

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

PRESENT:

Alexis Hill, Chair
Jeanne Herman, Vice Chair
Michael Clark, Commissioner
Mariluz Garcia, Commissioner
Clara Andriola, Commissioner

Janis Galassini, County Clerk
Eric Brown, County Manager
Michael Large, Deputy District Attorney

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

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Before calling the meeting to order, Chair Hill thanked all the first responders and community members who were helping with the Davis Fire. She advised there would be an update on the fire during Agenda Item 4.

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24-0612 **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Kayla Shannon, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Behavioral Health Coordinator at Northern Nevada HOPES (HOPES), thanked the Board for its proposed support of HOPES in Agenda Item 10. She acknowledged historical Board of County Commissioners (BCC) support for HOPES and appreciated the consideration of additional grant funding through the Washoe Opioid Abatement and Recovery Fund (WOARF) to ensure the community's most vulnerable members had access to services. She noted she was joined by HOPES Behavioral Health Director Kyle Sundland, LCSW, and MAT Medical Coordinator Kim Nischik, Physician's Assistant (PA). She informed that in addition to the three of them, the HOPES integrated MAT Care Team was comprised of 14 staff and had become the gold standard of effective treatment in the region for nearly a decade. She said they built a multi-disciplinary team of professionals with a broad range of training and experience who provided comprehensive and individualized treatment to their patients. She described that the HOPES MAT program utilized a combination of

medication and behavioral health services to support recovery for individuals struggling with alcohol or opioid use disorder (OUD). The harm-reduction approach used by HOPES meant they met patients where they were in their recovery journey and developed team-based treatment plans based on the patient's specific goals. She advised through the allocation of these funds, HOPES would provide integrative MAT care to uninsured, underinsured, and underserved individuals diagnosed with OUD. She said HOPES behavioral health services included treatment through peer support, therapy, and wraparound case management services that identified and addressed barriers to engaging in treatment. She projected that with this funding, HOPES would help at least 200 clients each year achieve improved health and social outcomes, ultimately making a noticeable impact on substance use-related health indicators within the community. Ms. Shannon emphasized that the voices and leadership of those they served were pivotal to the healthcare model. She disclosed the HOPES chief executive officer (CEO) had lived experience of both homelessness and substance use, and, as someone with those lived experiences, the CEO embodied client-centered programming for all aspects of HOPES operations. Bringing her experience to the table, the CEO ensured services were not only conducted in a culturally relevant, low-barrier, compassionate, and dignified manner but that those services improved the lives and outcomes of those served. Ms. Shannon suggested it was vital to work collaboratively to address challenges as the community grew. She expressed gratitude to the members of the BCC who took the time to meet with HOPES, visit its facilities, and learn about the life-changing services it was known for. She believed that through working together, it was possible to improve the health of the community by caring for one patient at a time. On behalf of the HOPES board, staff, patients, future patients, and the MAT team, Ms. Shannon sincerely thanked the BCC for its funding consideration in support of HOPES' efforts to offer substance-use treatment and care for hundreds of Northern Nevadans.

Ms. Heidi Soper introduced herself as the Vice Chair of the Sun Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB). She expected to hear negative comments from the Commission support staff concerning the Washoe County CABs during the meeting, so she presented her positive view of the CABs. She divulged that she spoke with several citizens after the Sun Valley CAB meeting the prior Saturday and wanted to share their thoughts. She quoted from the description of CABs on the County website, which defined CABs as organized meetings held regularly to bring community members together to discuss topics of interest within their neighborhood, express ideas and concerns to Washoe County staff, and hear from subject matter experts. The definition also said the County wanted citizens to voice their opinions and take the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. Ms. Soper thought that was a good summary and opined that citizens enjoyed CAB meetings because they motivated people to become active with the community. She liked that people could interact with Commissioners, bring ideas to improve the community, and learn about activities and services that were of value in Sun Valley. She stated they worked hard to have important and interesting guests invited to their meetings. She remarked Sun Valley CAB attendance had greatly improved in the past 6 months, ranging from 16 to 28 people, up from 5 or 6. She noted that sign-in sheets did not reflect that increase because most people did not sign in, which she was working to improve. She opined that CABs should be preserved because they were funded by taxes

