MINUTES OF THE COALITION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

155 N. Taylor Street, Fallon, NV 89406
February 10, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Coalition for Senior Citizens was called to order at 4:00 PM on February 10, 2025.

Roll Call:

The regular meeting of the Coalition for Senior Citizens was called to order at 4:00 PM on February 10, 2025.

PRESENT:	Member Rinnie Barrenchea, Vice-Chair Member Karla Kent, Treasurer Member Becky Schelling Member Cheryl Venturacci Member Lindsay Larsen Member Phyllis Peyerl Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore
ABSENT:	Member Dawn East

Public Comments:

Vice-Chair Barrenchea asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 4th day of February, 2025, between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Member Karla Kent made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Rinnie Barrenchea seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

A- Introduction of board members, with opportunity to tell the other board members about themselves.

The board members will be afforded an opportunity to introduce themselves and tell the others about themselves.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED:

Cheryl Venturacci shared that she has lived in Fallon for 38 years. She is married to Mark Venturacci and, together, they have two grown daughters. After retiring from a 30-year career in education, she was motivated to join the board due to her personal experience caring for elderly parents. Having navigated the challenges they faced, she has developed a deep compassion for seniors and the financial struggles they endure to make ends meet.

Becky Schelling introduced herself as a longtime Fallon resident of 36 years. She has been married to Doug Schelling for 40 years and, like Cheryl, has gone through the process of supporting elderly parents. She values being part of a committee dedicated to addressing the needs of seniors. After retiring from a 32-year career as a UPS driver, she now has ample free time and is looking for meaningful ways to spend it.

Phyllis Peyerl has called Fallon home for the past 48 years. Now retired and having recently moved from the countryside into town, she finds herself with extra time, especially during the winter months. She recognizes the many needs within the community and hopes to make a positive contribution.

Lindsay Larsen has lived in Fallon for the past three years, having relocated with the Navy. She currently works as a receptionist at the Life Center and joined the board to serve as a positive advocate for seniors in the community.

This item was conducted for informational purposes only and no action was taken.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Election of a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Coalition for Senior Citizens.

With the change in board members, the board is asked to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve for a period of two years, effective immediately through January 31, 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Vice-Chair Barrenchea asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Member Rinnie Barrenchea made a motion to appoint Karla Kent as Chair, to serve a one-year term through January 31, 2026. Member Becky Schelling seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Karla Kent made a motion to appoint Lindsay Larsen as Vice-Chair, to serve a one-year term through January 31, 2026. Member Rinnie Barrenchea seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Authorization to change the signers for the checking and savings accounts for the Coalition for Senior Citizens by deleting Justin Heath as a signer and adding two additional board members.

Former Commissioner Justin Heath's term has expired and he was one of the signers on the accounts. To ensure that we have three people who can sign checks, the board is asked to authorize two additional signers and to remove Justin Heath as a signer on the checking and savings accounts. Treasurer Karla Kent is the other signer on the accounts.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Kent stated that, currently, only Justin Heath and herself are on the account but, with Justin having completed his term, they now need to add two more people to meet the requirement of three authorized signers. Member Kent suggested adding the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer but mentioned that they could hold off on making a final decision.

Member Barrenchea responded that they could appoint two members today to ensure someone else is added to the account. It was then decided to table the discussion regarding authorized signers for the account for the time being.

Member Kent also noted that she needs to get some checks signed and typically goes to Justin Heath for that.

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Discussion and approval of ideas to assist senior citizens.
Board members will provide information and ideas for ways to assist senior citizens and may approve the implementation of ideas, including suggestions from the William N. Pennington Life Center.

Ideas that have already been suggested include: monthly coffee socials at rotating locations, such as coffee shops and the sale barn where the Coalition could pay for coffee and donuts/muffins; monthly movie matinee, with small soda and popcorn; monthly senior events calendar mailing; seeking law students or attorneys who would provide pro bono help to seniors with wills and trusts; high school accounting students to help with basic tax returns for seniors; quarterly drawing for a gift certificate to Walmart or the movie theater.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Kent emphasized that supporting seniors should not be limited to those who visit the senior center. She pointed out that many seniors feel they are too young to go there or simply choose not to participate. She encouraged the group to think beyond the Life Center when planning outreach and activities.

Member Peyerl suggested organizing a monthly coffee social, potentially rotating between different coffee shops. Flyers could be distributed and a calendar could be created to promote these gatherings. She shared that she attended a function at the Elks Lodge over the weekend and later visited the Eagles Club, where they observed many seniors. They suggested that these locations, along with organizations, like the American Legion, Eagles, Elks, and VFW, could be excellent places to distribute information.

