

MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

April 3, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Social Services Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:01 PM on April 3, 2025.

Present:

Vice-Chair-Matt Hyde, County Commissioner
Kathy Wyrick, Consumer Representative
Shannon Ernst, Social Services Director
Jackee Stewart, Supervisor for Social Services
Brittany Burton, Social Services Office Specialist

Absent:

Chair-Cari Norcutt, Business Representative

Public Comment:

Vice-Chair Matt Hyde asked if there was public comment, noting no public.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Brittany Burton, Office Specialist, that the agenda was posted according to the NRS on the 31st day of March 2025 between the hours of 8 and 9 a.m.

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

Kathy Wyrick made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Vice-Chair Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- January 22, 2025

These are the minutes from the Social Services Advisory Committee meeting from January 22, 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: None

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Shannon Ernst: Oh we could have changed that, go ahead on the next one. You're going to have to table it. I didn't catch that, because Kathy wasn't here at the last meeting.

Matt: Oh, ok moving on to Item 5, consideration and possible action will be tabled due to the fact that we have one motion maker, and she wasn't here.

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Federal Funding terminations pertaining to Churchill County Social Services

An update on potential impacts of federal funding contract freezes and terminations pertaining to Social Services.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Shannon Ernst: Yes, so as you know there has been the DOGE effect happening across the nation. Really the first impacts hit, one of the big one was the Community Action funding which is CSBG and the reason why we have this committee. So far at this time it has not been impacted. The only impacts we have received directly are to the lab. Last Monday DOGE pulled back all pandemic funding relating to labs and medical. They sent the notification to the state on Monday, the state actually received it Tuesday morning and we received it Tuesday afternoon. Lab functions have changed as of last Wednesday, but they will only reimburse us back until Monday. We are working with the state to reallocate funds to make sure we keep our lab open and functioning as the community needs. This is something we are watching daily. I can tell you as of yesterday 27 of our partners that were contracted with the state with federal funds to manage these funds were laid off. This is happening every day, we get a last time signing off email. We know they've been rified. We're just going to continue to work through this, but this is something that we will continue to bring to you so that you understand what we're dealing with. Social Services does have a plan, I have 9 models set up at this point based on the funding of what goes. If it's the aging and disabilities funds that get pulled back, how will we keep the Life Center open and those services there. Community Services, Block Grant if that got pulled back how do we keep Social Services down below functioning. Housing dollars for our homeless population, that's the one that scares me the most. That is not a mixed model, we only have two grants for that. We will just continue to chug along and cross our fingers and keep smiling.

Matt Hyde: And it's going to be a moving target for awhile.

Shannon Ernst: Yeah, this is going to be our life, at least the first 100 days of Presidency. I think it'll go longer, because when I read through the impacts that they were proposing to take back it was 68 pages. It hit everyone of our funding sources. We'll just keep watching it. Right now it's all of pandemic funding, the ARPA funds they're pulling. The grant funders have been calling me and saying 'when are you going to spend that out for special projects?' we will have all of our special projects in and closed by the end of April. Aging and disabilities services, our other ones pass through the state through a different way and they should never be impacted. That's what they tell me, but you know, I won't hold my breath. Would not surprise me if I got an email.

Matt Hyde: Any questions? Seeing no questions I will move onto item B.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Social Services Program updates

Overview of Social Services program updates pertaining to the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Shannon Ernst: So if you look within your packet we have provided you with an update on all the programs that fall within community action, so when you look at our housing we have only 1 PATH house at this time until we get the transitional housing completed. That is full. We have no one in our expansion program at this time and we have 5 slots. We have 2 in our rapid

