



Agenda

DATE 9/25/15 TIME 3:59pm

SERVED BY Luigi Gonzales

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DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES
PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
9:00 a.m.

*****Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center*****
1121 Alto Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation (Dennis E. Gonzales)
- III. Pledge of Allegiance (Andres Romero)
- IV. Introduction of Advisory Board Members (Andres Romero)
- V. Introduction of Division of Senior Services Staff (Ron J. Vialpando, DSS Director)
- VI. Purpose of Hearing (Luigi Gonzales)
- VII. 2015 End New Mexico Hunger (Dolores Gonzales)
- VIII. Service Delivery Presentation, by Ron J. Vialpando & DSS Staff (Power Point Presentation)
- IX. Prioritize Services / Items From the Floor
- X. Final Program Recommendations
- XI. Closing Statements
- XII. Adjournment

Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

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DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES

ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PUBLIC HEARING

October 7, 2015

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MINUTES OF THE
DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC HEARING
October 7, 2015

The Public Hearing of the City of Santa Fe Division of Senior Services Advisory Board of Directors was called to order by Ron Vialpando, Director, Division of Senior Services at 9:10 a.m. on this date at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center, 1121 Alto Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Roll Call indicated the presence of a quorum for conducting official business as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andres Romero, Chairperson
Mary Louise Giron, Vice Chairperson
Dennis Gonzales
Elaina K. Gonzalez
Virginia Lucero
Corrine Sanchez
Doug Schocke
Rosemarie Trujillo

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gilbert Alarid
Bernardo C de Baca
Tonie Ann Gallegos

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Chavez, Division of Senior Services Project Fleet Manager
Lugi Gonzales, Division of Senior Services Project Manager
Triston Lovato, Retired Senior Volunteer Program Administrator
Cristy Montoya, Administrative Secretary
Melanie Montoya, Division of Senior Services Volunteer Program Administrator
Katie Ortiz, Division of Senior Services Clerk
Isaac J. Pino, Public Works Department Director
Fran Rodriguez, Division of Senior Services Transportation Project Manager
Marisa Romero, Division of Senior Services RSVP
Carlos Sandoval, Division of Senior Services, Meals on Wheels Supervisor
Theresa Trujillo, Division of Senior Services, In-Home Support Supervisor
Ron Vialpando, Division of Senior Services Director
Thomas Vigil, Division of Senior Services Nutrition Program Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT

Myles Copeland, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, NM Aging & Long-Term Services Dept.
Dolores Gonzales, Non-Metro NM Area Agency on Aging
Toby Kessler, Non-Metro NM Area Agency on Aging Project Manager
Patricia Lopez, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Maria Montoya, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Michelle Quintana, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

**Please see the Sign-in Sheet for the names of the attendees. A copy is hereby incorporated with these Minutes as Exhibit "A".*

INVOCATION

Invocation was led by Virginia Lucero.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Andres Romero and was recited by all present.

INTRODUCTION OF ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Vialpando introduced the City of Santa Fe Division of Senior Services Advisory Board Members. The Advisory Board represents the City of Santa Fe and is made up of 11 Board Members. Five members are Mayoral appointments and six are elected at large. This Advisory Board meets monthly to discuss program issues as well as policies and procedures. These individuals volunteer their time, expertise and knowledge which make a difference with the Senior Program. The Board Members are as follows:

Andres Romero, Chairman
Mary Louise Giron, Vice Chairman
Rosemarie Trujillo, Secretary
Gilbert J. Alarid
Bernardo C de Baca
Tonie Ann Gallegos
Dennis E. Gonzales
Elaina K. Gonzalez
Virginia M. Lucero
Corrine Sanchez
Doug Schocke

Mr. Vialpando also introduced the following guests:
Myles Copeland, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Aging & Long-Term Services Dept.
Dolores Gonzales, Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging
Toby Kessler, Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging Project Manager
Patricia Lopez, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Dept.
Maria Montoya, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Dept.
Michelle Quintana, NM Aging and Long-Term Services Dept.
Isaac J. Pino, Public Works Department Director
Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer

Mr. Vialpando asked Myles Copeland to speak.

