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4 The following are the summary minutes of the **Senior Programs Advisory Board** meeting held on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 9:04 a.m. via Zoom Webinar in, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

6 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

8 Chair Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large  
8 Secretary Jo Ann Rodriguez-Haught, Frank O'Brien Papen Center Representative  
10 Dr. Abel L. Chavarria, District 1 Representative  
10 Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative  
12 Rick Jackson, District 4 Representative  
12 Cheryl Young, Benavidez Center Representative

14 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

16 Vice Chair Rudy Alvarez, Eastside Center Representative  
16 Manuel Contreras, District 5 Representative  
18 Gabriel Montalvo, Munson Center Representative

18 **GUESTS PRESENT:**

20 Sonia Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator  
20 Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager  
22 Toni Flores, Recording Secretary

24 I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Judy Chavarria, Member-at-Large Representative, called the Senior Programs' Advisory Board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021, via Zoom Webinar in Las Cruces, NM.

28 II. **ROLL CALL:** A quorum was ascertained.

30 III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cheryl Young, Benavidez Center Representative.

32 IV. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** The Board observed a moment of silence.

34 V. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** C. Young moved to approve the April 8, 2021 Senior Programs Advisory Board Meeting Agenda. Motion seconded by Sharlene Wittern, District 3 Representative. Roll call was taken. Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays; Absent 1 - Dr. A. Chavarria was absent during the vote. Motion carried.

40 VI. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Board members had no conflict of interest with any item of business on the agenda.

42 VII. **INTRODUCTIONS:** No members of the public were introduced.

44 VIII. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

46 IX. **ACTION ITEM(S):** Chair J. Chavarria inquired if there were any additions or corrections to the March 11, 2021 Senior Programs Advisory Board meeting minutes. C. Young requested her last name be corrected in the Board meeting minutes. She asked that she be referred to as "Cheryl Young" not "Cheryl De Young." The minutes will be corrected as requested. There being no further corrections, C. Young moved for approval of March 11, 2021 Senior Programs Advisory

52 Board meeting minutes as amended. Dr. Abel Chavarria, District 1 Representative, seconded  
54 the motion. Roll call was taken. Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

56 **X. DISCUSSION ITEMS - SENIOR PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Sonia  
58 Saldana, Senior Programs Administrator, provided an update on the Senior Programs' reopening  
60 plans. She stated Senior Programs received guidance from the New Mexico Aging and Long-  
62 Term Services Department regarding the preparation in 2021 of the reopening of the senior  
64 centers. The guidance states it will be essential that all service providers follow the state's "Red  
to Green" framework to prevent and mitigate the effects of the spread of the virus. In the next  
couple of weeks, staff will be reviewing Senior Programs' reopening plans that were submitted to  
the New Mexico Non-Metro Area Agency on Aging to determine what activities can be  
accommodated both inside and outside based on the county's restrictions. She stated the meal  
delivery services will take priority over other activities in the building.

66 The Senior Programs' Recreation Program staff are reviewing options on how to best  
68 accommodate people and keep them safe for the reopening of the centers. Many people do not  
feel safe returning to the centers, for this reason one option will be to keep one or two centers  
open for Grab and Go meal services. S. Saldana stated the reopening of the centers is dependent  
70 on the State of New Mexico's "Red to Green" framework. She explained there are four different  
72 levels and categories of operations that are based on a county's ability to satisfy a specified  
measure. The different levels consist of Red, which is considered very high risk; Yellow, high risk;  
74 Green, medium risk; and Turquoise, low risk. Each level has different restrictions for the safe  
reopening of operations. For example, the Red level or very high-risk category has higher  
restrictions or standards in place for reopening. The counties in the Red Level are those with  
76 "COVID-19 case incident rates of greater than eight cases per a population of 100,000."  
78 Currently, Dona Ana County is in the Yellow level or at a high risk because of the number of new  
COVID-19 cases. Counties in this level have fewer cases, but still not enough to reopen the  
centers.

