

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Laura Rich
DHS Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Andrea R. Rivers,
MS
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
*Chief Medical
Officer*

The Nevada Council on Food Security AB405/SB233 Subcommittee

JULY 8, 2026

(DRAFT) MEETING MINUTES

Location: **Microsoft Teams and Carson City**

Type of meeting: **Special Session**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members present:

Dr. Sabina Malik – Chair
Dr. Pamela Juniel
Dr. Dorian Stonebarger
(Tori) Samantha Lawson-Boffelli
Shane Piccinini
Vickie Ives

Members absent:

Nishat Gould
Jeff Duncan
Marcia Blake

Others Present:

Alexis Hogan, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Allen (Chungten) Pai, CDPHP
Anais Infante, DPBH – Meeting Staff
Darlene Douthitt, DPBH
Dillon Winkelman, CDPHP
Godwin Nwando, CDPHP
Kelli Kelly, Nevada Small Business Development Center
Lori Taylor, DPBH, Office of Food Security
Patricia Hoppe, NDA
Sarah Rogers, DPBH
Tammera Brower, DPBH

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

The AB/SB Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Chair Malik. Anais Infante conducted roll call and confirmed 6 of 9 members were present, establishing a quorum.

2. **Public Comment:**

First Public Comment Period:

Public comment was opened by Chair Malik; no comments were received. Chair Malik concluded the comment period.

3. **For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding study recommendations and updates for Home Feeds Nevada Study SB233.**

Alexis Hogan presented a draft of the SB233 report and provided an overview of its structure and key components. She explained that the draft includes a visual flow chart outlining the study methodology, purpose, and approach, along with four primary objectives covering interest-holder engagement, program operations and sustainability, funding model review, and comparable program analysis. Alexis noted that she conducted a deeper review of the interest-holder engagement process and the materials examined, including FHN annual reports and operational information, and indicated she would incorporate additional internal reports as suggested. She highlighted study limitations and described a newly created evaluation framework table. Alexis also summarized her analysis of the “Home Feeds Nevada” agriculture food purchase program, detailing producer eligibility, procurement processes, food distribution channels, program outputs across food categories, and overall program reach. Additional sections of the draft addressed long-term sustainability, funding stability, program administration, transportation and distribution logistics, partner collaboration, comparable state programs, and data collection practices. She concluded with seven preliminary findings and a summary of future Council activities. Patricia Hoppe asked whether the draft would be distributed for member review, and Alexis confirmed it would. Chair Malik requested clarification on any areas where Alexis sought focused feedback, and Alexis stated she had no specific questions at this time. Alexis outlined her timeline, noting an updated version would be prepared for the Council on Food Security meeting on July 21, followed by additional internal review and further revisions prior to the August and December meetings. Chair Malik confirmed that members would receive the updated draft ahead of the July 21 meeting. Chair Malik also noted that only five responses had been received for the policy-scoping project ranking and invited members to reach out with any issues regarding the survey.

4. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding study recommendations and updates for Food Insecurity Study AB405.

Chair Malik delivered an overview of the food policy review process completed during the nutrition security workshop held two months prior. She reminded participants that during that workshop, the group evaluated 35 policies using the Four A's and Nevada's food system framework. Those evaluations included determining whether policies identified responsible implementing organizations, contained language allowing measurement or tracking of progress, or included fiscal notes to support implementation. Chair Malik explained that this systematic approach allowed the group to understand how each policy functioned within the broader context of nutrition security.

Chair Malik then introduced one additional policy for review: a Carson City ordinance associated with the "Bee Friendly Nevada" initiative. She elaborated on the purpose and design of the ordinance, noting that it requires any new development, community organization, or housing project in Carson City to submit detailed landscape and irrigation plans for approval by the City Director. These plans must demonstrate that at least 50 percent of plants included are pollinator-friendly species native or appropriate to Nevada. Chair Malik provided further details by describing how each submitted plan must include a plant list, a mapped overview of plant placement, and an identification of the pollinator species each plant supports. She emphasized the ordinance's importance by discussing the critical role of pollinators—highlighting bees, hummingbirds, and monarch butterflies—in maintaining biodiversity and enabling food production across the state. Her explanation underscored how pollinator-supportive landscapes are tied directly to long-term food security.

To gather participant input, Chair Malik shared a Qualtrics link containing a single survey question asking members to rate the policy's impact on food security in Nevada on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). As participants completed the survey, several questions arose. Vickie Ives asked whether the group needed to navigate the full list of policies or locate the individual policy title specifically. After brief discussion, participants confirmed that the "Bee Friendly Nevada" ordinance appeared at the bottom of the survey list. Dr. Pamela Juniel noted difficulty locating the item and requested additional time, while Dr. Dorian Stonebarger confirmed its placement. Later in the discussion, Pamela sought clarification on the rating criteria, asking whether participants should consider how effectively the legislation encourages involvement from cities or regional offices and expressing uncertainty about recommending expanded engagement without mandating it.

Members provided input on Alexis Hogan's report structure and offered specific requests for improvement. Alexis asked whether summary findings should appear after each section or only at the conclusion of the report. Dorian Stonebarger stated that the current layout was clear and did not require reordering. Several members agreed, noting that maintaining the findings at the end preserved the report's readability. Alexis also requested feedback on whether the level of detail included in each section was appropriate, and participants generally expressed appreciation for the

clarity of her narrative. Chair Malik added that legislative audiences typically navigate directly to the findings and would likely benefit from having all conclusions consolidated in a final section. Members further suggested that Alexis include brief transitional statements between major sections to support flow, and to consider highlighting key data points more prominently for ease of reference. Overall, Alexis received positive feedback and several practical suggestions aimed at strengthening accessibility and alignment with legislative review needs.

5. Public Comment:

Second Public Comment Period:

Second public comment period opened by Chair Malik. Tori Lawson-Boffelli offered public comment, informing the Council that the Federal Register Agenda for proposed and upcoming final rules had been posted, and encouraged members to review it—particularly the proposed amendment to the definition of eligible foods in the SNAP program. She indicated she would share the link with the Council. Chair Malik asked for any additional public comment. With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned and reminded members of the upcoming July 21 Governor's Council on Food Security meeting.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

Next Meeting:

Meeting:

Date: August 12, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attachments:

Meeting agenda and packet (posted publicly in accordance with NRS 241)

*Minutes prepared by Anais Infante using the following reference:

Robert, H. (2020). *Robert's rules of order: Newly revised (12th ed.)*. Da Capo Press.

Nevada Revised Statutes. *Open Meeting Law (NRS 241)*.