

MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
November 19, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Social Services Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:02 PM on November 19, 2025.

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

Absent: None

Public Comment:

Chair Cari Norcutt asked if there was public comment, noting no public.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

Brittany Burton, Office Specialist, verified that the agenda was posted on the 13th day of November, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. in accordance with NRS.

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

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

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

A- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of minutes from September 4, 2025 Regular Meeting

On September 4, 2025 Socials Services Advisory Board had a regular meeting, these are the minutes.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the September 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes as submitted. Kathy Wyrick seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Social Services Program Review

A review and update of all programs will be provided

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Shannon Ernst- Within your packet we have provided you with an overview of all our projects. When you look at our housing, we still have individuals that are enrolled, as you remember we do not have a HUD grant, but we are working on the extension to proceed and expend all the funds that we had in the HUD grant. Currently we are doing a review to look at this next cycle with HUD to see if it's going to meet the priorities of the county and programs to see if we are going to apply. We are working on the Pass House/Day Center, today it will go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval to award the bid to start the remodel so that will help us also. When we look at Public Guardianship, we stay busy, we still have 10 active, and we have 3 under administration. We are still working on our budgeting classes. This is something that we are looking at, bringing the curriculum in house and someone teaching from our staff. Stabilization Program we still continue to offer all the programs; they are all at the same level. We do have concerns when we look at what is going on with the economy and we are seeing an uptick to individuals needing more assistance, but we do not have additional funding. Which is kind of a struggle, and we do get worried when we see what is happening with the economy. We have contracted with Emma White for our behavioral health priorities, really, we are trying to increase participation. We are moving forward with all our priorities and trying to make some public awareness on behavioral health efforts that are available, and access to services. Parenting project is being offered at Juvenile Probation, we were awarded an expansion from COSSUP so we were able to fully fund them, to maintain their outreach worker. It reduces the law enforcement involvement with youth it also oversees the truancy program and then the Parent Project stays in effect, so court ordered parents go to the Parent Project to learn how to be good parents. The Medicaid cross mapping is complete, that goes before the Board of County Commissioners today also. They will be talking about their recommendations on making Churchill County Medicaid billable as a whole. One of the concerns I have with the project is when we started this Medicaid was very stable, right now we don't know what's going to happen to Medicaid. It's on the chopping block Federally. And it's very costly it's about \$380,000 to get up and become Medicaid eligible, you know if we could obtain funding to help do that. Opioid funds will actually help pay for that, so there's money to do it but is that going to be worth it in the end. For Social Services, absolutely. It would cover about 90% of my staffing costs, over at Essential Services probably about 50% over here at the Life Center. But at \$380,000 looking at it and what is going to be cut in the Federal Government. So, I am going to recommend today that we do not make a decision and hold off until we get an approved budget. We just keep extending the budget and we're looking to probably have a shut down again in February, under resolution so we need to be savvy in what we're doing. If it is approved to move forward at any time it will take us probably 9 months to 1 year to go through the process with Medicaid and get the program up and going to make this happen. Silver Summit has now provided us an additional \$20,000 to support Essential Services working with clients who are on Medicaid and need to pick a Managed Care Plan, so its basically a navigator helping them understand the pros and cons of each plan that is out there and helping them get enrolled. They wanted to help support us so we took the \$20,000 and smiled and the Board will ratify that hopefully today. Currently we are down 1 position for our Behavioral Health caseworker, we are pending posting. We conducted interviews last week for our Project Coordinator and an offer was made yesterday, I have not heard the results of that.

We had an amazing candidate that we hope will be coming over. We are finally fully staffed here at the Life Center, it is exciting because it has taken us forever. As you can see it busy here, this is how it is everyday.

Cari Norcutt- Really?

Kathy Wyrick- Is it really?