rehousing program, which has a max of 5. Public Guardianship we have 11 as of March 28, we are still working on completing administration on 2 previous guardianship cases. Like I have stated prior, if someone passes and they are in guardianship and their assets are close to \$2,000 then our office administers those. I am happy to report Brittany is doing a great job, she has taken on guardianship for part of her hours. She is doing project coordination and all this fun stuff and then in the afternoon she does do guardianship with me. She is evaluating and seeing if she would like to go to that position. That position has been open now for 2 years. Budget classes we are currently looking for a new instructor, Ron retired at the end of 2024 so we haven't had any of those classes. When we look at the stabilization classes, this is our eviction prevention program with reallocation dollars for Nevada Housing Division for families to maintain a residence with subsidy if we can show hardship. So its really those individuals that are going to potentially become homeless. They have shown that they have been very very stable, and they had something happen and they don't want to lose their house because once you lose your house you can't find another one. So we do pay up to 6 months in subsidy moving forward. We currently have one household enrolled and nobody else is currently moving forward. Our behavioral health priorities, we have completed our behavioral health and suicide prevention plan they're beautiful. If you would like to see them we have 3 priority groups. One is looking at intervention, education and post crisis. So when we look at that what do we mean. We need to look at how do we educate our community, so we reduce our suicides and also increase our behavioral health access points. Two when we look at interventions, when something is happening right now how do we address that crisis, move through it and support the community and those that are involved. The third one is how do we build enough resources so that we can ensure that we meet the needs of the community. These groups meet every month, I am actually on the third group and what our priority is building those resources and so we are doing a lot of legislative. We are doing education, what is our priorities in our community, what do we need. We've been trying to get a crisis center here, now for 3 years. This is a huge thing, there are no crisis centers in the rural communities. So we are continued to build that education. On May 14 we are having a behavioral health wellness event at the 3C from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock at night. We will have 3 different speakers, 1 presenting on how do you have awareness and intervention with our aging adults and 1 with our youth. Then we are going to have a main speaker talking about how do we address a crisis within our community and how do we support those that we feel are in crisis overall. Then we will go thorough, last time we did this we had ways that you can increase your wellness and help mental illness. So we have a quiet room, we do meditation, we do mindfulness, we do planting, coloring different things like that. Then you also get to learn about the resources that we have in the community. One of the biggest things is that most of the individuals here don't realize the access that we do have to resources. That is always the number one thing that comes back, we have no resources. But when we map them, we have quite a few, it just how do you do that so we need to build that education. The last time we did this event we did it on a Saturday, and its always in May because that is mental health awareness month. It was a horrible day, there were all these kids playing softball and doing all these things. So we had hardly no one attend our event, and we had flown speakers in from all over. So this year we decided lets do it over a cross time at night, so if you do it before they are going to those events you can pick different pieces up and get some education. So we're trying something different, we doing what I call the etch-a-sketch shake it and try again. So then we have our parenting project, we have not had this class at Juvenile Probation yet this year. They just hired their new coordinator in January so we are

hoping by the end of the fiscal year, June 30th that we do have that class. Which will serve up to 20 parents. The first priority is court ordered, based on risk assessment of the youth and then we are able to fill some slots and also with Division of Child and Family Services. We are still working with the position at Juvenile Probation the individual I just spoke about, the coordinator we have provided some funding to reduce the truancy, reduce at risk youth and overall coordination of services for at risk families. So this is a new position to the County that started in January and we will see what it looks like after the first year. We are using family resource funds, community service block grant fund, opioid settlement dollars and then the School District is providing 50% of that program. We are still working on our Medicaid mapping. This is a huge thing that we have been working on, now it feels like forever I think its been 9 months. We have to have this project finished by June 30th, and what they did is they went in and mapped every County organization that possibly could bill Medicaid for reimbursement to build a sustainability plan for programming. When we look at this, this is a lot of work. We are in the survey process now and we have 2 organizations that are every individual that accesses their programs they are mapping them, if they have Medicaid, what services they are providing, so then we can see what is the total amount that we would be reimbursed total for that client. There is an expansion in Medicaid happening with the rurals becoming an manage care as of January 2026. What that means is Silver Summit and Care Something won the contract, there is two in the rurals and they will be the provider for Medicaid and go to a manage care. So the fee, its not looking at a fee based service anymore it pays for the whole person. So it wraps every service that person would need and pays based on that contract. I am excited that Silver Summit did actually win the contract we have two letter of intents with them. It is really to support our homeless population. One is to provide us with some homeless dollars to get people housed and one is to help pay for a case manager for our homeless population and help develop care plans for medical needs for the homeless population. So we will be waiting to get contracts and those would go into place January 2026 if not before. I don't know if you've seen our new telehealth center that is at the Life Center Kathy Wyrick: I haven't been in but I've been by it.

