

STEVE SISOLAK  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

TERRY REYNOLDS  
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
COMMISSION ON MINORITY AFFAIRS**

**Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Commission on Minority Affairs was held on Monday, March 16, 2020. Pursuant to public notice: Via video conference call between all locations: 1) Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Ave, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102, 2) Nevada Department of Business and Industry, 1830 College Pkwy, Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89706, and 3) Conference call: Carson City: 775-687-0999, Las Vegas: 702-486-5260, Participant's Collaboration Code: 64575.

**1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- A. Chair Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.
  
- B. Commissioners Present (phone): Chair D. Edward Chaney, Vice Chair Myisha Williams, C. Hasaan Azam, C. Janelle Conine, C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Jose Melendrez, C. Amy Shaw, and C. Kathleen Taylor.
  
- C. Commissioners Absent: C. Adleen Stidhum
  
- D. Staff Present: Emily Ku, Management Analyst for the Commission on Minority Affairs
  
- E. Public Attendance: Janet Serial, Ashanti Lewis, Ender Austin

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ashanti Lewis from Three Square – To give some context ahead of her presentation, Three Square serves Southern Nevada that includes 4 counties: Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye. Statistically, 1 in 8 people in our community in Southern Nevada struggles with hunger, and during the 2018-2019 school year, nearly 70% of Clark County school district students are enrolled in free and reduced lunch, which equates to 220,000 students. Additionally, Three Square serves 164,000 individuals monthly. She is excited to present on equity and inclusion today.

Ender Austin, former Commissioner and now staff for Congressman Steven Horsford – Wanted to be on the call to learn about the work of the Commission and how we can serve at this time. We are looking to repurpose our office to be a hub for support and resources. We want to make sure we have that message out far and wide. If folks need to know “who do I call about this, where do I go for this

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**COMMISSIONERS:** Chair D. Edward Chaney; Vice Chair Myisha Y. Williams; C. Hasaan Azam; C. Janelle Conine; C. E. Mercedes Krause, C. Amy Emiko Shaw, C. Adleen B. Stidhum; C. Kathleen Taylor

assistance”, our Congressman has that desire to be a resource.

### **3. COMMISSION BUSINESS DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE COMMISSION**

#### **A. Approval of February 24, 2020 meeting minutes (for discussion and possible action)**

C. Shaw moved to approve the minutes with the suggested changes. C. Taylor seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. Guest speaker: Ashanti Lewis, Three Square**

She has met several Commissioners already and began the conversation to really talk about equity and inclusion and what Three Square can do to serve all communities fairly. Today she would like to go over what Three Square is doing with our senior population and getting input on how our priorities align so we can move forward together. For the senior hunger program, Three Square provide food and older adults 60+ with healthy supplemental grocery products through senior only pantries throughout the Valley. They also provide home delivered meals and congregant meals. Currently they are serving 7,000 seniors per month and that is continuing to grow as more seniors move to Nevada. One way Three Square helps is through congregate meals, which are served in a group setting. These meals follow nutritional guidelines for seniors, served 5-7 days per week, usually at lunchtime. As an example, some of the locations in Southern Nevada are the Boulder City Senior Center, Lutheran Social Services, and the Pahrump Senior Center. Historically the providers who serve meals are reimbursed at a very low rate. Prior to 2019, it used to be \$2.20 a meal. A study conducted by Nevada Aging and Disabilities Division (ADSD) demonstrated that the average operational cost exceeds \$10 per meal, so that’s a pretty large gap between the reimbursement rate and the actual rate and that can be a financial strain. Some agencies are struggling financially so Three Square wanted to help alleviate some of the costs, especially since the reimbursement rate and the actual rate and that can be a financial strain. Some agencies are struggling financially so Three Square wanted to help alleviate some of the costs, especially since the reimbursement rate has not increased in 18 years prior to 2019. Their goal was to increase the reimbursement rate by \$1, which is still low, but when serving 100+ meals a day, that extra \$100 can really help out agencies already struggling. Additionally, the idea was to increase the participation rate among meal sponsors, ultimately providing more locations for seniors to access healthy meals and alleviate the financial strain. Also, congregate meals are a great way to break up the social isolation that many face. A lot of seniors don’t have friends or family and are living alone. Fast forward to the end of the 2019 legislative session, their bill SB443 was passed unanimously. Right now they are in an expansion phase and are able to bring on a new partner, New Beginnings Ministry in North Las Vegas. They already had a homeless program in place, and they were excited to bring on this new program to feed seniors in their community because they see firsthand the struggle that seniors are going through because this is an underrepresented population. Going forward, they are looking to have more meals throughout Southern Nevada in low access, high need areas. They are just trying to find locations that have the space and are centrally located so that seniors can there get on the bus, get dropped off, or possibly walk. That is a bit of a challenge but something they are working extremely hard on. They are looking to do similar programs with other populations in the community who have historically been looked over as far as outreach efforts go. They know Southern Nevada is becoming increasingly diverse, so they want to make sure they’re not overlooking anyone. That was the basic premise for reaching out to the Commission to see how our priorities align and how to move forward.

