

# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Senior Affairs

### Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

DSA Advisory Council, In-Person Meeting  
Highland Senior Center  
131 Monroe NE, 87108  
Monday April 15, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.  
<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/87002708426>

## Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:06 PM
  - a. Present:
    - i. Advisory Council Members: Evan Thompson, Steve Borbas, Henry Shonerd, Louis Carlentine, Dubra Karnes-Padilla, Raymond Taylor, Lorey Esquibel, Martha Medina, Sheila Hundley,
    - ii. DSA Staff Members: Anna Sanchez, Chris Sanchez, Tim Martinez, Nikki Peone, Agnes Vallejos, Angel Montoya, Maria ReQua, Alan Armijo, Chris Rogers, Janely Gamboa, Bernice Chacon.
  - b. Not Present:
    - i. Havens Levitt
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Mr. Shonerd motions to approve minutes, Mr. Borbas seconds. March Minutes were approved.
  - b. Mr. Shonerd motions to approve the April Agenda, Ms. Karnes Padilla seconds. The April agenda was approved.
- IV. Public Participation- N/A
- V. Center Manager Report- Chris Rogers, Center Manager
  - i. Mr. Rogers presented a report on the Highland Senior Center, highlighting the following key points:
  - ii. Angie with Sports & Fitness has transitioned into a different role, with continued support from the transportation department, which has proven to be beneficial.
  - iii. Over the past six months, efforts to address vandalism have been successful due to the installation of a fence around the senior center, effectively resolving the issue.

- iv. The newly established multipurpose room has facilitated various activities such as exercise classes, yoga sessions, and community group meetings, proving to be a valuable addition to the center.
- v. The fitness room has been relocated providing easier accessibility. Furthermore, the relocation of the billiards table closer to the fitness room has been well-received by billiards players, who now have their dedicated space.
- vi. Plans are underway to introduce a mini dog park on the south side of the property, with implementation expected within the next month. Further details will be provided as they become available.
- vii. The ongoing kitchen renovation project aims to attract more members, contributing to the steady increase in membership. The retention strategy employed by the center continues to provide positive results.
- viii. Collaboration with Parkland Village in establishing a partnership aims to expand social services opportunities for members, including assistance with small home chores and transportation. Further details regarding this partnership will be communicated.

VI. Overview of Annual DSA Survey- Agnes Vallejos, Program Manager Home Delivered Meals, Meal Sites, and Centers

- a. Ms. Vallejos, provided an overview of the survey, focusing on Home Delivered Meals, Meal Sites, and Centers, with the following key points:
- b. The decision was made to condense multiple surveys into one annual survey, now known as the "Season Survey," to ensure comprehensive feedback without overwhelming participants. This survey format avoids the use of a five-point scale. Despite initial concerns about response rates, a significant number of responses were obtained, particularly from center locations. Overall center satisfaction was reported at an impressive 95%, with particular emphasis on satisfaction with center meals.
- c. The turnout for surveys conducted at centers, meal sites, and for home-delivered meals was excellent.
- d. Director Sanchez expressed satisfaction with the prompt release of these results, noting their relevance to ongoing discussions about meals and other operational aspects. These findings will be instrumental in shaping the strategic plan.
- e. It's gratifying to note the array of resources our city offers to its residents.
- f. Ms. Karnes-Padilla recommended considering posting the survey results on the website, acknowledging the complexity involved.

VII. Administrative Updates

- a. Tim Martinez, Nutrition & Transportation Division Manager
  - i. Mr. Martinez distributed a flyer detailing how to utilize a fitness app class.
  - ii. Regarding Home Delivered Meals (HDM) routes, currently, there are 636 deliveries each day across 12 routes. An additional route has been introduced, which has been positively received. This addition has improved our efficiency in deliveries, ensuring timely service.

HDM staff expressed initial nervousness but are now excited about the changes.

- iii. Regarding Policies and Procedures, it was emphasized that transportation cannot be scheduled on behalf of someone else. Instances where this occurs are addressed by informing individuals of our policies and ensuring the proper delivery of our services.

