

City of Albuquerque
Department of Senior Affairs
Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

501 Elizabeth St SE 87123

Monday, September 16th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

- I. Roll Call
- II. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:08pm
 - a. Present:
 - i. Advisory Council Members: Evan Thompson, Steve Borbas, Henry Shonerd, Havens Levitt, Louis Carlentine, Maria Martinez
 - b. Not Present: Lorey Esquibel, Dubra Karnes-Padilla
- III. Approval of Minutes: Henry S. motions to approve July minutes.
 - a. Steve Borbas would like to edit the Contact Page to note that he is Retired.
 - b. Steve B. also motions to approve the September Agenda.
- IV. Public Participation
 - a. Margaret – Question: Where does money that is disbursed annually go toward at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center?
 - i. Manzano Mesa could use an intercom to make others aware in case of emergency or other public announcements. Also, the social hall has material on the walls that is peeling.
 - b. Director Sanchez: Regarding revenue from memberships, 20-dollar annual fee.
 - i. We definitely need vocal community members to advocate for DSA.
 - ii. Funding goes into the City’s general fund. Then, during budget hearings, City Council and Mayor approve budgets. This year, there were many competing priorities and we did not get a huge disbursement. We are proud of the work done by the center. To be clear, not every penny that goes into the general fund comes back to Senior Affairs. The center manager has discussed improvements like an intercom. There are other underlying issues with the dated electrical system. Sound panels are also being considered to replace the worn-out material previously mentioned.

- iii. City Council is also involved. We try to be thoughtful about where we ask for additional funds. We would like more, yes. The AAA grant is used for lunch, transportation, and other services. We make the most of what we can get and always try to make smart decisions regarding spending. Hopefully that is helpful, thank you.
- c. Evan, offered Dennis a chance to speak. Dennis denied.
- d. Chuck H. – concerned regarding the upcoming crisis in the next 10 years. “Rent has increased and may double.” He is on a fixed income like many seniors, including those in public shelters. Some have varying resources available. Chuck recognizes the diverse backgrounds of people affected. Chuck wrote a book, “Seven Steps to Relieve Homelessness”. Every person needs a bed, somewhere safe to stay off the streets. Financial literacy is a persistent challenge. Chuck is also a part of a nonprofit, “ABQ...” we cannot help everybody but everybody can help somebody. His book will be free on Amazon.
- e. Director Sanchez - We are familiar with the financial challenges that our seniors are facing. We have cross-department conversations with HHH and older adults are not going unnoticed. How do we continue to advocate for others? We focus on maintaining independent living. We want to maintain a vibrant and healthy community. We would like to share your contact with others after this meeting.

V. DSA Staffing Updates

- a. Introducing Alejandra Zazueta, Fiscal Manager
 - i. Incredibly honored and grateful for the opportunity. Combined expertise of strategic decisions which will benefit those we serve. There is a lot to accomplish and she looks forward to working on things that need improvement. Ale learns most from problem solving. She has plans and cannot wait to start.
 - ii. Director Sanchez - The early work could connect Agnes and Ale to understand deliverables and the value of the things we do. Having the biggest impact in the community and staying focused on the community.
- b. Introducing Rhonda Fuller-Noah, Senior Personnel & Labor Relations Officer
 - i. Rhonda joined the Department around 6 weeks ago and continues to evaluate. She has visited all centers to meet people and evaluate how to retain staff and participants to keep people happy.
 - ii. Question: Margaret - Is there a problem? Do people want to work at the centers? Noted an increase in available job postings online.
 - iii. Rhonda F.N. - Money is a huge factor, we are trying to stay competitive after COVID. DSA is grant funded so, it is a challenge unique to our area, however, retention is a city-wide issue. Ensuring that we have a place where people are happy is a huge component. The biggest problem is money.

- c. Introducing Jenna Stanton, Case Management Coordinator, Senior Companion Program
 - i. Jenna has served 6 years in this area as office assistant. Recently, she earned a promotion to Case Management Coordinator for the program. This is an important role because clients will be matched and moved off of a waiting list. She will be instrumental in growing the pool of volunteers. She has the passion to support the Department in this role. Jenna is happy to be here and loves the seniors that she works with. She looks forward to continuing to grow the program through recruitment. Jenna is also excited to facilitate new connections.
 - ii. Ray - Met a gentleman that said: “I need help cleaning my house. What if I have expired food?” He may have applied previously.
 - 1. Jenna - Volunteers may help in an organizational capacity, participating in tasks with the client but no cleaning or nursing. This example could work with a volunteer organizing the pantry alongside the client.
 - 2. Maria R.: Definitely, share their contact info if available so a Social Services representative could assess. State ALTSD could have resources for visually impaired persons. Case Management program could do an in-person assessment to connect client with a more involved form of homemakers service.
 - iii. Director Sanchez – Demand for services is very high. We are excited for Jenna to tackle influx. Recruitment is restricted to those 55 and older. The waitlist used to be much longer.
 - 1. Q: Is there a stipend? A: Yes

VI. Center Manager Report

- a. Brittani Torres, center manager and Esperanza Molina, program coordinator
 - i. Successful summer with around 150 youth registrations
 - 1. Thank you to student interns and Foster Grandparent volunteer
 - ii. The center served about 100 meals for seniors, including 52 breakfasts.
 - iii. Also hosting new programming like:
 - 1. Ice cream socials
 - 2. Tech bingo
 - 3. Tech Thursdays
 - 4. TeleVida5 – one Thursday monthly tech classes
 - a. How to take pictures with smart phones
 - 5. Partnership with roadrunner food bank
 - a. September 20th and October 25th , 2:00 - 4:45pm
 - 6. Fall Festival, October 11th
 - 7. Friendsgiving Bingo, November 1st
 - a. Center is looking for donations
 - iv. Renovations and improvements:
 - 1. New front doors

2. Roof patched and fixed
 3. New blinds and intercom in gym
 4. Splash pad, sound panel etc.
 - v. Director Sanchez - There has been an increase in labor and materials costs.
 1. There has been a massive water leak that was discovered behind the building. The City's energy saving system caught it quickly so we can repair the issue.
 - vi. Eldorado High School Life skills and education program. Students help around the center and volunteer in various roles.
 1. Director Sanchez - partnership programs like this and other senior volunteer programs also help with backfill of open positions.
 2. Angel M. – North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center has also gained a great employee from similar programs.
- VII. Administration Report: Director Sanchez
- a. New Deputy Director: Shay Armijo
 - i. From Parks & Rec, she is very excited to start after she concludes her duties running the Balloon Fiesta.
 - b. Offered Executive Assistant to Tyler Allison
 - i. Enthusiastic, well organized will introduce soon.
 - c. Director will be reevaluating and reorganizing the department structure.
 - d. Advisory Council Term Limits
 - i. Today would have been Dubra's last meeting, we would like to celebrate her as well. Other renewals are forthcoming and may need attention.
 - e. Committee Report – Victoria Velarde
 - i. Upcoming DSA events available for council members to sign-up.
- VIII. Other Announcements
- a. Ray – Railyards Director asked about distributing info for a program that they have: Seniors living with grandchildren get free produce. There are shares that people pay into for produce boxes. These grandparents will receive a free produce box.
 - b. Wednesday at Taylor Ranch Community Center: Cabinet on your corner
 - i. APD, Parks, Arts & culture – morning presence from departments.
- IX. Motion to adjourn, 1:03pm