and provided essential information to the community. She suggested that if staff who supported CABs experienced employee burnout, they should look for work elsewhere. She hoped that because County citizens elected the Commissioners and paid their salaries, Commissioners would listen to and consider citizen opinions. She said CAB support costs \$43,000 each year, which she calculated as \$4,777 per year for each CAB. She wondered how much the Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA) cost. She warned society was becoming too impersonal and computerized, and she advised against losing something she viewed as a simple way to keep the community engaged for a low cost.

Northern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance (NNHRA) Board President Elyse Monroy-Marsala described NNHRA as a collaboration between people with lived and living experience, harm reductionists, treatment, outreach, and public health practitioners and researchers. She said NNHRA was a non-profit organization whose purpose was to promote and foster respect, acceptance, and dignity for sex workers and people who used drugs. NNHRA recognized the inherent worth and value of each individual person and aimed to shift the narrative community-wide. She disclosed attending the BCC meeting that day to support the proposed WOARF disbursements in Agenda Item 10. She remarked the opioid epidemic was a complex issue that required equally multi-faceted solutions. She said NNHRA appreciated that the funding strategy recommended by staff reflected what one harm reductionist called the whole-hand approach, which promoted the idea of offering a person in need a whole hand free from judgment, not just one finger. She commented that the approach was a metaphor for a comprehensive, integrated system of care that addressed the multiple and interconnected needs of the individual and honored autonomy and self-direction. She added the approach accepted that people facing complex challenges like addiction required more than a single intervention. Ms. Monroy-Marsala described that clients needed access to a range of services and support that addressed different aspects of their lives. Harm reduction was a concept centered around reducing health risks that came with drug use while providing education to help individuals make informed choices. She said NNHRA worked to meet people where they were by providing resources and education, such as Naloxone and drug test strips, while also encouraging positive change. She explained it addressed social determinants of health that exacerbated the impacts of chaotic substance abuse. She noted that Agenda Item 10 recommended funding for other essential services like prevention, treatment, and recovery support. She indicated those services were more effective when bolstered by a concentrated effort to support harm reduction, which Agenda Item 10 did. NNHRA applauded the decision of the County to ensure harm reduction in evidence-based public health practices as part of a comprehensive overdose prevention model. She reasoned that by funding a comprehensive model, the County would ensure that individuals struggling with substance use were safe and had access to pathways that supported their long-term well-being across a continuum of services. She thought the decision to invest in those programs sent a message from the BCC to County residents about the value placed on life and the BCC's commitment to help people most affected by the opioid crisis. She thanked the BCC for prioritizing harm reduction and overdose prevention.

Bristlecone Recovery Center (BRC) Executive Director Peter Ott expressed his support of Agenda Item 10. He felt prior commenters explained his viewpoints well,

but he added that the BRC intended to convert an existing building on their campus into a 20-bed walk-in detoxification facility that would accept Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured, and underserved individuals. He pronounced that no one would be turned away. He said the BRC had a 60-year history in the community of not turning anyone away for care. He opined the opioid crisis put a spotlight on overdose, and he contended it was vital for people to have a place to go when they were scared and needed help. He recalled a story of a 21-year-old woman who went to BRC when she was eight and a half months pregnant and on heroin. He advised she was high at the time, scared, and unsure what to do or where to go. He explained the BRC team called everyone they knew in the community, but nobody would take her. He said one detoxification program was eventually found that would take a cash payment. He directed his team to write a check and get the woman into treatment. He disclosed that before they could inform her, she ran away. They checked with their hospital contacts but did not know where she went. All they knew was that a scared young woman was out on the street, ready to give birth with no support. He never wanted to see that happen again, and he pleaded with the BCC to consider the BRC's efforts to build their detoxification program so individuals like that young woman would always have a place to go.

