered that the department currently does not, which is why they hope to keep things like the senior serenade going. NMALTSO oversees the licensure and the continuous monitoring of those facilities. Maria's new role can hopefully facilitate a part for volunteers in service at these facilities. Maria stated that through the pandemic, AmeriCorps has been more flexible in letting volunteers visit with the folks in nursing homes virtually or by the phone.

- X. Council Member Reports
 - a. Evan went over how the council member reports for new member Henry and used this time to have the council members introduce themselves.
- XI. Advisory Council Business
 - a. None at this time.
- XII. Old/New Business
 - a. None at this time.
- XIII. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.
 - a. None at this time.
- XIV. Adjournment – Evan calls for motion to adjourn, Steve seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 1:16 pm.