

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs

Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council Meeting
September 26, 2022

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Dubra Karnes-Padilla – 12:04 pm
 - a. Present: Evan Thompson; Dubra Karnes-Padilla; Henry Shonerd; Sheila Hundley; Raymond Taylor; Louis Carlentine
 - b. Absent: Lucy Lopez; Havens Levitt; Steve Borbas; Teresa Haering; and Martha Medina
- II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
 - a. Evan motions for approval of minutes, Dubra seconds. July minutes are approved.
 - b. Evan motions for approval of agenda, Henry seconds. The September agenda is approved.
- III. Public Participation
 - a. Jim Berdine Chairperson from Friends of Bear Canyon club joined the meeting to observe, no public comment requested.
- IV. Staffing Update
 - a. Angel Montoya, formally the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center Manager, has been promoted to the Recreation Division Manager. Angel stated that she is so happy and excited to take on this new role. She is still getting acclimated and visiting with each of the Center Managers.
 - b. Serena Fazio-Sierra comes to the department from the Atrisco Companies. Serena is the new Outreach Coordinator and will be working on building community partnerships, among other things. Serena is happy to join the department and looking forward to community outreach.
 - c. Anntoinette Apodaca is new to the department, having previously worked for APD. Anntoinette is the new Case Management Supervisor with the Social Services division and is excited to work with seniors again.
- V. Center Manager Report – Julianna Brooks, Highland Senior Center Manager
 - a. Julianna reported that Highland is busy as ever, especially during breakfast and lunch times. Activities have been booming and seem to be returning to normal as senior members are more comfortable returning to the center after the pandemic. She reported that they are working on some construction updates in the center such as a new fence, new concrete sidewalks, kitchen upgrades, and they are hoping to expand the building as they are running out of space for programming. Julianna reported that they have been having some troubles with vandalism,

especially with the vans. Once they get that fixed, they are hoping to resume day trips for the seniors.

VI. Administrative Reports

a. Strategic Planning – Agnes Vallejos

a. Agnes finished the second phase of the strategic planning process. The executive team met with all supervisors on Friday to have a strategic huddle session and received a lot of good feedback. Between the National Senior Games and then the COVID-19 pandemic, they hadn't really taken any time to step back and look at the important work the department has done and they are working on documenting that and working some things in to the strategy moving forward. Agnes also reported that they have been working with the mayor's office on housing initiatives which ties back in to the Age Friendly work so she is excited to bring that to the table.

b. Nutrition/Transportation Division – Tim Martinez

a. Tim reported that they have filled the Meal Site Supervisor position with Marie Llamas and he hopes to introduce her at the next meeting. They are excited to have this key position filled. They are also working to fill the Program Manager position that Patty vacated and are holding interviews on Friday. Tim reported that they held interviews for Cook and hope to have a start date soon for that position. Lastly, Tim reported that they provided transportation just recently for the Japanese Art Festival which was a really big hit.

c. Recreation Division – Angel Montoya

a. Angel reported that she has been busy with one-on-one meetings with her team to discuss what has been going on in their centers and to discuss their needs, issues, upcoming events, etc. Bear Canyon has been undergoing construction and center kitchen upgrades as well as Highland as Julianna stated. All of the centers are gearing up for their fall festivals and fall programming and activities. They are also working on ramping up more intergenerational programming to include, eating lunch together, doing crafts, and reading together. All of the centers seem to be returning to their normal routines after the pandemic. Lunchtime has been busy throughout all the centers, most serving 70-80 meals, if not more. Dubra asked if construction information was posted on the website so folks know what is going on in the centers? Anna responded that she will be working with Denise, the Marketing PIO to reinstitute quarterly newsletters that get sent out via e-blasts to those that subscribe to receive such news.