Mr. Terry Brooks read an original poem about the importance of positive social interactions and their impacts on health and housing.

Mr. Craig Brinkman spoke about the Davis Fire and expressed appreciation for its firefighters. He divulged that he lived near Zolezzi Lane in Reno and recalled the apex of excitement with the Davis Fire the prior Friday. He said NV Energy initiated a power cut at 8 p.m. that caused traffic signals in Arrowcreek and surrounding areas to black out. He reported the power cut happened simultaneously with a text directing people in the area to evacuate immediately. He invited people to imagine what happened, and communicated there was a two-mile-long backup of cars on Arrowcreek Parkway that could not move. He thought NV Energy should be directed by the County during emergencies and should never black out traffic signals or other vital equipment that would prevent escape from a fire. He did not want a situation similar to the fire in Lahaina, Hawaii, in 2023.

Mr. William Puchert thanked the first responders at the Davis Fire. Though he was accustomed to thanking firefighters and military service members, he never thought he would feel compelled to thank librarians for their service. He did not know what people heard about the Library Board of Trustees (LBT) meetings and reported the last one was atrocious. He informed that some individuals exhibited disruptive behavior in opposition to a drag queen story hour (DQSH) held at the North Valleys Library in June. He said the conduct resulted in the disruptive individuals being sanctioned for a year, and he divulged that multiple library staff members wanted to extend those sanctions. He stated two of the appeals were approved by the LBT. He said the library staff made compelling cases to extend sanctions against those citizens but realized the LBT would not support them and became visibly upset. Opponents of the library then snickered and laughed. Mr. Puchert did not think that employees who were public servants should be treated in such a manner because they deserved respect, irrespective of their job title. He had attended LBT meetings

for over a year because he wanted to help preserve freedom of speech and freedom of thought. He feared what kind of future there would be if bullying were allowed to prevail. He respectfully asked the County to protect its employees. He admitted he had received threats online and knew some Commissioners had too. He recalled a YouTube video that contained an LBT member's email address and reported that the member received threats. He summarized that the conduct did not exhibit decency, and he thought people needed to strive to be more decent. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and service.

Ms. Cynthia Stipech divulged that her neighborhood was the first one evacuated during the Davis Fire; she and her husband left in their car with only the clothes on their backs. She advised they were both in attendance at the BCC meeting to discuss the lack of information and communication with the evacuated residents. She noted they appreciated the firefighters, who did a heroic and outstanding job saving their entire Washoe Valley neighborhood. She informed that only a few homes and businesses, along with the Holy Spirit Catholic Church, could not be saved. She was amazed by the firefighters' work and affirmed her comments were not judgments against them or the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), who also worked hard. She thought there needed to be more communication with residents when they desperately tried to get information. She said many people left animals, medical supplies, and other important items at home, and she was appalled that no updates were communicated to evacuees. Ms. Stipech commented that she always wanted to attend BCC meetings to speak about marijuana dispensaries along the Old United States (US) Highway 395. She recalled that the whole area was formerly residential and rezoned for business. She surmised the rezoning lowered property values for residences near the dispensaries. She clarified that she was not disputing the legality of marijuana, but she asked the BCC to consider the effects of approved businesses on the area's homes. She did not want dispensaries next to homes, some of which she noted had been there since before the zoning was changed. She said many of those homeowners did not have money to move, and now their property value was so low they could not sell.