Shannon Ernst- Oh year, this place is busy from 10 a.m. to about 3 p.m. One of the goals and I will be taking Commissioners tours this afternoon talking about I really want to build more activities for individuals that are not aging because I want to get more populations here. We are working on our cost effectiveness on our meals today the meal cost \$2.88 that is starting to get more in target, previously we were eating at \$6. So we have to bring that down, based on our reimbursements. So we are working on that across all of our different programs, what is our cost per service and how do we get it down. We have to start cutting, because I am very concerned about our funding. Moving forward I'm worried about our tax revenue.

Matt Hyde- So am I.

Cari Norcutt- So what is the meal today?

Jackee Stewart- Chili dogs

Shannon Ernst- Then they have to have a vegetable, so you have to have a full balanced meal and its approved by the state. I'm going to be interested to see how much it costs for meat loaf, on that day we will have 200 people. That room will be packed, the max amount of people we can have is 230. But at 205 we're getting cramped. The City lunch that they sponsor we will have 230 people in there, we have to start restricting who can come in with aging first. Meals on Wheels is the same way we are still at 200 meals going out the door every morning, so you're looking at 400 meals that are being prepped. We put a new machine in there that seals for our Meals on Wheels that is pretty cool because now it has our logo on it, the meal, when it was prepared, when you should refrigerate it, how long its good frozen. We're working on getting all of the ingredients on there, and then we have a cost per meal on there. It's really cool you can put a message on there 'This meal is sponsored by the City of Fallon' when we do that and we're hoping to get more people to do that and we can get them to donate the meal that day. We've thought of a lot of different things, I really want to come up with a different fundraiser for the life center because there is a lot of stuff we want to do but we just don't have the money for it. Like Barrels and Bites, the tickets are \$100 a person, they have vendors with food and entertainment its only from 4pm to 8 pm and its all for Boys and Girls Club. It would be fun we don't have anything like that here. We're trying to build awareness of what it costs to put a meal together, now im working with staff to know that you have to add in the staff costs because that's just the meal \$2.88. Homemaker we have 68 disabled individuals we're looking at early spring to do a RFP for the yardwork, we could not get a contractor this year so we could not offer yardwork to these individuals. The Golden Paws Pet Program has 33 people enrolled with 51 pets, we are not getting as many donations for food but we do have th back up grant to help with funds. Resouces are seeing additional people coming in looking for help updating their Medicare, Medicaid, and asking about the Sugi Mental Health. We've had different senior appreciation days, Halloween, Veteran's Day, we've been looking about how to get it out to the community more. Leadership met and had a discussion that we need to be better on our media plan, because its \$50 for the month to advertise at the Fallon Theatre. We need to have it up there, this is whats coming, these are the activities. We were funding the open minds through art grant, its demonstration grant on how to engage individuals that are diagnosed with memory loss or dementia, so they come in and we have a certified coordinator and a one-on-one

volunteer and they help them with art. My goal is not only getting individuals that have memory loss or dementia out and about but also to have a care giver support group. The care giver can come in, go to a support group and also link them to some respite services. We will have 2 sessions of 6 weeks each, and have an art exhibit at the end of May. We currently have 15 active volunteers that assist in the dining room, they rotate scraping plates and it has been very helpful having those 15 individuals. CART operations launched October 1 successfully, currently we have 2 casual drives that are basically driving full time. Yesterday our casual driver for Meals on Wheels agreed to come over and she has also agreed to drive for CART. Carlie Cushing who is our administrator assistant for grants is dispatching and she wrote the program. She put the policies and procedures together.

Cari Norcutt- I have a question, on your Pet Program. So there's 33 people in the program with a total of 51 pets but you don't get many food donations?

Shannon Ernst- No, we have asked for the community and we are actually going to do some pop up stuff as some of the community events because I don't think people understand that we take pet donations. We also take cash donations because animals get sick and need to go to the vet and this is this persons only companion. So we are trying to support that as much as possible. We also help them get spayed and neutered when CAPS can't do it, and some have really expensive medication.