Member Kent proposed renting the downtown theater for an afternoon to show a movie, with the possibility of the Coalition sponsoring refreshments for attendees. Member Barrenchea also provided background on the group's past efforts, explaining that over the last two years, they have stepped in, when the county lacked funding for certain needs. However, she noted that there has been a shift in focus, aiming to help seniors more directly rather than supplementing county funding. Member Peyerl said I mentioned Bingo – the room was full and it is going to grow. Member Barrenchea suggested that, at events like Bingo, they could provide snacks or set up an informational table with a calendar of activities. She noted that games are a valuable way to keep seniors engaged and active.

Member Peyerl shared an observation about the Mexican Train game. When it started, a large group of seniors gathered around a single table but, due to space limitations, some were asked to move to another table. Feeling excluded, those seniors chose to leave. She described the atmosphere as somewhat cliquish, which may discourage broader participation.

Member Kent noted that Bingo was one of the activities on Jill's list. She mentioned that, if part of the group wants to help with programs such as exercise or craft projects, they should commit to specific dates. She also suggested creating their own calendar and considering advertising in about three months to promote a show house event or coffee gatherings.

It was mentioned that Jill was looking to hire someone for a few hours each week to lead group activities since there are currently no volunteers available. Member Barrenchea asked if a person has to have credentials or be investigated to volunteer there. Member Larsen said that, while credentials are not required to volunteer at the Life Center, a background check would be necessary. Member Schelling pointed out that many people in the community are interested in volunteer work but may not want an overly demanding commitment. She emphasized that volunteers would not need to be present every morning or multiple days per week. Member Kent clarified that they would not want to duplicate existing activities, such as Bingo or Mexican Train, as those games are already well-established. Member Peyerl suggested that they need someone with knowledge of various activities, particularly crafts, to lead engaging programs for seniors.

Member Barrenchea expressed frustration over the county's financial operations, questioning why the Coalition is paying for employees to run events when the county is a for-profit entity. She feels that, while the Coalition donates their time, they should not also be responsible for raising funds to cover staffing costs, especially when the county profits. She pointed out that, in the past two years, the Coalition had funded expenses such as van costs when seniors could not raise enough money. They shared concerns about the attitude of some staff, who assumed they could seek money elsewhere if paperwork was not completed. She argued that since the county is making money, it should be able to afford a part-time employee to manage these activities. Member Venturacci agreed with this viewpoint.

Member Barrenchea mentioned that they had also reached out to the County Commissioners regarding concerns raised by Member Peyerl. The Commissioners were surprised by the issues and asked why the concerns were not first brought to the County Manager. I explained that they had gone to the County Manager but were dismissed, so they escalated the matter to the Commissioners. The Commissioners are now looking into possible solutions. She also reiterated their intention to shift focus away from funding county needs and toward directly helping seniors who may not benefit from the center.

Member Peyerl expressed concern about the high cost of the Meals on Wheels program, feeling that the Coalition was being used to cover its expenses when the funds could be used for other initiatives. It was mentioned that there is currently a waiting list for Meals on Wheels.

Member Kent provided an update on the Coalition's finances, stating that, after issuing a recent check, their checking account balance is $2,500, while they also have a CD worth approximately $115,000 from which they make transfers. They noted that while they have money to fund projects, organizing fundraisers as a volunteer group is difficult due to the time commitment required.

Member Kent suggested brainstorming goals for the next meeting. Members pointed out that meeting every three months may not be effective and proposed meeting more frequently while keeping meetings short to avoid burdening members.

Member Peyerl discussed plans for a flyer and stated she would work with Lindsay and the board to review it before mailing it out. Jill would also need to approve it. She noted that many income-based programs are available at the Life Center but seniors are not aware of them.

Member Peyerl expressed concerns that the facility had lost its identity as a Senior Center and they had even been told not to use that term. Member Barrenchea confirmed that, when she called the center, it was still answered as the William Pennington Life Center. Member Larsen said that Social Services had directed them to call it Churchill County Social Services Life Center. Member Schelling asked if the Coalition can bring that to someone's attention to ask if there was a reason for the name change. Public comment before the Board of County Commissioners was suggested.

Member Kent explained that Social Services had moved to the Life Center location, though not everything had been relocated. The goal was to serve disabled individuals and the homeless population. However, they raised concerns about the presence of homeless individuals at the center, noting that they sometimes ask seniors for money. They felt that the mixture of vulnerable seniors, mentally handicapped individuals, and the homeless posed challenges. They suggested creating a space specifically for seniors, such as a movie day where only seniors could attend.

Member Peyerl brought up an issue with the county's tax billing, stating that the facility is still listed as a Senior Center on county tax bills. She suggested that, if it is no longer operating as a Senior Center, the designation should be removed and funds should be allocated to Social Services instead. She proposed renaming the dining area to reflect its role within Social Services rather than calling it a Senior Center, as that term no longer accurately applies. Member Barrenchea said they had already brought this issue to the attention of the County Commissioners, who were unaware that the facility was being referred to as Social Services instead of Senior Center. Member Schelling said I think what you are trying to say is that, if the issue were put before taxpayers, a Social Services designation might not receive the same level of support or approval as a Senior Center designation.

