

2 The following are summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting** held on
4 February 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces,
6 New Mexico.

8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

8 Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative
9 Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Senior Center Representative
10 Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large
11 Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative
12 Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative
13 Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative
14 Etta Kaufman, District 6 Representative
15 Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative

16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

18 Marilu Darby, District 2 Representative
19 Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative
20 Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative
21 Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative

22 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

24 Lori Garcia-Palacios, Acting Senior Programs Administrator
25 Michael Garcia, Recreation Facility Manager
26 Azucena Saucedo, Assistant Management Analyst
27 Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

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29 I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Cheryl De Young, Benavidez Center Representative, called the
30 Senior Programs' Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019,
31 at the Munson Senior Center, 975 S. Mesquite Street, Las Cruces, NM.

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33 II. **ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken, and a quorum ascertained.

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35 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative, led the
36 Pledge of Allegiance.

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38 IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** A moment of silence was observed.

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40 V. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Board members and staff present had no conflict of interest
41 with any item of business on the agenda.

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43 VI. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Lori Garcia-Palacios, Acting Senior Programs Administrator, was
44 introduced and welcomed.

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46 VII. **ACTION ITEM(S):** Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative, moved to approve the
47 January 10, 2019 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes as presented. Dr. Abel
48 Chavarria, District 1 Representative, seconded the motion. Vote: 8 Ayes; 0 Nays. Motion carried
49 unanimously.

52 **VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM(S):** Board members reviewed the February 2019 list of pending work
orders and issues of concern. Michael Garcia, Recreation Manager, provided an update on the
following action item:

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56 Item #5—Resurfacing of the sidewalk at the Eastside Center. M. Garcia reported he was informed
by Facilities there were no funds available to resurface the Eastside Center sidewalk as planned.
58 The project is a top priority, because it is a tripping hazard. Facilities will proceed with the project
as soon as funding becomes available. Secretary Chavarria inquired if the parking lines will be
60 repainted or if there are plans to resurface the entire parking lot. M. Garcia was unsure what the
scope of that project entailed. He stated he has been advocating for the resurfacing of the parking
62 lot, because the dip in the parking lot poses a safety hazard for seniors. He will provide an update
as soon as more information becomes available.

64 **IX. UPDATES:** Vice Chair Rayla Buchanan, Sage Café Representative, reported the Door
Prize Committee met on January 10, 2019. There was consensus from the Committee to hold off
66 on soliciting door prizes for the 2019 New Mexico Conference on Aging (COA). Vice Chair R.
Buchanan stated the purpose of soliciting door prizes for the Conference was to recognize Las
68 Cruces. However, in 2018 there was no mention of Las Cruces; even though, there were over 10
door prizes donated from Las Cruces. She stated it was a lot of work, and the Committee was
70 not accomplishing the intended goal. The committee will continue to work with Ryan Steinmetz,
Network Volunteer Coordinator, to ensure volunteers are nominated for volunteer recognition
72 awards. After further discussion, board members recommended contacting the CoA committee
members in charge of the door prizes and inquiring about the lack of recognition for Las Cruces.
74 It was also recommended a liaison from the Senior Programs' Advisory Board be appointed to
serve on CoA planning Committee. A recommendation will be made to the CoA planning
76 committee to consider changing the location of the conference to Las Cruces. R. Jackson
recommended involving Senator Mary Kay Papen. She is very supportive of the seniors and very
78 well respected. Vice Chair R. Buchanan stated if progress is made, the Committee will revisit the
issue, but for the time being, the door prizes are on hold. Chair C. De Young will follow up with
80 the Board's recommendations.

82 Secretary Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large, stated the Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging
(NMAAA) announced the next quarterly NMAAA Advisory Council meeting will be held April 24-
84 25, 2019, in Las Cruces, NM. The NMAAA is looking for a free or low-cost meeting room to hold
the Council meeting. She extended an invitation to the Board to make plans to attend the NMAAA
86 quarterly Board meeting. An agenda will be sent to the Board members as soon as it is finalized.
A few meeting room suggestions consisted of the Board of Realtors on Idaho Street or the
88 Homebuilders Association on Main Street. This information will be passed on to Sonia Saldana
who is working with Marcia Medina, NMAAA Coordinator, to locate a venue for the Council
90 meeting.