Mr. Copeland said it was an honor to be here with all the seniors. He noted that he had a hard time finding parking, which is indicative of the level of enthusiasm of the attendees who want to make sure that the senior services meet their needs. This is what the Public Hearing is about-for the State representatives to hear what the seniors feel are the needs, and what they want done in the community. He thanked Ron Vialpando, staff and the seniors present today for helping inform the way senior services get delivered in the City of Santa Fe.

Mr. Vialpando asked Isaac J. Pino to address the audience. He thanked Mr. Pino for his support in making the Senior Services Program a success.

Mr. Pino welcomed the seniors to the MEG Center for the annual Public Hearing and thanked them for their input on what they would like to have for senior services. He acknowledged the Director and staff from the Division of Senior Services for the level of dedication they have for the program and the passion they have in serving the senior population.

Mr. Vialpando asked Toby Kessler to address the audience. He noted that Mr. Kessler is representing Jenny Martinez of the Area Agency on Aging who usually attends these public hearings but she is actually holding her own public hearing today.

Mr. Kessler said he wants to recognize the City Senior Program for what they do. He said it is one of the best senior programs in the State and the senior citizen community is fortunate to have such a great staff that provides assistance to them. He said this Public Hearing is an opportunity for the seniors to let Ron Vialpando know what services that the seniors need. He acknowledged Mr. Vialpando and the Division of Senior Services staff for providing valuable services to the seniors.

The Older Americans Act was enacted by Congress in 1965 to ensure provision of social services to America's elderly population. The City's Division of Senior Services administers programs, which provide a comprehensive social service delivery system for senior citizens in our community. The following program services are critical to the planning and implementation process:

- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals
- Transportation
- Home Management Services
- Respite (Alzheimer's) Care
- Supplemental Assistance
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Volunteer Programs
- Senior Employment Program
- Center Programming/Health Promotion

Purpose of Hearing

As part of the four-year plan renewal process required by the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging the Division of Senior Services staff are working on a new application to receive both federal and state funds for the continuation of services. Currently, they are in the final year of a four-year funding cycle, which will end on June 30, 2016. The Division of Senior Services is required to prepare and resubmit a new request in an effort to secure funding for Transportation, Nutrition and In-Home Support services/programs for the 2016-2020 funding cycle. This is a competitive year in terms of the-four year plan application process, which means the submitted request will be reviewed and ranged via the process outlined by the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging. One major requirement included in the process is that the Division of Senior Services must conduct a public hearing, which is the reason for today's public hearing.

Second Annual End Hunger in New Mexico Summit

Mr. Vialpando introduced Dolores Gonzales from the Area Agency on Aging.

Dolores Gonzales said their mission statement is: *“Building the Awareness of hunger in the State of New Mexico by supporting underlying solutions that inspire self-sufficiency and community empowerment and support for a hunger-free tomorrow.”*

The 2nd Annual End Hunger in New Mexico Summit took place on September 23 to September 24, 2015 at the Marriott Albuquerque, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dolores Gonzales gave an overview of the 2015 Hunger Summit as follows:

- 400 people attended this year's Hunger Summit. She thanked the attendees from Santa Fe noting that they represented the largest attendance.
- Keynote speakers addressed everything from hunger, healthcare, policy, employment, homelessness, poverty and programs being implemented in New Mexico. The focus was on the population of seniors, children, the working poor, homeless and veterans.
- Children being #1 in the nation in childhood hunger and our seniors 2nd in the nation in senior hunger was talked about throughout the summit.