Shannon Ernst: You better go in, because it is the telehealth center, hub, powered by Silver Summit. So it provides access for individuals to get telehealth and we have also turned it into a quiet room, so individuals that need behavioral health support can get that in person once a month and then they can do it via telehealth at any time. Crisis or not, they take walk-ins. So we are excited about that one. The new pass house and day center is the new apartment complex that we purchased for the new transitional homeless center. Currently Randy Hines is building the plans for that. We have mapped out what we want to do with the complex, once he gets the plans all mapped out we will go out to bid. That one we have just under \$1 million for rehab. Staffing, currently we are down 1 human services caseworker, it just came to the top of the list this is pretty much our only position, I am even partially grant funded that is county funded. So this position had to go on a gapping list, and it rotates through as people leave and it just hit the top yesterday. We have one full time project coordinator that we need to get hired, it had somebody that was on change of work schedule based on injury and that person is no longer with us. We were letting them be in this position for the time being, they have left so now we will be able to hire for that. One .5 Meals on Wheels drivers, we actually made offers and they were accepted yesterday so we will have full Meals on Wheels drivers as of the 14th. This is the first time in like a year, but we see some further movement. We have someone in the kitchen that is leaving and we think one of the Meals on Wheels drivers will want to go to the kitchen,

so it will start all over again. The lab, this has completely changed since we typed this up. We were going to do the lab remodel here in the basement and we were going out for bids. We have found with all of these cuts and everything that has happened that it is not reasonable for us to remodel the lab in the basement. This also goes along with the building next door 290 South Maine to become the Health District. We submitted a scope of work change last Friday with the IFC, which is the Interim Finance Committee at Legislature to allow us to leave the lab and the Central Nevada Health District at the annex building. Then the remaining just under \$450,000 we can use and take that to remodel over there because it just needs some paint, some new carpet it needs some sprucing up. So we can do that and it's way more cost effective. The building next door, we will not be changing that into a health facility we will work with the Board of County Commissioners to just clean it up and maybe make it look like this building. That one came in at just under \$2 million to do next door and instead we might just ask for \$50,000 and spruce the thing up just so it looks appropriate on Maine Street. The bed bug remediation project was awarded July 1, this one does end as of May 30th. We have not had a great response, we have many bed bugs here in town and a lot of people have them in their home. Once you get to them and try to help them clean it up, they do not want to follow through because of what it takes to remediate bed bugs. We have focused more with Central Nevada Health District to do outreach and education on the project and build our resources to have in the future to continue that education. Silver summit telehealth we did that ribbon cutting March 5 and it was broadcasted on Channel 4 and KOLO 8. We had a great turnout for that, it was very exciting. Silver Summit was just beside themselves. So if there are any questions regarding, oh I guess I have more here. I'm going to close this a little bit, they're being loud out there but I do have to keep it cracked because it is open meeting. So we have the Life Center and Disabled Services, this is just a breakdown of what we've done. So you can see how many people are going through this last quarter. We've served 4,747 meals in the dining room our average of seniors at the lunch has dropped quite a bit, and I am evaluating that. We were getting up to 180 average and now were at about 104 for this last quarter. So we are watching that, is it because the weather has been horrible? Are people gone for the winter? For Meals on Wheels we provided 7,256 to 192 homebound individuals. Homemaker we have 57 on the program and 545 units of service, this is a program that we are looking at revamping. Just to build more capacity because we have so many individuals that do need this program and our contract homemaker is not able to fulfill all these needs. So we might need to go out for a second RFP and get a second provider. We have the funding in the grant so we would like to provide that service. We are out to RFP right now for a yard care because as part of Homemaker they can do the yard services. So we need to get that for the summer, the one we had last year did resign. We have our pet program which is where we provide pet supports to those that are aging. We have 24 adults participating with 36 pets. It is called PetSmart Charities and a Meals on Wheel partnership. One of the big things with this is this is a grant that we receive, they were excited about how we have done this program and how we launched it. So the whole board of Pet Charities is going to be here in May, so they can look at our center, look at how we set this up, go out and see how the items are distributed and really get the value of what we're doing. We do have What's Cooking in the County with Jim Barbee, it's been a huge hit. They go in quarterly and he just talks about what's going on in the County, the individuals that come into the dining room say 'we never know what's happening'. Most of it is City things that they have questions about, mostly the roads. So we set the Mayor up and he actually came when we were in D.C. last month Jim was not able to attend so the Mayor got to