C. Taylor would like to thank Chair Chaney and Vice Chair Williams for facilitating the meeting and Jodi Tyson from Three Square. She thanks Ashanti Lewis for presenting today and really appreciate bringing to light the work of Three Square, especially the senior program. Each of the Commission subcommittees has a senior component to it, and she thinks that there can be some alignment. C. Williams just wanted to thank Ms. Lewis for her phenomenal presentation. The information is helpful and it's good to receive an update. The Commission will be working to find alignment in some of the legislative activities, and where we can be supportive on these initiatives. Ms. Lewis said that they are currently working on their policy priorities. She will send white papers as soon as they finalize those priorities.

## **B. Subcommittee Updates (for discussion and possible action)**

### **1. Education**

C. Krause said although there are sites for food pickups, there is high concern for students who don't have cars. There was a school board meeting on figuring out ways to deliver food for families we know don't have transportation. Also, there was discussion on systems in place for distance learning, especially for elementary school. At her school they have put together a packet. They have a communications platform where they are sending work home for families to do with the students. At-risk communities was being heavily considered and was brought up in every conversation at the last school board meeting. Regarding the last meeting about the student count, the community linkage meeting between the Native American community and the school board and superintendent, there is going to be a Nevada Indian Commission meeting on May 8, where the community has submitted an agenda item. They will be streaming the meeting at 10 am. They are requesting an inquiry into the Department of Education federal Indian education funding and allocations in the Clark County school district. Actual numbers of Native American students point to 2,000, higher than official numbers, and they request assistance in identifying all eligible students.

C. Chaney said that the Clark County School District is closed until April 16. He forwarded a document with a list of sites where families may pick up school lunches and academic resources. You must have a school age child with you to be eligible for the food.

### **2. Health**

C. Taylor's report is primarily on the health perspective of the coronavirus. The most recent data report 26 statewide cases: Washoe County has 5, Clark County has 16, and 1 in Carson City. The virus is affecting not only the health of the general population, but many different industries – entertainment and food and beverage, the judicial system, etc. She said the Nevada Health and Human Services has a process for reporting cases. For Northern and rural Nevada and Clark County, the process is the same, it's just the point of contacts are different. If a person believes they are symptomatic, they should call their health care provider prior to entering the facility to discuss symptoms. Once they arrive, a clinician assesses their symptoms. If suspected for coronavirus, they must immediately isolate the patient and contact their local health epidemiology department. The patient is assigned a case number and must remain isolated. The clinician must tag the specimen and complete the requisition form. Also, the clinician must contact the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) to coordinate transport. Once NSPHL receives the specimen, it will take up to 4 hours to complete the test. It will report the results to the ordering clinician and local health department if necessary. If negative, no public health action necessary. If positive, it is considered

presumptive and sent to the CDC for confirmatory testing. If presumptive positive, the state or local health department will conduct a full epidemiological investigation immediately. CDC will take up to 72 hours to complete the confirmatory testing of the specimen once received at their site. Once completed, they notify the NSPHL the results. Patient will remain in isolation until non-infectious.

