

City of Albuquerque

Department of Senior Affairs

Advisory Council



Anna M. Sanchez, Director

1 Civic Plaza NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Barelas Senior Center
714 7th St SW 87102
Monday, October 21st, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
In-Person Meeting
<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/83684832864>

Minutes

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Evan Thompson at 12:06 PM
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Present:
 - i. Advisory Council Members: Evan Thompson, Raymond Taylor, Jr.(Zoom), Louis Carlentine, Maria Martinez, Dr. Sheila Hundley, Henry Shonerd, Havens Levitt
 - ii. DSA Staff Members: Director Anna Sanchez, Cristina Romero-Baca, Nikki Peone, Agnes Vallejos, Alan Armijo, Maria ReQua, Marina Salazar, America Bencomo, Shay Armijo, Angel Montoya, Tim Martinez, Tyler Allison
 - b. Not Present: Steve Borbas, Lorey Esquibel, Martha Medina
- III. Approval of Minutes & Agenda
 - a. Evan Thompson motions to approve minutes; Henry Shonerd seconds. September Draft Minutes were approved.
 - b. Evan Thompson motions to approve the October Agenda; Sheila Hundley seconds. The October agenda was approved.
- IV. Special Recognition – Dubra Karnes-Padilla
 - a. The Council recognized departing member, Dubra who joined mid-term to fill the seat of a vacating member in September 2020. She was appointed for a second term 09/30/2021, and this second term ended 09/30/2024. She has been very involved with Age-Friendly work, and is currently a part of Agnes' Age-Friendly subcommittee.
- V. Public Participation

- a. Pat Turrietta – volunteer driver with DSA; has volunteered for 12 years. Concerns regarding other senior participants’ behavior and conduct and the well-being of those volunteering to drive.
 - i. Director Sanchez stated this specific individual has been spoken to in the past and has agreed to stop the problem-causing behavior.
- b. Chuck Holman – rent concerns for older adults in the community
 - i. Worried about rent doubling over the next couple of years.
 - ii. 200 seniors currently live in the Westside Shelter, according to Chuck’s recent research.
 - iii. Agnes Vallejos will send calendar invite to Chuck for this Friday’s (October 25, 2024) Age-Friendly Summit where the topic/focus is Housing Equity.

VI. Introduction of New DSA Staff: Director Anna Sanchez

- a. Cristina Romero-Baca, Community Volunteer Engagement Manager
 - i. Has served with AmeriCorps as the RSVP Manager previously.
 - ii. Cristina will oversee all three AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer programs, and the Volunteers In Action program.
 - iii. Has a passion for Volunteerism; ready to help the Volunteerism programs grow.
 - iv. Annual Senior Holiday Drive will begin soon. On December 5 and 6 – Volunteerism will need help sorting donation items and packaging items in gift bags for homebound seniors; looking for volunteers.
- b. Shay Armijo, Deputy Director
 - i. Comes from Parks & Recreation, 17 years with the City.
 - ii. This is the first time Dept. of Senior Affairs has had two Deputy Directors.
 - iii. Shay will handle external operations – Nutrition/Transportation, Recreation, Volunteerism, Social Services.
 - iv. Excited to work with the senior centers and various DSA programs.

VII. Center Manager Report – America Bencomo

- a. Has been at Barelmas since January 2024; worked previously at different centers and in Nutrition/Transportation (20 years with City).
- b. Recently completed Capital Outlay Project for modifications to Barelmas Senior Center.
 - i. Senior Center needs are quickly outgrowing the space.
 - ii. Phase I: front desk renovated.
 - iii. Phase II: upcoming.
- c. Recent Past Events
 - i. Barelmas Fiestas – held recently for the first time since 2019.
 - 1. 400 participants of all ages attended.
 - ii. Oct. 18 – UNM College of Pharmacy student came to give flu shots, health screenings, and Vials of Life.
- d. Upcoming Events
 - i. Oct. 25 – Medicare Fair
 - 1. 9 vendors participating; prizes, raffles will be happening.

- ii. Oct 25 – Boos & Boogie Halloween Dance.
- iii. Oct. 29 – Special Guests (in collaboration with the City of Albuquerque Sustainability Department) from Murcia, Spain.
 - 1. Will be viewing Barelás’ Veterans Garden, discussing various topics including composting.
 - 2. Will also be having conversations on how to eliminate food waste.
- iv. Oct 31 – Barelás Child Development Center will be trick-or-treating at Barelás Senior Center.
 - 1. Seniors and staff will be passing out candy for the children.
- v. Nov. 8 – 12th Annual Veterans Garden Celebration (in honor of Veterans Day).
- vi. Dec. 6 – Casa Flamenco presentation
- e. ACE Leadership High School – students help in Veteran Garden, work with Center volunteers, currently working to paint mural in back garden
 - i. Students build garden beds, dig, compost, pull weeds, and help with other needs in Veterans Garden.
- f. New Mexico Grown Program – 20 boxes are dropped off to Barelás every Monday for seniors.
 - i. Barelás Senior Center is 1 of only 3 locations in Albuquerque.
 - ii. These boxes use food products from farms around New Mexico.

VIII. Administration Report – Director Sanchez

- a. FY24 Annual Report
 - i. Tells Department of Senior Affairs’ FY24 highlights.
- b. Groundbreaking for Cibola Loop Multigenerational Center.
 - 1. Goal: Open September 2025.
 - 2. Last new building was in 2011 (North Domingo Baca).
- c. Outreach work—wants to bring in more aging adults and provide more resources.
- d. Department of Senior Affairs is inheriting another building next year.
- e. Goal: efficiently continue to run operations and expand on efforts.
- f. Chuck had a question – “Does DSA have a professional grant-writing department?”
 - i. Answer: No dedicated grant-writing group; grant-writing is part of the Fiscal Team’s duties, but we would like to have an official/dedicated group some day.

IX. Committee Report: Evan Thompson invites committees to share updates.

- a. Ray – Committee structure got interrupted during COVID
 - i. In 2023, Committees were restarted.
 - 1. Subcommittees had specific, narrower functions to help find solutions.
 - ii. Ray agreed to lead effort in re-engagement for Advisory Council.
 - iii. Call for assistance to Advisory Council members: if anyone has a particular affinity for a particular council, let Ray know.

- b. Would like to re-engage councils fully in 2025.
 - i. Spreadsheet forthcoming.
 - c. Director Sanchez would like to restart Safety Committee and Code of Conduct Committee.
- X. Announcements and Council Business
- a. Proposed 2025 Calendar.
 - i. Tyler will send out calendar invites for 2025 meetings soon.
 - b. Reminder for November 18th Meeting – will be held at CASA Kitchens; holiday lunch!
- XI. Motion to Adjourn: Sheila Hundley motions to adjourn at 1:01 pm; Henry Shonerd seconds. Meeting adjourned.