- Workshops were focused on the hunger issues but also several solutions to address food insecurity as follows:
 - The opportunity of faith-based organizations collaborating together to join forces without duplicating services
 - The resources for our homes and low-income veterans through the NM Veterans Integration Center
 - Working together to source local food donations and building capacity so people are less dependent on food banks and keeping good local food
 - Educating people about public assistance programs, which includes state and federal funds: SNAP, WIC, CSFP, FNMP, and several food school programs for our children attending school
 - Financial basics on how to budget on a tight income
 - An overview of statewide Senior Program Services
 - Food Rescue in NM. The state's rampant food waste and how to solve this.
 - Eating healthy by using nutritional facts labels more easily and effectively
 - The struggles of food distribution to remote communities and ways to improve access to nutritious food

Dolores Gonzales said the seniors in Santa Fe are very lucky to have the MEG Senior Center to come to and eat a warm meal every day; and this is all thanks to Ron Vialpando and his staff.

- Balanced meals on a budget
 - A tool to define geographic disparities in hunger throughout the state by using the NM Food Environment mapping tool.
 - Exploring a food hub in rural and frontier communities for financial feasibility for farmers and provide our communities with fresh, local food and increased economic opportunities.
- Noteworthy activities that happened at the Hunger Summit:
 - Hunger Walk – Morning of September 24, 2015
 - Silent Auction – Sold approximately \$2700 which will go to help seniors. Many senior centers donated items that seniors made such as quilts, paintings, pottery, jewelry, etc.
 - Girl Scouts collected 2,351 cans of food and at their weekend camp collected another 700 pounds of food. One more troop from Bosque Farms will have a food drive on October 18th to benefit this initiative. This was a competition statewide with the Girl Schools and the small rural community of El Rito won the competition collection 1000 cans of food.
 - Two credit unions partnered with them to do a food drive in their branches: First Financial Credit Union and U.S. Eagle Federal Credit Union.

- The total pounds collected including the truck they had parked in front of the Hotel was 4000 pounds. This will go to food banks, local pantries and non-profit organizations.

Dolores Gonzales said they now know with the new statistics from the Hunger in America Report 2014, compiled by Roadrunner Food Bank and Feeding America, 70,000 people seek food assistance each week. 30% are children under the age of 18, 8% are under age 5; 21% are senior citizens, and 53% of hungry families are among the working poor. She said as you can see, there is still a lot of work to be done to address hunger in our state and they will continue to fight for this.

She said the Hunger Summit created a lot of talk, enthusiasm and interest in how we can all work together in combatting the issue of hunger in our State. Many gave some ideas of what they could work on this year and many suggestions on next year's Hunger Summit. She said this year they will be bringing the topic of hunger in the State of New Mexico to the Legislature on Senior Day. She invited everyone to come and support them and thanked the attendees for all of their support.

She noted that they will be showing a PSA (Public Service Announcement) that was shown on all channels of Channel 13 and there were a couple of seniors who were in the PSA. The attendees viewed the PSA.

Mr. Vialpando mentioned that the Division of Senior Services assists in trying to battle this issue. The Nutrition program serves over 200,000 meals and the Transportation Program plays a vital role in getting the seniors to grocery stores and meal sites. In-Home Support Services also prepares meals for the homebound seniors.

SERVICE DELIVERY PRESENTATION BY RON VIALPANDO & DSS STAFF

A PowerPoint presentation was presented by various Division of Senior Services staff members. [A copy is hereby incorporated to these Minutes as Exhibit "B". Please see Exhibit "B" for the specifics of this presentation.]

Mr. Vialpando reviewed the organizational chart for the Division for Senior Services noting that there are presently 70 employees.

He reviewed the Division of Senior Services Budget for Fiscal year 2014/2015 as follows:

- \$492,682 for Administration
- \$1,029,035 for Nutrition
- \$807,319 for Transportation
- \$686,242 for In-Home Support
- \$577,900 for Volunteer Programs
- \$34,824 for the Senior Employment Program
- \$3,904 for Health Promotion

\$3,631,906 Total Budget for Senior Services

61% of the funding comes from the City of Santa Fe (\$2,208,458). The federal government provides 17% of the budget (\$613,511); the State provides 20% of the budget (\$726,937) and 2% of the budget is provided by other funding sources (\$83,000).