C. Taylor was invited by Dr. Laura Culley at UNLV Medical Center to a planning meeting to discuss the MHC's (Mobile Health Collaborative) role assisting the health district and community education on the prevention and management of the COVID-19 outbreak, but was unable to attend the meeting. C. Melendrez said they do a lot of mobile outreach. The next event that was scheduled for April 22 has been canceled. They are looking at different ways to work with the health district without putting anyone at risk, because people still need those services. C. Conine said there are now 9 confirmed cases in Washoe County. If you call a non emergency number, they are screening that way as well.

### 3. Housing

C. Krause was planning to attend a Housing Committee Advisory meeting today, but it is canceled. C. Taylor contacted the Nevada Housing Coalition, called and introduced herself to learn more about the organization. She will receive notifications from here on out about their conference calls. M. A. Ku said on Friday, February 28, the Nevada SBDC (Small Business Development Center) collaborated with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to host a webinar on the housing programs. Businesses can qualify as a Section 3 business if they meet certain parameters and will be entered into a business registry, which is used by agencies that receive HUD funds. There was a good number of people who attended the event, around 75. The Commission/B&I (Business and Industry) had a table there.

### 4. Workforce Development

No report

### 5. Economic & Business Development

C. Shaw said nothing new to report. C. Williams provided an update that the Las Vegas Stadium Authority board meeting is scheduled for the 19th, and has not yet been cancelled. The master operator and concessionaire should be providing an update on the status of the community benefits plan. If the meeting does not get canceled, she will provide an update to the Commission.

C. Taylor was invited with 20 other resource partners in the small business community. Wells Fargo hosted a small business roundtable, and they discussed successes and challenges facing small businesses in Southern Nevada. Wells Fargo was very open to these strategies, really impressive for a lender gather input from small business development to bring forth the issues that are facing small businesses. Also, she cohosted the Urban Chamber Commerce First radio show with Deputy Director Marcel Schaerer. They featured a couple of women business owners in honor of Women's History Month.

C. Taylor said the US Small Business Administration just released communication regarding \$2 million in disaster assistance loans. C. Taylor read a press statement from SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza:

“The President took bold, decisive action to make our 30 million small businesses more resilient to Coronavirus-related economic disruptions. SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance for a small business. These loans can provide economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years. Terms are determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon each borrower’s ability to repay.”

## 6. Legislative

C. Williams represented her business at a 20-person private roundtable hosted by the SBA. They spent an hour with SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza, who asked how small businesses are being impacted and solicited feedback to bring back to the federal level. C. Williams comments were centered around the availability of small business resources, specifically ones impacting small and minority-owned businesses. Funding is being cut for some programs, and she stressed the importance of educational and advocacy programs. This impacts the minority owned small businesses that the Commission advocates for in the community. She was one of the people that was asked to follow up with the administrator directly to make the case for why those programs need funding, such as SCORE, SBDC, and WBC (Women’s Business Center). She welcomed Commissioners for their input and to provide any bullet points by the end of the week so she can include them in her correspondence. She wanted to open it up to the Commission in case they are aware of any other programs funded by SBA that should be part of the consideration as well. C. Taylor thanked C. Williams for the opportunity and will send over comments.

## 7. Community Liaison

M. A. Ku attended the Sheriff’s Asian Advisory Council meeting. Sheriff Lombardo spoke about how crime has decreased in the last year, and property crime has decreased 3%, which is significant.

### **C. Management Analyst update (for discussion and possible action)**

- a. A lot of the upcoming events in the community have been canceled. The Community Based Participatory Research conference has been postponed until September. All of the upcoming travel that the Commission planned have been postponed. Right now the office is trying to wind down and move to remote working.
- b. She plans to disseminate information on school closures, SBA lending, and any other resources that is important information to the community.

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Janet Serial said that the 2020 symposium on mental health and policing is being planned for April 20. This symposium is annual event organized by the Reno Police Department and led by Deputy Chief Oliver Miller. The initial planning meeting was March 5th. Washoe County is working on addressing mental health and policing, which has now been changed to behavioral health and policing to be inclusive of a range of disorders and opioid use. She also wanted to announce that the 2020 County Health Rankings scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at Washoe County Health District from 11am-12pm. The rankings are from the Robert Wood Johnson Report. M. A. Ku said that the County Health Rankings has now been changed to a webinar.

## 6. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am
- Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2020 at 9:30 am