Mr. William T. Steward quoted from a BCC meeting held on March 11, 2003, in which Mr. Tim Rochelle, Acting Regional Forester with Sierra Fire Protection District (SFPD), recommended effective building codes, statutes, and other regulations that included fire hazard reduction requirements to motivate communities to take responsibility for reducing their vulnerability to wildfires. Mr. Steward acknowledged the growth and lack of containment of the Davis Fire, which was over 5,000 acres at that time. He asked what could be done to ensure fires like that did not happen. He recommended a proactive stance, including fuel reduction, forest stewardship, and collaboration among local, State, and municipal agencies. He mentioned the Nevada Division of Forestry's Secure Rural Schools program, specifically Title III, which included recommendations to carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program. He noted grants were available from multiple sources, including the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Nevada Legislature, Firewise USA grants, and others. Mr. Steward stressed the importance of fuel reduction on County-owned land, some of which was in an area affected by the Davis Fire. He remarked the fire would impact the Arrowcreek neighborhood if it continued to blow northeast. He concluded that it was imperative to plan ahead as the area continued to

experience fires. Mr. Steward displayed an image of a software application (app) called Watch Duty. No copy was submitted for the public record. He advised that Watch Duty was free, and it provided information about fires in progress and could help residents stay better informed. He said it was important for people to know where to go in an emergency before it happened. He said specific evacuation zones might be useful. He determined communication had to be better between the County and residents.

Mr. Tray Abney introduced himself as the volunteer chair of the BRC. He thanked the BCC and County Manager Eric Brown and his staff for their support of the proposed detoxification facility, funding for which was included in Agenda Item 10. He believed there was a need in the community for additional facilities, and he affirmed it was important to continue the work.

Mr. Mark Neumann commented that Commissioners had seen him at CAB meetings throughout the County. He opined that CABs were an important informational tool for people, even if meeting attendance was low. He theorized the information people gathered at CAB meetings was passed along to their neighbors and friends. He recalled changes made by former BCC members who modified the scope of CABs from a voting body to a strictly informational venue. He held it was vitally important to communities throughout the County to receive the information that came from CAB meetings. Mr. Neumann related a story about passing through Washoe Valley the prior Saturday afternoon and observing a small fire going into the brush. He conveyed that the fire had not reached the pine trees at that time. He reported that he called the fire department, who advised they would be there as soon as they could. He said one fire truck arrived 45 minutes later. He knew Washoe Valley residents and some Commissioners had begged for a fire station in that area for years. He speculated that if the fire station were there, the response would have been much faster. He thought the County was not fulfilling its duty to protect Washoe Valley citizens.

Mr. Bill Miller introduced himself as a County resident and livable climate advocate. He observed that the County was in the midst of a heated election campaign and an uncontained wildfire. He theorized the two circumstances were related. He held that the political choices people made determined whether wildfire risk increased or decreased. He listed the negative effects of wildfires and noted he was housing two fire refugees. He said current fires were of a different intensity than what was typical for millennia before. He offered that firefighters called them monster fires because they burned so hot they exploded as they expanded. Mr. Miller pronounced the reason for these events was simple; human-caused climate change due to burning fossil fuels. He informed that the results being seen were predicted in the 1970s. He claimed the mean temperature in Reno had increased more than seven degrees since 1970, a record for the US. He added that the summer temperature increased by 11.1 degrees. He acknowledged the BCC for acting at the County level to mitigate the crisis. He believed every action helped. He applauded the proactive creation of a sustainability manager position within the County. He alleged that position was making a difference, but it all came down to political choice. He said he could not appoint a sustainability manager, and could not plant hundreds of trees in distressed neighborhoods, nor install solar panels on County facilities. He explained BCC members had the power to

take those actions because they were elected by County residents. On the eve of the upcoming political season, he encouraged everyone to consider the reality of climate change. He challenged people who did not believe him or their lived experience to check their insurance coverage because insurance companies dealt with reality as it was, not as they wished it was. He supposed rates were skyrocketing because the risk was skyrocketing, and that risk was more monster wildfires, floods, and droughts due to climate change. He emphasized those circumstances could still be mitigated with people's choices.