d. Social Services Division – Maria ReQua

a. Maria reported that Debra Montano, who is currently their Program Manager, will be retiring at the end of the month so they are hoping to fill that vacancy soon. There are 3 vacancies among the Case Manager's so they have been working on a different approach to ensure they are keeping up with their case load. The case managers are doing follow up assessments over the phone in lieu of going in to the homes to save time and reach every client. Maria reported that the Home Services crew is gearing up for the annual HEATS On event in collaboration with the local

- 412 plumbers and pipefitters union. This year, they were able to schedule 100 seniors in one day.
- b. Maria reported that they will begin distributing firewood and have enough supply to reach 250 homes this year. Also, they have designated a few I&A staff members to work the veterans resource fair as well as the internet resource fair that are coming up. Lastly, Maria reported that one of her I&A staff members, Aimee, was recognized as the department's "glowing" employee of the year and has been invited to attend the mayor's balloon glow to honor employee recognition.
- e. Associate Director – Nikki Peone
- a. Nikki reported that they will be having another Ageless Artisan Fair "Winter Edition" since the spring fair did so well and it is back by popular demand. This fair will take place at Manzano Mesa and more details to follow regarding the application for vendor booths. Nikki also reported on some of the upcoming events on the horizon, Jenifer has provided a packet that lists the dates and times of these events. First is the partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield which highlights "Care Vans" that will provide health screenings. This time they will be featuring foot health and seniors can sign up to have their toe nails clipped, among other things. Nikki spoke about the COVID and flu shot clinics. This is just an easy way to have direct access to those booster shots and families, all ages, are invited.
 - b. Nikki announced that the department will be taking part in the twinkle light parade. They do have to submit an application but the floats should be fun and themed and is asking for council members to join in on the fun of either being in the parade or helping out with setting up the floats and lights. More details to come. Lastly, Nikki reported that the RSVP Annual Recognition Breakfast will be coming up so to look for their invitations. So far, 300 volunteers have registered to attend and can bring a plus one, so they are expecting at least 500 to attend. The breakfast will take place on November 9th, and members should expect to see their invitations soon.
- f. Associate Director – Alan Armijo
- a. Alan stated he didn't have much to report other than he has been visiting the centers and stopping by for dances to chat with the senior members and check in on any issues or good news to share. Alan will be visiting with folks from Tim's shop soon to do a ride along with one of the drivers while they deliver meals to the homebound seniors. This will give him a chance to chat with those folks and check in as well as with the employees.
- g. Deputy Director – Chris Sanchez
- a. Chris reported that accreditation at the 4 centers; Manzano Mesa, North Valley, Palo Duro, and Los Volcanes is in full swing and thanks the council members for serving on the accreditation team and looks forward to the final outcome. Chris announced that they are excited to have a fully staffed leadership team and they are working on the strategic plan and the annual employee retreat.
- h. Director – Anna Sanchez
- a. Anna reported that along with the strategic plan, they are ramping up advocacy and want to ensure that the subcommittees are meeting regularly

or on an as-needed basis. They will continue to use City Council meetings as a platform to ask for more money, find more space. As Agnes discussed, the DSA manager's meeting on Friday was very productive and it helped define where the department is going, helped to see the purpose in their role, and definitely found some need to do a better job in training, with staffing shortages, and offering more stability in the department overall. There are things they learned from COVID and that will be helpful in developing the strategic plan.

- b. Anna reported that they have been working on an update to the 5-year ICIP plan, and how to use money wisely. The Cibola Loop project is definitely in there along with 1 million on general rehab dollars, 2.5 million for Highland. They are looking at land opportunities, and updating the spray park at Manzano Mesa.

VII. Council Member Reports

- a. Ray thanked Agnes for helping him get in touch with ACS where he met with them to discuss their role in helping seniors in the community with behavioral health issues and security issues. He was able to learn about their effort to help deescalate behavioral health in the community and learned about project ECHO and attended that meeting. He also learned about the gateway center and their wraparound services and hopes that will be a great support system for the community.

VIII. Advisory Council Business

- a. None at this time.

IX. Announcements: Upcoming Events, Etc.

- a. None at this time.

- X. Adjournment – Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dubra seconds. Meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.