do What's Cooking in the City. We will continue to do that County manager Barbee resignation was actually accepted today and that will be effective in July and we will work hopefully with the new County manager to keep that going. We currently have as you can see the activities Health and Fitness classes, Zumba, Yoga, there are so many things. We have 15 active volunteers and that is one of the highest numbers we've had in a long time. The wellness center does have the Sugi Psychiatry and the Silver Summit Telehealth going on. We're really looking at how do we build the wellness center up. I would like to get a podiatrist in there, you know all the things that you have to go to Reno for and people can't get there. So then if you look down at item 9 it breaks down all of the event that everybody is taking place in and how many average hours. The month of April is Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness, we're wearing blue today and it's also Elderly Abuse Awareness. We missed one it Volunteer Recognition month, I forgot about that one. So tomorrow we will kick off Pinwheels for Prevention at the Millenium Park down here on the corner. Nobody come to town before 8 o'clock because they are going to dye the fountain blue and all the pinwheels will be out before 8 o'clock so that the town has been turned blue. Brittany has taken on this effort and is running with it. As you see our lights out front are blue and the ones at the Life Center have been turned blue. We will be doing some elder abuse within the Life Center, really how do you get in contact with someone if you feel you have been abused, if you feel like you are being exploited against, who do you call, how do you make contact. Then we will be doing a huge volunteer recognition at the Life Center one day with cake and serving them and letting them put their feet up for a day and be served. August 9th will be Community Resource Day, so please mark your calendars. This is a huge one. What time are you going to start this year Brittany?

Brittany Burton: Um probably in June.

Shannon Ernst: No like

Brittany Burton: Oh, what time? We are starting at 8:30 I believe.

Shannon Ernst: When we used to do it outside we used to have to start at 4 in the morning, because you had to get everything out before everyone arrived at 6 in the morning and then we would kick off at 7 to get out of the heat. Now we are in the 3C, so it's a lot more lax, they set up the day before, they lock it down, they run the air conditioner and everyone has a good time and are usually done about 11:30. So they will do the scavenger hunt for school supplies our goal is to serve 650 kids this year, we did 600 last year and we try to bump it up a little bit each year. We just ask for more donations and more things to be provided. That is the end of that report, if there is any questions? We just have a little bit going on.

Matt Hyde: Seeing no questions we'll move on to item C.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Update on activities with the Nevada Community Action Association.

An update on activities with the Nevada Community Action Association on federal, state, and local partnerships.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Shannon Ernst: So the Nevada Community Action Association is basically like our mothership for what we're doing here. It is a group of all state-wide community action organizations, and we all have a place on the board. I got the lovely honor of being the chair this year, and that was

really nice because then we had to terminate our director. So I have been the director for Nevada Community Action Association for 3 months, I am happy to announce that I have hired someone last week and they will start in 2 weeks. I really wanted to bring this to light because any time you would like to learn more about anything we're doing statewide you are always welcome to attend. Our meetings are every month, as part of that we are going to talk about training opportunities and conferences to learn more about community action and how you can participate in the community. This is why I wanted to bring this to you as a board item today, Mr. Chair.

Matt Hyde: Any questions? I don't have any.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Quarter three fiscal review pertaining to Community Action activities with Social Services.

An overview of CSBG funding expenditures will be provided for the third quarter.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: CSBG

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Shannon Ernst: Ok so if you take a look you actually have a break down of the functions that fall under this advisory are CSBG and FRC Family Resource Center. This one is very bizarre, CSBG is on a Federal Fiscal year, so what that means it starts October 1 and it goes through September 30. That's why you see two fiscal years on there, because it crosses over ours. To date we've spent 71% of our budget, we try to make sure that we have enough to make it through with our salaries to the end of that September 30th. This one is very unique in the fact that we can carry over up to 15% to the next year to use for special projects. We did have slight carry over, as you saw from FY24. The state has not awarded us that yet. So we are waiting for our \$5,319 I will be poking at the meeting next week, they come to our Nevada Community Action Association meeting. We want to get that and use it for Community Resource Day I always take that extra and use it for that event to buy backpacks and things of that sort. This year I anticipate we will have a couple thousand dollars, we are spending more on this than normally usually I like to have the full amount eligible to carry over to have that safety net. Based on the federal situation I am trying my best to spend 100% this year. I would like to be safe than sorry if they take my money away.

Matt Hyde: Sounds good, you don't want money swept.

Shannon Ernst: No, they keep saying and laughing that I keep getting DOGE'ed. And this one we will need a motion on.

Kathy Wyrick made a motion to accept the report. Vice-Chair Matt Hyde seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Review of upcoming training and desired participation on behalf of Churchill County.

Several training opportunities present themselves for Community Action Agencies staff and board members. The discussion will be around board interest in such activities to ensure proper budgets are allocated to support through NCAA and CSBG.