Ridge House Executive Director Nancy Lindler commented in support of the WOARF grants proposed in Agenda Item 10. She related that Ridge House had been a provider in the community since 1982. She informed that it specialized in the prison re-entry population and individuals involved in the legal system. She advised it was very well-versed in OUD. She said the proposed disbursement would help Ridge House bridge the gap of services that were not funded, which could be crippling to an agency. She stressed the importance of understanding the effects of opioid use on the nervous system. She acknowledged recovery from OUD was not a quick fix, and there was no short-term solution. She communicated that the WOARF award would help Ridge House provide services required to assist people in obtaining the help and healing they needed.

Ms. Carol Burns introduced herself as a resident and past member of the Sun Valley CAB. She said at the CAB meeting the prior Saturday, attendees expressed reasons why they appreciated the meetings, which included learning who to contact for ditch and weed cleaning, information about animal complaints, and ideas about improving the quality of living. She enjoyed meeting neighbors, keeping a sense of community, and learning about upcoming events such as the veterans' breakfast, park cleanups, and children's park activities. She shared that the Sun Valley CAB helped publicize children's activities in the summer when schools were closed. She believed CABs were positive additions to communities. She advised that attendance at the Sun Valley CAB increased in the past months, and though some attendees did not sign in, County employees could see them in the room. She recounted a lively discussion with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) about traffic problems, which she said were unbelievable with the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and NDOT improvements occurring. She commented there was a presentation about improvements to the senior center, with crafting and bingo offered in addition to the lunch program. She suggested that if County employees were overburdened with their work, another employee should be hired and assigned to CABs. She said Manager Brown had advised of additional unassigned monies in the budget, some of which Ms. Burns thought could be used towards a salary for someone to assist with CABs. She summarized that her community needed close contact with the County, and the CAB was the answer. She noted a CAB cancellation she became aware of the prior night, which meant there were only eight CAB meetings for the month of September instead of nine.

Mr. Michael Stipech described the proximity of his residence to the Davis Fire. He said his home was one of the first three targeted by the fire and displayed a video that showed the view of the Davis Fire from his backyard. No copy was submitted for the public record. He recounted a call from a concerned neighbor on Saturday, wondering what

they should do. He recalled seeing a large plume of smoke rising from Davis Creek Park, and observed the wind was blowing in the direction of their home. He reported they grabbed their garden hoses to do what they could, but their efforts were ineffective. He said the fire department came and saved the day. He noted there was a long period of time before the fire department arrived. He was grateful that their home and their neighbor's home were spared, but he advocated for a better communication plan. He divulged he had many neighbors who were absentee landlords and lived out of town. They were desperately trying to find information about the status of their property, evacuations, and power restoration. Mr. Stipech reasoned that with as many ways as there were to get information, there needed to be a central information clearinghouse always available for people. He said every news broadcast should contain a website or contact point. He thought CABs might be a way of facilitating that. He described that during the fire, he went to roadblocks in the neighborhood and asked what was happening. He said the people at the roadblocks did not have additional information but were simply told they could not let anyone in. Mr. Stipech stated he had livestock to care for and questioned how he would know when access to his property was restored. He was advised by staff to look on Facebook and watch the local news, but he felt there should be a better method than that. He appreciated the first responders and those who staffed the roadblocks, but he held it was important that services be provided for individuals to know how to access information.

Mr. Kevin Lystedt thanked Commissioners for his brand new life. He explained he was a CrossRoads graduate, and when he got to CrossRoads, he did not care if he lived or died. He divulged his life was in shambles, he was unemployable, and he had no home, car, belongings, or friends. He added that his family had turned their backs on him, and he had nowhere else to turn. He shared that CrossRoads welcomed and accepted him and helped him reestablish himself. He said they taught him how to be a responsible, accountable man. He described that CrossRoads taught him how to live life, how to have a job, and how to be a productive member of society. He proclaimed that he loved his new life, and he thanked the Commissioners for their help. He mentioned that in his time at CrossRoads, he came across many men who had wives, children, and families at home, which meant they had to make tough decisions about their recovery. He recalled some men left the program to take care of their families. He reported that he met people on the streets who wanted to go to treatment but were unable to do so because they had families. He thanked the Commissioners for being committed to the CrossRoads families program. He knew if CrossRoads could do for families what it had done for him, it was a winning proposition. He shared that he had reconnected with his children and his family.