Member Barrenchea recalled that seniors used to have their own center, but, when the transition to the William N. Pennington Life Center occurred, things changed. She argued that just as the wording on tax measure is updated when new taxes are introduced, the designation should be adjusted accordingly. She said she is awaiting a response from Commissioner Getto regarding the matter. If she does not receive an answer by Monday, she plans to follow up again.

Member Larsen proposed an idea, noting that the Life Center is struggling to find someone to assist with taxes. They suggested the possibility of hosting tax assistance at a different location. Member Larsen acknowledged that it could be done elsewhere but pointed out that many seniors already visit the Life Center. Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela Moore mentioned that rooms in the county building could be reserved for such activities. Member Venturacci noted that it might be difficult to find volunteers willing to assist with taxes this late into the tax season.

Member Peyerl mentioned that they were hoping to obtain an additional puzzle table for the seniors.

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

E- Discussion of changes to the Bylaws for the Coalition for Senior Citizens.
The board is asked to discuss changes to the Bylaws for the Coalition for Senior Citizens and to direct staff to agenize the matter for possible future action if desired.
FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Other

Member Barrenchea stated that they had discussed whether the Coalition should be limited to private citizens not employed by the Senior Center. They decided to modify that approach, allowing one employee to sit on the board but only one. They clarified that this is why Lindsay is present, while avoiding having multiple employees from the Life Center involved. Member

Schelling agreed, saying it was a good idea to prevent the board from being overrun by employees, which could lead to conflicting agendas.

Member Kent suggested reviewing the mission statement on page one, which states that the coalition exists to "develop, coordinate, and deliver services through the William N. Pennington Life Center for the seniors in Churchill County." The group questioned whether the Coalition should be tied directly to the Life Center or if services should be offered directly to seniors instead. They recommended reconsidering the wording.

Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore asked if they knew who was listed as the Resident Agent with the Secretary of State. Member Kent responded that they could look into it and find out.

Member Barrenchea asked what address should be listed for official documents. Member Schelling questioned whether an address was required at all. She pointed out that the statement only mentions "offices" and suggested modifying the wording to indicate that the corporation primarily conducts business in Churchill County. It was also mentioned that the Resident Agent would be the person to contact regarding concerns that are not being addressed through other channels. Further modifications were discussed and will be brought forward at the next meeting to approve the revised Bylaws.

Member Schelling asked if the substitutes could vote if others were not present. Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore clarified that, if a quorum is not met, the vote wouldn't count. Member Venturacci pointed out that it states substitutes shall be entitled to all rights and privileges but shall not vote. Member Kent suggested that, if someone cannot attend a meeting, they should notify the Clerk and, if a quorum is not met, the meeting should be rescheduled, with a message sent out to everyone.

It was noted that all regular meetings are stated to be held at the principal office, but the group does not have an office. Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore recommended changing the wording to say meetings shall be held at the location designated on the agenda since meetings could be held elsewhere. She also suggested mailing notices to each member, as the next section's requirement was not currently followed. Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore suggested removing the last sentence because the group is no longer bound by open meeting law.

Member asked whether they should replace the term "president" with "chair" and "vice-chair" and if the secretary and treasurer should be the same position. Member Barrenchea noted that Pamela Moore handles all secretarial duties, so they do not have an official secretary. Deputy Clerk of the Board Pamela D. Moore suggested modifying the description so that the secretary ensures records of board meetings are kept and performs other duties while also removing compliance with the Open Meeting Law. Member Barrenchea stated we do not want the secretary and treasurer to be the same person, do we? Deputy Clerk Moore suggested that they keep the secretary in there in case she is ever not around to perform the duties for whatever reason.

Member Kent informed the board that we have Board of Directors insurance. Member Schelling asked if they should remove Section 702. Member Barrenchea asked about Section 602, questioning whether it applies to the Coalition group or the Pennington Center. Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore clarified that "corporation" refers to the Coalition because it is a nonprofit registered with the Secretary of State.

Deputy Clerk Moore will prepare the changes to the Bylaws and present them at the next meeting for discussion and possible approval.

Staff or Board comments regarding matters affecting the Coalition for Senior Citizens:

There were no additional comments.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

In addition to regularly scheduled items, the following items will also be added: appointment of a Treasurer, designation of signers for the accounts, changes to Bylaws, and approval to mail the pamphlet to seniors prepared by staff at the William N. Pennington Life Center.

Establishment of Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

Public Comment:

Vice-Chair Barrenchea asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.

Approved: Rinnie Barrenchea
Rinnie Barrenchea, Member

Approved: Karla Kent
Karla Kent, Member

Approved: Dawn East
Dawn East, Member

Approved: Becky Schelling
Becky Schelling, Member

Approved: ______________________
Lindsay Larsen, Member

Approved: ______________________
Phyllis Peyerl, Member

Approved: ______________________
Cheryl Venturacci, Member

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer

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Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk of the Board