80 S. Saldana reported in March 2021 Senior Programs conducted two very successful COVID-19  
82 vaccination events for individuals 60 years of age and older and people with disabilities. Over  
1700 individuals were vaccinated. Staff continue to assist with the registration process,  
84 appointments, and transportation services. The Long-Term Care staff have contacted all  
homebound, Respite Care and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program participants to  
86 ensure they are registered or have the information they need to make an informed decision about  
the vaccination. She stated Senior Programs received a grant to purchase shelf stable meals.  
88 The shelf stable meals will be distributed in the coming week to the congregate and home  
delivered meal program participants. These shelf stable meals can be used in an emergency  
90 where people cannot leave their homes. The meals consist of canned soup, crackers, and  
packets of oatmeal. The food items are easy to prepare and require no cooking.

92 Chris Behrens, Recreation Facility Manager, reported Senior Programs in partnership with Casa  
94 De Peregrinos Food Pantry continues to conduct food distributions, five times a month. The food  
distributions are done monthly at each of the centers. Munson Center is one of the largest  
96 distribution sites distributing over 75 grocery boxes to anyone 55 years of age and older. Overall,  
700 plus food boxes are distributed every quarter to seniors in the community. The food boxes  
98 contain anywhere from canned goods, cereals, dairy products, frozen meats to fresh produce.

100 During the pandemic, the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program provided school  
102 supplies, shoes, clothing, and jackets to the 25 program participants. Many grandparents are on  
a limited income and assistance with the purchase of these items was very much appreciated.

104 Chair J. Chavarria inquired if those participants that have refused the vaccine will be allowed  
106 entrance into the facilities once the centers reopen. S. Saldana stated those individuals that are  
not fully vaccinated cannot be denied services. C. Young stated it is a HIPPA violation to inquire  
108 about an individual's medical information. Some Board members stated they would not feel  
comfortable attending the centers if they knew some people were not fully vaccinated against the  
110 COVID-19 virus. S. Saldana stated Senior Programs, as an entity, must follow all HIPPA  
regulations to ensure it is protecting and securing the participant's medical information. For this  
112 reason, it is not appropriate to ask for a COVID-19 vaccination card prior to entering any of the  
senior centers. She assured those present that Senior Programs will follow the COVID-19 safe  
114 practices and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to ensure  
everyone's safety and wellbeing.

116 **XI. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:** At the previous Board meeting C. Young  
118 expressed concern about the small portions of food being served at the Benavidez Center. She  
reported she has seen some improvements with the meals being served.

120 S. Wittern stated she was very concerned about the fact that Senior Programs will not require  
122 participants to show their COVID-19 vaccination card prior to entering the facilities. She stated  
there are many businesses that are conducting temperature checks and asked if this is something  
124 that can be done for people that are not vaccinated. S. Saldana stated Senior Programs' staff as  
well as anyone entering the centers are required to check their temperatures and review the  
126 COVID-19 symptoms' check list prior to entering the buildings. She stated this requirement will  
continue to remain in place for anyone entering the facilities.

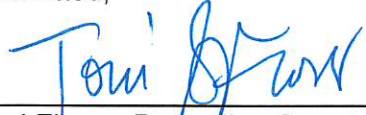
128 R. Jackson provided clarification on HIPPA regulations. He stated it is not against a federal law  
130 to ask participants about their vaccination status. It is, however, up to the individuals if they want  
to disclose that information or not. It is a HIPPA violation if the information collected is misused.

132 Chair J. Chavarria and Dr. A. Chavarria are enjoying the meals at the Eastside Center. They  
134 participated in the Senior Programs' COVID-19 vaccination clinic held on March 27, 2021.  
Overall, it was a pleasant experience, because the event was very well organized. S. Saldana  
will pass this information to all individuals involved.

136 The next Board meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

138 **XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Chair J. Chavarria adjourned the Board meeting at 9:32 a.m.

140 Submitted,

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Toni Flores, Recording Secretary