Mr. Vialpando reviewed the 2012 Capital Outlay Legislative Request that was approved during the 2012 Legislative Session as follows:

\$300,000	MEG Warehouse Project
185,690	Luisa Center Improvements
146,940	Luisa Computer Lab
134,880	MEG Computer Lab
110,890	Villa Consuelo Center Improvements
8,500	Pasatiempo Kitchen Improvements (Complete)
132,000	Replacement Vehicles (Complete)
<u>111,900</u>	Kitchen Equipment (Complete)
\$1,130,800	Total

The 2013 Capital Outlay Legislative Request is as follows:

\$154,000	MEG Parking Lot Improvements (Phase 1 complete)
<u>82,072</u>	Citywide Kitchen Equipment (Complete)
\$236,072	Total

*Approved during the 2013 Legislative Session

The 2014 Capital Outlay Legislative Request is as follows:

\$147,900	Villa Consuelo Kitchen Project (Critical)
104,714	MEG Rear Entrance Improvements (Critical)
33,755	MEG Rooftop HVAC Systems (Critical)
500,000	Replacement Vehicles (Critical-in process)
39,631	MEG Congregate/MOW Kitchen Improvements (High)
175,000	Citywide Kitchen Equipment (High)
<u>77,380</u>	Citywide Senior Fitness Equipment (in process)
\$1,078,380	Total

*Critical and high priorities are being considered pending approval. These were approved during the 2014 Legislative Session.

2015 Capital Outlay Legislative Request

\$200,000	MEG Facility Code Improvements
\$197,500	Luisa facility Code Improvements
\$46,150	Villa Consuelo Code and Meals Equipment

\$39,800 MEG Meals Equipment
\$ 6,400 Pasatiempo Meals Equipment
\$489,850 Total

*Approved via the 2015 Legislative Session

A video on the new 4 Stack Multi-Gym was viewed. Mr. Vialpando noted that the Division of Senior Services will be purchasing three of these machines: One for the Pasatiempo Senior Center, one for the MEG Senior Center and one for the Luisa Senior Center. The Division of Senior Services received a small grant from the State in the amount of \$77,800.00 and they will be able to purchase equipment with this funding.

A clip that was shown on NBC news on the Senior Olympic basketball team from Albuquerque (“A League of their Own”) was also viewed. A member of the team (Arlene Mayer) is from Santa Fe. The team won the Gold Medal in the Senior Olympics competition.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the numbers from the American Community Survey noting that the survey shows the percentage of population of seniors 60 years of age and over in Santa Fe versus some of the other cities in New Mexico. The survey was prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau from the 2013-2014 numbers. Compared to other cities in New Mexico, Santa Fe was one of the largest in the 60+ senior population. According to the 2013 Census Bureau estimates, the city of Santa Fe has 18,852 seniors; Las Cruces has 18,328 and Rio Rancho has 14,002 seniors. The Santa Fe numbers do not include the annexation areas.

PRIORITIZE SERVICES/ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Theresa Trujillo, the DSS In-Home Support Supervisor provided an overview of the 40 letters of support that they received from senior citizens in the community who were not able to attend the meeting.

[Copies are hereby incorporated to these Minutes as Exhibit “C”.] The letters of support will be counted as a vote on the final recommendations.

Comments from the Floor

Danna K. Metzger said she is a senior companion volunteer this year. Regarding transportation, she said she is very grateful for this door-to-door service because she temporarily has a bit of a challenge with balance. She said she occasionally uses the City bus and she really appreciates the combination when she is able. This program helps her to be active and contribute. She uses the senior van pretty much every week day for things like work, volunteering as a senior companion, grocery shopping, healthcare appointments and socialization fun. She said she would also use the van on weekends if they at some point get funding for that.

Requests/suggestions: Ms. Metzger appreciates that Transportation makes doctor appointments a priority but she was wondering whether it would be possible to make

getting people to work a second priority because she is conscious of time. She said she also would appreciate a quiet private space for things like reading and paperwork without the distraction of television, etc. and a space for classes without distractions, with outside light and ventilation. She thanked the Division of Senior Services for the salad bar and for the Senior Companion program. She said she is enjoying the work so much and she is growing a lot.