Mr. Steven Markley displayed an image of his daughter. No copy was submitted for the public record. He disclosed that he had not seen her for six years and did not think he would ever see her again, but thanks to the BCC's support of programs like CrossRoads, he was reunited with his daughter. He conveyed that he had been on the streets for the last six years, chronically homeless and addicted to opiates. He did not think he would get a chance at the life he now had. He attributed his success to the approach CrossRoads took to identifying his problem, treating him as an individual, and helping him find meaning and purpose in his life. He said he was enrolling in college and would soon get a peer recovery support specialist (PRSS) certification. He mentioned he was actively

involved with NNHRA and theorized none of those things would have been possible if he had been turned away at CrossRoads's door. He expected success stories like his to be repeated because of the BCC's support of the CrossRoads families program. He shared that while on the streets, he came across multiple married couples who did not want to separate from each other. He reminded everyone that addiction was not just a problem that affected the individual; it traumatized the family. He believed a program like the CrossRoads families program would allow families to heal together rather than having children in foster care, separated from their parents. He thought it would be beneficial for children to directly see change and growth in their parents, rather than hoping and wondering. He maintained the program would make the County a better place, and he did not think there was any place in the State that accepted whole families. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and support.

Mr. Brendan Farmer spoke in support of Agenda Item 10. He described himself as a grateful member of the CrossRoads community and the Washoe County community. He stated his appreciation of continued BCC support for men's CrossRoads and all the other Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality (RISE) projects. He thanked Commissioners for supporting the expansion of CrossRoads services to include the CrossRoads families program. He expressed gratitude for finding CrossRoads after struggling for several years with addiction and homelessness. He said he was growing and healing daily, and could not say enough about CrossRoads's impact on his life. He asserted it covered every area of life to help uplift and empower people like him with substance abuse disorder and mental health issues. He believed the community was in crisis and a constellation of programs and services was necessary to meet the area's needs. He predicted the CrossRoads families program would be a bright and much-needed star in that constellation. He thanked Commissioners for supporting people at CrossRoads and their journey towards healing and societal reintegration.

Ms. Penny Brock divulged that she was recently appointed to the South Valleys CAB and was shocked when she read what was going to be presented about CABs at the meeting that day. She perceived it as negative and was disappointed that CAB members could not speak during the item. She asked the BCC to consider having the item on a future agenda, so CAB members could speak. She displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She spoke about the \$500,000 grant to the Nevada Museum of Art recently approved by the BCC. She wanted to know why funding for rocks was prioritized above direct assistance to people. Ms. Brock cited the Davis Fire and commented that people were displaced, which created unexpected expenses. She reasoned the money that was granted to the Nevada Museum of Art could go to help fire victims instead. She advised that she learned from a Las Vegas news report that there were three options for relocation of the Seven Magic Mountains (SMM) art installation. She thought the installation should stay in Clark County rather than move to Washoe County. She noted the artist had the final say about where the piece was moved, and she questioned why funding was already allocated when a decision had not been made about where the piece would ultimately go. She wondered what would happen to the funds if the piece was moved to a location outside of Washoe County. She was concerned that there were numerous unanswered questions, and she did not think citizens had been given full disclosure. She

thought the item should be put back on an agenda, and she recalled that Commissioner Clark had asked to have the item reconsidered. She expressed shock about the item not being back on the agenda and contended it was a violation of the law not to reconsider the item as requested by Commissioner Clark.