Cari Norcutt- When is National Pet month? I could do something for my business and have people donate, and maybe there could be a couple of us that could do something or I could maybe get more of us realtors. Sierra Nevada Association of Realtors they give us each year so much money to give to the community and most the time they give it to the High School.

Shannon Ernst- Maybe they could sponsor a lunch?

Cari Norcutt- I don't know if they could do that or how much money they have but they do give money to all the communities. So I'll find out more information.

Shannon Ernst- You know we don't have a lot of staff to go out and do fundraising, we try to do pop-up things that the community does. But anything helps.

Cari Norcutt- and I do know that a lot of people they'll do the CAPS and CAPS gets quite a bit so if we could try to get the attention to this too. Also I was apart of this 40 over 40 or 50 over 50 I don't remember but you pay so much for the photography but we got a big discount, but all the proceeds went to women getting scholarships. But I had thought something like that could be done here in Fallon and it could be done with pets, people could get pictures with their pets. Maybe we could get involved with Taryn Lennon and then all the money could be put towards this.

Shannon Ernst- There is so many things and there's just not enough hours in the day.

Cari Norcutt- And not enough people

Shannon Ernst- Yeah I have to be careful when we do events because it defeats the purpose if I have to pay people overtime.

Brittany Burton- Shannon, I didn't know if there were any updates for Pay it Forward.

Shannon Ernst- Um, we don't but we are going to release Pay it Forward after Thanksgiving, we don't usually go out in the community and ask for donations and I feel bad sending letters out and begging for money. Pay is Forward is for our Meals on Wheels Aging and Disability population. The Mayor gave us \$10,000 towards the program and then we use \$5,000 of our Grants to Needy so individuals that are on Meals on Wheels that are having difficulty paying their utilities, we divvy up the money between all applicants and help them pay their bills. Some people got a month and a half and others get a month, just depends on what their bills

look like. We do it around Christmas time during the City sponsored lunch and bring as many Meals on Wheels in here and give them a ride, they have an awards ceremony here in the multipurpose room and they get flowers from the City.

Member Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Program Review as submitted. Kathy Wyrick seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Fiscal Review and approval

A review of the current fiscal budget that pertains to community action will be provided.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Shannon Ernst- If you look at the Fiscal Review really you're looking at CSBG and FRC Family Resource Center. Our budget we have expended all but 92 cents they are on a Federal Fiscal Year not on State, usually we have carry over and the State has been pushing no carry over because the Feds are doing a sweep. We are anticipating that we will receive the same amount in CSBG and we have not received our awards yet. What they've done is they have awarded us enough for two months because of the Federal Shut Down and everything being held up at the Federal Level. FRC 2026 we were funded 100% and that helps with JPO and some outreach, with media, Pinwheels for Prevention but its \$26,000 so it doesn't go too far. But we're happy to get that back and we have expended 14% of it. If there's any questions on the financial.

Member Matt Hyde made a motion to approve the Financial Fiscal Review as submitted. Kathy Wyrick seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Shannon Ernst- Any?

Consideration and Possible Action re: Schedule of Next Meeting:

Shannon Ernst- So look at the next quarter we will need to have it between the months of January and March, so we usually lean into March because we just had this one. Is there any dates that do not work? Commissioners meeting would be on March 5 so we could have it in the afternoon at 4 o'clock

Matt Hyde- That works for me

Cari Norcutt-What day?

Shannon Ernst- 5th does that work for you? Ok we will send out a calendar invite.

Public Comment:

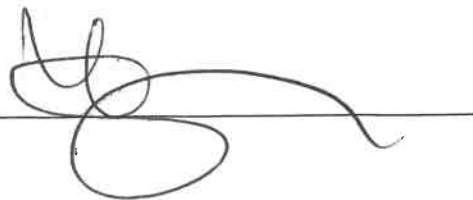
Chair Cari Norcutt noted no public to comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Affidavit of Posting:

APPROVED: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S', written over a horizontal line.

Cari Norcutt, Chair, Advisory Committee