2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Detroit, MI | August 27th – 29th (Pre-Con: Aug. 25th – 26th)

Join Community Action Agencies and other human services providers from across the country at NCAP's 2025 Annual Convention (May place August 27th – 29th in Detroit, Michigan)

ABOUT THE EVENT

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and other human services providers are invited, and they have both the expertise and dedication it takes to serve families and communities best. Agencies in attendance at NCAP's Annual Convention will have the opportunity to learn from their peers' innovative efforts and receive updates on the latest federal standards.



FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

Shannon Ernst: So one of the thing is that part of this group we need to make sure that we get you training throughout the year as to what Community Action is and how do we make sure we stay fiscally sound. So one of the big trainings that is coming up that we can offer and Nevada Community Action Association, NCAA can actually pay for it is what we call CAP law. One of the things about CAP law is I love their financial management classes, it's amazing but when you get into their rules and different things they focus on more non-profits. Community Action agencies are usually non-profit. So you have to go to the government entity track, if they have one. This is an opportunity if anyone would like to participate and I am happy to get you signed up, so I will leave that one here. The next one is the NCAP which is going to be on August 27th-29th it is going to be located in Detroit this year. I am happy to get you registered, this is a great one this is truly Community Action at its best. David Bradley which is the lobbyist on behalf of Community Action speaks at this one. Him and I don't always agree, because he supports non-profits more than local government entities. He feels Community Action should be with non-profits, but when you look at a rural community such as ours that is not possible. I have offered to have him come out and come visit and take a rural tour and understand out state but he hasn't taken me up on that in years. It is a really good one, you get to meet other board members, learning, they provide a lot of good information. This is another opportunity that is available.

Matt Hyde: Where was this one located?

Shannon Ernst: This one is located in Boston. You wanna go to Boston?

Matt Hyde: It's my favorite City.

Shannon Ernst: It's fun, only in baseball season, is when I like to go. So I am happy to help anyone that would like to go to these I think it is a great opportunity. If you do decide to go either myself or someone from the office will try to attend to help support. Jackee and Brittany will probably be going to the one in Detroit. I've gone for years and that falls right around Labor Day and that causes home issues when we're gone every Labor Day. So let me know if you would like us to get those completed. There is also other ones that we can have, that you can do under NCAP online and virtually. The ones coming up in April there's only an HR compliance, so it really doesn't pertain to us too much but every month they are on. So if you tell me I would like to learn more about the ROMA Standards or how grants work in Community Action then we can watch for these and get you signed up. We always want to support you in being trained and understand what we are doing here.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Shannon Ernst: Is there anything you feel we're missing? Or that you would like to learn more about? I try to cover our financials and programs and hot topics.

Matt Hyde: Very thorough, I have nothing.

Shannon Ernst: I like to be straight to the point.

Consideration and Possible Action re: Schedule of Next Meeting:

Shannon Ernst: So if we went with this quarterly our next one would be in July and that would be with your board meeting you're looking at July 3rd.

Matt Hyde: Yeah that's the first meeting

Shannon Ernst: Do you want to stick with that or would you rather go later?

Matt Hyde: No, that's fine. I'll probably have to zoom to the next one

Shannon Ernst: Ok, July 3rd at the 3 o'clock? Do we want to stick with that time?

Matt Hyde: Yup

Shannon Ernst: That's right before 4th of July

Matt Hyde: Right, how many people are going to be here?

Shannon Ernst: Let's not plan on that, because we could run into a problem. Could we go with Wednesday the 16th?

Matt Hyde: I will be out of town, so I'm going to have to zoom to all my meetings.

Shannon Ernst: That'll be ok?

Matt Hyde: Yeah, or just call.

Shannon Ernst: Would you rather have to do it right after the board meeting? Or right before?

Matt Hyde: Um, let's do it before

Shannon Ernst: Ok, so you want to do it, that meeting is at 1:15. So you want to do a 12:30?

Matt Hyde: Yes.

Shannon Ernst: Ok 12:30 on July 16th. Brittany will send out a calendar invite just so that it marks it on there.

Matt Hyde: Because if it doesn't

Shannon Ernst: Yeah I know, then everybody will forget about us.

Matt Hyde: Awesome, thank you.

Public Comment:

Vice-Chair Matt Hyde noted no public to comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Affidavit of Posting:

APPROVED:  9/4/25

Matt Hyde, Vice-Chair, Advisory Committee