Lucy Romero said she is so grateful for the Enhanced Fitness Program that meets three times a week. She thinks that the program is her own personal physical therapy class.

Virginia Soto thanked everybody for their kind words and prayers. She said as far as the program, they have been having a lot of problems at Pasatiempo Senior Center but she still invites everyone to come and visit with them. She said they have a friendly crew. Ms. Soto noted that she has walkers and wheelchairs to lend people.

Genevieve Maes said she would like to honor and thank all the employees because they have all been so wonderful. She also thanked all the senior van drivers.

Maria Salazar said she volunteers her time here at MEG Center and she just started doing this about a year ago. She thanked everyone here and said the staff is wonderful and are always there for them. She appreciates Ron Vialpando, Triston Lovato, Melanie Montoya, Robert, Dan Mitchell and all of the staff here. She said they are just really great people and she is so happy to be there as a volunteer and to meet other people here.

Mary Frances said she appreciates Ron Vialpando. She noted that he was out there when they were building the access to the back parking lot and she is very grateful and appreciates the access to come in here.

Juanita Quintana said this is a lovely place to come and it is good to have everyone here and she loves everyone.

Socorro Anaya said “gracias” for everything.

Judy Beare said she teaches line dancing at the Pasatiempo Senior Center and everybody there is so friendly and so nice and in the center here, everybody helps her so much with so many things. She said she had her knees replaced and she is doing wonderful after four months and she is back to dancing. She said she does not know what she would do without everybody here at the Senior Center. They are so much help and everything.

Dora Leyba said she really appreciates the staff here. They are very helpful. She noted that she has been coming to the MEG Senior Center for about 25 years and is very thankful for the congregate meals. She said she likes everybody here and really appreciates them.

Tommy Ortega said she is a volunteer and she loves everybody here. She said they were supposed to be getting a lot of renovations done at the Luisa Senior Center and they have not done any renovations. She said they were also supposed to be getting a new TV and they haven't. This was already months ago and she wanted to check on what is going on.

Rana Nelson said she appreciates all the comments and she hasn't been coming for a long time here but it is clear to her that the Senior Centers and the programming that are provided are essential to the quality of life for the senior citizens in our county and the surrounding areas. She said the concern that she has is about funding of course. She said even if we stay "even" that means, we are still going to be behind. She said she would appreciate any information that could be provided to them on how they can help to increase funding, despite Senior Day at the Legislature.

Mr. Vialpando said the important thing here is for seniors to speak to their local elected officials and tell them that the need for additional senior programs is there and will continue to grow. He said they should also thank them for their support.

Robert Burkhalter said he has been using the senior vans for about three years and he just loves it. The drivers and telephone operators are great. He said he cannot thank the senior drivers enough.

Genevieve Carbojal said she is new here but the drivers she has are all wonderful and nice. She wants to commend them and said she loves the all.

Tina Dominguez said she has been coming here for almost three years and she would like to commend highly Robert from Transportation and his staff, most of all the drivers. She said the drivers are so respectful and caring but her favorite is Ron Vialpando because he goes above and beyond for the seniors. She said she loves it here and wants to thank all of the staff with a big hug. She looks forward to coming here every day.

FINAL PROGRAM AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were ranked and prioritized based on the senior citizens' input and vote:

- 1) Transportation = 153
- 2) Congregate Meals = 112
- 3) Home Management Services = 107
- 4) Supplemental Services = 103
- 5) Respite Care = 102
- 6) Health Promotion = 94
- 7) Grandparents Raising Grandchildren = 80
- 8) Home Delivered Meals = 76
- 9) Other = 0

CLOSING STATEMENTS

The senior citizens in attendance were thanked for attending today's hearing.

Mr. Vialpando thanked the Division of Senior Services Advisory Board Members for attending today's hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

This Public Hearing adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Approved by:



Andres Romero, Chairperson

Respectively submitted by:



Jo Ann G. Valdez, Stenographer