

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
July 26, 2021

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson – 12:05 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson, Bobbi Carmona-Young, Onastine Jaramillo, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, Steve Borbas, Henry Shoner, Havens Levitt, and Louis Carlentine
 - b. Absent: Lucy Lopez, Allison Weber, Jennifer Roth
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Evan motioned for approval of June minutes, Lou seconds. June minutes approved.
- III. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of July agenda, Lou seconds. July agenda approved.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. No public participation.
- V. New DSA Faces - Introductions
 - a. Anna welcomes Denise in person and reported she has hit the ground running and has been very welcomed by staff. Denise reported on some of the things she has been working on; they just wrapped the debut of Age Friendly initiative at Palo Duro Senior Center. They will begin diving in to the action plan and meeting those goals. They have been working on reengaging with members in the centers encouraging socialization while being sensitive to continuing taking all safety precautions. They are also working on promoting the youth before and after school programs with registration closing on the 29th. Denise reported that they are excited to have the Mayor attend the unveiling of the Veterans walls turning digital. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Bear Canyon and Jenifer will send out the details. Lastly, the activities catalog is completed and will be distributed in the Journal, Sunday's paper on August 1st.
 - b. Agnes welcomes Gerald Baca, the new Construction Supervisor for Home Services. He has been in the position for about a week and the department is thrilled to have him. He comes from UNM and has 24 years' experience in construction. Gerald is excited to be here and looking forward to helping out and furthering the program.

VI. Center Manager Report – Bear Canyon Ya Vette Bailey

- a. Ya Vette reported on behalf of Center Manager Tyler Dunn who was out of the office. She reported that the staff is excited to be reopened as off July 6th and are navigating how to return to their pre-COVID programming. It has been great to see old and new faces and watch their social interaction and joy to be back at the center. There were 125 members in attendance at their first Thursday night dance. They are back to serving breakfast in addition to lunch, and are averaging 27 members per day for breakfast. Ya Vette reported that they have enrolled 37 new members since reopening and some of the recent renovations include new lighting in the parking lot, upgraded Veterans wall, new kitchen equipment, and lastly are waiting for approval to purchase a new awning for the entrance.

VII. Administrative Reports

a. Social Services Division – Agnes Vallejos

- a. Agnes reported that Care Coordinators are now going back in to the homes of their clients and are finding that some are not meeting case management eligibility or receiving push back on reestablishing eligibility for services. Agnes also reported that in partnership with Presbyterian Health Plan to have some health fairs throughout the fall. Lastly, she reported that they are excited to put together a team for the Alzheimer’s walk and put together a plan for the state.

b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez

- a. Tim reported that they have been working on the expansion of the transportation program, they have expanded the transporting of members to centers to a 5-mile radius from a 3-mile radius. This was a great opportunity to expand services and get more folks to the centers. Members just need to sign up at the center of their choice to get a ride to and from the center, daily.
- b. Tim reported that the Bernalillo County meal sites will be reopening so that have been working on inspections and going through checklists to ensure the sites are ready to reopen. They will complete the rest of the sites in the next week. Dubra asked how many meals sites there are? Tim answered that there are 16 in total and all kitchens will be operating and getting more menu items in the coming months. Steve asked if they look at other City’s transportation programs to see if DSA can streamline processes or try something new? Tim answered that yes, they are always looking for ways to learn from others and Chris pointed out that DSA serves as a model for other programs as well. Onastine mentioned a partnership with Sunvan. Anna answered that there is definitely some overlap and DSA will look to use other resources to offer more to the community and work to build those community partnerships. Sunvan does charge for their services and ridership has been down on demand, so DSA will evaluate what those barriers are.

c. Recreation Division – Nikki Peone

- a. Nikki reported that since the Centers have been open on July 6th, there have definitely been some growing pains and they are working out those kinks. They are rolling out activities and getting items that may have been idle from