92 Dr. Abel Chavarria announced the City Parks and Recreation Department recently unveiled a new
outdoor exercise gym in Las Cruces. The outdoor gym, located by Meerscheidt Recreation
94 Center, is free and open to the public. It was recommended Senior Programs work with Parks
and Recreation to educate the seniors about the new fitness gym. He informed the Board the
96 fitness equipment is unsupervised. M. Garcia will follow up with the Board's recommendation.
Etta Kaufman inquired on the recruitment status of a volunteer instructor for the beading class.
98 M. Garcia stated all recruitment efforts have been unsuccessful. E. Kaufman provided the

100 following contact information of a potential volunteer beading class instructor—Joy Scharein from
101 Njoy Beads, 652-3396, njoybeadslc@gmail.com. M. Garcia will follow up.

102 E. Kaufman also recommended an advanced directive workshop be held at the centers. She
103 recently attended the workshop and found it to be very informative and interesting. She provided
104 M. Garcia with the contact information.

106 L. Garcia-Palacios announced the retirement of Lena Reta, Human Services Assistant, on
107 January 31, 2019. L. Reta provided information and referral services to the center participants.
108 She also prepared and completed legal documents. L. Garcia-Palacios announced in L. Reta's
109 absence, the Case Managers will be available to assist the participants until the position is filled.
110 However, Senior Programs will no longer assist with the completion of legal documents, because
111 the case managers are not properly trained to provide this type of assistance. A notice informing
112 participants of this change will be included in the March 2019 Senior Programs' newsletter. The
113 case managers are available to interpret correspondence and complete forms, except legal
114 documents. A list of resources for legal services will be available upon request.

116 R. Alvarez stated he attends the Tai Chi classes held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the
117 Eastside Center. He expressed frustration, because he feels the staff is rude and disrespectful
118 to the class participants. The staff walk in front of the instructor, when they can easily walk across
119 the back of the classroom. He stated the staff is loud which is very distracting for the class. The
120 staff needs to be advised to be quiet while the class is in session.

122 R. Alvarez voiced concern because the restrooms do not have any signage. It is difficult for first-
123 time visitors to locate the restrooms without the appropriate signage. He stated he observed
124 visitors from the Benavidez Center walking around the dining room looking for the restroom
125 facilities. There are no signs on the wall directing visitors or guests to the restroom amenities. M.
126 Garcia will follow up with R. Alvarez' concern.

128 Chair C. De Young stated she was very impressed with the chocolate chip cookies served at the
129 Benavidez Center. The cookies were soft and had plenty of chocolate chips. The Board
130 expressed concern about the broken water line at the Benavidez Center. Azucena Saucedo
131 explained the water line break was in the park area where construction was taking place. The
132 broken water line affected the center. For this reason, the center was closed for meals.

134 Chair C. De Young reported the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department is
135 requesting letters of support for HB545 be submitted to the State Legislator. After further
136 discussion, Vice Chair R. Buchanan moved that a letter of support be written on the Board's behalf
137 and signed by Chair C. De Young. Secretary J. Chavarria seconded the motion. Motion carried
138 unanimously. Vote 8 ayes; 0 nays.

140 Chair C. De Young announced she will serve as a liaison to the Committee that will be studying
141 the long-range plans for Las Cruces. She extended an invitation to Board members to attend
142 the meetings. Dates and time of the meetings will be announced, and a schedule will be provided
143 to Board members.


144 Dr. Abel Chavarria requested the new Quality of Life Director, Lynn Gallagher, be invited to attend
145 the next Board meeting. Chair C. De Young will contact L. Gallagher.

148 R. Jackson made a clarification regarding contacting Senator Mary Kay Papen. He requested
150 Board members who wish to contact Senator Papen first notify Sonia Saldana. He stated it needs
to go through the chain of command.

152 The next Board meeting will be held March 14, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Frank O'
154 Brien Papen Center, 304 W. Bell Avenue, Las Cruces, NM.

156 **X. ADJOURNMENT:** S. Wittern moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted,

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Judy Chavarria, Secretary



Toni Flores, Recording Secretary