b. Angel Montoya, Recreation Division Manager

- i. Ms. Montoya provided an update on the recreation division's operating and upcoming events.
- ii. The division celebrated the 100th day of the year by honoring centenarians at NVSC. More details are available in the ABQ Journal story. [https://www.abqjournal.com/good\\_news/centenarians-gather-at-north-valley-senior-center-for-food-music-and-festivity-on-the-years/article\\_7915efb2-f6ba-11ee-8bd1-0b00bcc56aeb.html](https://www.abqjournal.com/good_news/centenarians-gather-at-north-valley-senior-center-for-food-music-and-festivity-on-the-years/article_7915efb2-f6ba-11ee-8bd1-0b00bcc56aeb.html)
- iii. April will see a flurry of sports events on the calendar.
- iv. In May, NDB will host its annual sports and fitness day. Stay tuned for further details.
- v. Tarde de Oro, a free event, is scheduled for May 9. Centers are arranging transportation, and sign-ups have officially begun.
- vi. Senior Tech staff are just a few days away from completing their training.
- vii. The Tech Fair is set for Friday April 19, featuring over 30 vendors and numerous services at Manzano Mesa from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Attendees can enjoy raffles and complimentary hot dogs. Some centers are providing transportation to and from the center.
- viii. May will witness the Veterans Memorial event. The April event attracted approximately 30 attendees.
- ix. National Pet Day recently occurred, and seniors interested in adopting pets can benefit from waived fees.

c. Maria ReQua, Social Services

- i. A new employee, Savannah Holm, has recently joined the I&A team and is currently receiving training.
- ii. During the outreach season for I&A, 300 individual contacts were made, engaging potential members at the Sandia Resort Casino. The team continues to actively seek out new contacts.
- iii. As the department enters Quick Guide season, efforts are in progress to compile community resources, with adjustments being made due to new positions within the department. This process is expected to be completed by early fall.
- iv. Interviews were conducted by case managers last Friday to fill the remaining vacant position. The applicant pool is shrinking, highlighting the need for proactive recruitment efforts.
- v. In the recent data pool analysis, it was found that there are 1012 ongoing clients, equating to approximately 250 cases per case manager. Plans are being discussed to explore the creation of new positions to manage this workload more effectively.

- vi. Home Services is preparing for the spring season, offering assistance with yard chores. While there are limits to the services provided, exemptions are made for citations or security concerns.
  - vii. As the weather starts to get warmer, efforts are underway to coordinate the timing for turning on air conditioning units, ensuring the safety of personnel, especially those working on roofs.
  - viii. The Program Manager, Ed Ackron, is in the process of formalizing a partnership with a local agency, to increase their pool of volunteers for construction projects such as building ramps. An MOU is currently in the works
  - ix. The advocacy team is actively seeking to expand partnerships, including exploring collaboration with Adult Protective Services. A recent meeting was held to discuss how to enhance the working relationship for greater productivity.
- d. Agnes Vallejos, Program Manager
- i. Ms. Vallejos provided a brief update on Age Friendly initiatives. The focus is on integrating the Age Friendly comprehensive plan into the City's comprehensive plan. Progress is being made across the eight domains of Age Friendly initiatives.
- e. Nikki Peone, Associate Director
- i. Ms. Peone reported that Natasha Montoya, the Volunteerism and Engagement Manager, has left the city to join the state. Ms. Montoya oversaw all volunteer programs, and her departure leaves a significant gap. Work is currently in progress to post this position.
  - ii. Other positions, including AmeriCorps and Case Manager roles, are also being filled. Plans are to repost these positions as needed.
  - iii. The Volunteer Coordinator position within the Foster Grandparent Program is expected to start soon.
  - iv. Discussions are underway regarding the Capital GOBond request, which is scheduled to open for 2025. The initial request process will start next week, with the dog park project falling under Parks & Recreation.
  - v. Efforts continue regarding updates to the kitchen and other areas across senior centers.
- f. Anna Sanchez, Director
- i. Ms. Sanchez provided new councilor Joaquin Baca with a tour of the facility on 1st Street, offering him an insider's perspective on DSA's operations.
  - ii. She also met with Councilor Rogers, accompanied by Agnes, to deliver an overview of the department's work.
  - iii. A discussion was held with Goodwill to explore their program aimed at placing individuals aged 55 and older within their centers for work opportunities, with the goal of strengthening community connections.
  - iv. Conversations with the County focused on their meal sites, aiming to align objectives and partnerships.

- v. This month's priorities for DSA includes budgeting, advocacy, and engagement with community members. Ms. Vallejos's presentation regarding Age Friendly have caused insightful inquiries from the city council. As they proceed, managing recurring costs and navigating the budget approval process will be crucial, especially with April and May expected to be particularly busy periods.

VIII. Advisory Council Business-

a. Advisory Councils Review:

- i. Mr. Taylor informed the committee about currently working on reformatting the meeting agendas moving forward. This includes changes to how reports are presented. There's discussion around the frequency of reporting, particularly for committees meeting annually. Further updates on this matter will be announced.

IX. Council Member Reports (Optional)-

X. Announcements

- a. Tour of Highland Senior Center by Center Manager, Chris Rogers

XI. Adjournment

- a. Mr. Shonerd motioned to adjourn meeting, Mr. Taylor seconds. Meeting adjourned at 1:32pm.