- lack of use repaired. They are working with City Facilities to get bathroom issues fixed from not being used.
- b. Nikki reported that members and staff alike are excited to have events and programming back. They are bringing old programming back as well as offering new programs. They have seen a rise in new memberships and with that brings new activities and new volunteers to teach them.
 - c. They are rolling out revised recreation policies and procedures and have created a new computer room use policy. They will be offering more technology classes and with that getting new computer equipment. DSA has partnered with Adelante's DiverseIT to hold some classes at the centers and one on one tech help for members.
 - d. Nikki reported that they will begin taking applications for the Veterans wall at each center now that it has been officially unveiled. Jenifer will send everyone the application to complete online. She also mentioned that they will be holding two different photo shoots for Veterans to have their picture taken and placed in the rotation.
 - e. Lastly, Nikki reported that they have been working with APD's area commanders in locations at each center to address security issues that the centers have been experiencing. APD will increase their presence at locations and will be holding lunch and learns and debriefing events that the members can sit in at and comment on. Evan asked if membership fees are still being waived? Nikki answered that existing members do not have to pay the fee through June 2022 but will still need to fill out a new membership form. New, incoming members do have to pay the \$20 per year membership fee, but can be asked to have it waived if they are unable to pay.
- d. Associate Director – Deb Brinkley
 - a. Deb reported that the safety committee has been reestablished and that she has been working on updating safety training that is not current or up-to-date that each facility needs to have in order to stay in compliance. CPR, first aid, and AED are just to name a few and make those classes longer. Onastine mentioned that when she attended the DSA retreat in 2019, she was trained on how to administer Narcan and asked if that was something that each center needs? Deb responded that, yes, the department will need to work on getting everyone current on that certification.
 - e. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez
 - a. Chris mentioned that it's great to hear of the impact the department makes through data and the numbers. The DSA team has been incredible to work with and a lot has been happening to get the department where it needs to be, and he wanted to commend the leadership team for going a great job of tackling issues as they arise during the reopening process.
 - f. Director – Anna Sanchez
 - a. Anna reported that she just attended "Coffee with the Director" at Los Volcanes and that Nikki's shop has done a great job navigating the reopening process and dealing with the angst from members in these unsure times. They are taking the time to ensure that they are following all safety protocols to protect against the spread of the virus, and internally,

have been dealing with staff who are exposed or testing positive. They continue to encourage those who have not been vaccinated to do so.

- b. Anna reported that the department will soon be conducting more surveys and looking forward to working on building community partnerships. As mentioned, the department is working on technology with Adelante and building the Silver Alert program to bring more awareness. The department is reordering supplies for the vial of life program and will continue to work with first responders and advocate for the older adults in the community.
- c. Anna reported that they completed the aging population study which was produced for City Council and will keep folks updated on progress. She is excited that the recreation policies and procedures will be finalized soon and will be soliciting feedback from council members to provide that outside perspective.

VIII. Council Member Reports

- a. Bobbi mentioned that we should strengthen the connection with the childcare program and share your care program at Los Volcanes. It is not only a senior center but it also provides so many other services that may not be highlighted as it should be.
- b. Dubra mentioned that she is part of a book club that just read a book called “100% Community” that seems to tie in well with the age friendly initiative.
- c. Steve reported that he has been talking with the neighbors in his community about getting help with yard work, does DSA have anything like that? Agnes answered that the Home Services program helps with home chores. Folks just need to contact the information and assistance line at 764-6400. They are focusing a lot more on safety of the landscape to ensure that it is safe for the homeowner in addition to them needing the help. Henry mentioned that this sounds like something that Charter School students can help with to volunteer and learn job skills.

IX. Advisory Council Business

- a. None at this time.

X. Old/New Business

- a. None at this time.

XI. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. City Boards and Commissions has asked that we begin meeting in person, with the option to zoom if completely necessary. The hybrid model will continue through the end of the year.

XII. Adjournment – Evan calls for motion to adjourn, Dubra seconds. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.