Our Place Shelter Director Willis Dixon mentioned he was an alumnus of the WCLA. He displayed images, including a picture of his son. No copy was submitted for the public record. He stated his support of the proposed CrossRoads families program. He shared that when he went to CrossRoads, he was given everything he needed, except he could not have his child while in the program. In contrast, he observed there was a way for women to be in the recovery program with their children. He said he successfully built foundations outside of CrossRoads and ensured that his recovery came first. He was informed that for him to have his son, he needed to have his own residence, which he eventually obtained. He added that when he moved into his own place, he did not get his son back for another eight months, and he had to continuously go back to CrossRoads because that was where he had rooted himself into his new way of life. He supposed that if a CrossRoads families program existed six years ago, he would not have needed to wait an additional year and a half to have his son back in his life. He thought the program would be a tremendous breakthrough. He anticipated it would strengthen and accelerate the recovery of people who suffered from addiction and were in need. He described that opioid use was increasing, as was the use of other substances. He opined the use of those substances destroyed families, and the community had to come together to bring families back together. He concluded there was no better way to do that than by having the support of CrossRoads and a person's family.

Mr. Joshua Shay displayed an image. No copy was submitted for the public record. He divulged he was a graduate of the CrossRoads recovery program. He shared a theory that a community fought, played, and ate together. He said the CrossRoads community attended the meeting that day to show gratitude together. Specifically, he expressed gratitude for everything CrossRoads taught him. He stated many people were struggling and could not get into a program because they had children with them. He supposed those individuals were likely to lose their children anyway, which caused a revolving door of trauma. He remarked that the trauma children experienced was passed to their own children if it was not addressed. He felt CrossRoads gave him his life back, along with the courage and confidence to achieve what he previously thought was unreachable. He articulated that CrossRoads showed him greatness could be achieved together as a community through sober, healthy, and productive lives. He believed that keeping families together was the heartbeat of the community and a great start towards helping families break the cycle of addiction.

Mr. Anthony G. Reid disclosed that he went by Saint Anthony and was a client at men's CrossRoads. He advised he attended the BCC meeting that day to share his personal beliefs. He summarized the seven philosophies of the Wellbriety Movement, which he held dear to his heart. He explained the philosophies were based on teachings from Native American elders. Mr. Reid observed that the philosophies recommended putting self last and directed people to put everything and everyone else first in order to

thrive, not just survive. He thanked the CrossRoads community for helping him thrive. He said for the first time in his life, he had the support he needed to stay sober and find meaning and purpose in his life. He stated the proposed funding for CrossRoads in Agenda Item 10 would be efficiently and effectively used by the program to create a profound, positive community impact by bringing families together. He compared the proposed CrossRoads families program to the support he received in his own recovery journey in men's CrossRoads, which felt like the support of a family to him. He appreciated that, for the first time in his life, he was among people he truly believed cared about him and wanted to see him succeed. He thanked the Commissioners for their time and consideration.

Ms. Trista Gomez acknowledged that Commissioners had to deal with many complex issues every day. As a former social worker, she was interested in why there was an increase in life-shattering events. She questioned the reasons for so many extra programs and so much more engagement in opioids. She recalled people used to talk about prevention as a strategy. Though she did not discount the benefits people received from programs, she was interested in knowing what prevention strategies the County was using. She commented that she had heard proposals to award millions of dollars to programs but had not heard about how any of the money was going to be spent to benefit residents. She reported that she recently attended a development meeting, where she asked if the County had plans to address wells, drainage, or sewage, given the increase in development. She was not satisfied with the answers she got. She thought the Davis Fire revealed problems with inadequate egress and insufficient communications. She warned that the current pace of development caused damage and that the lack of sufficient infrastructure could cost lives and structures, yet more development was proposed. She discerned that some development was not explicitly called a building and that residents were tricked by what was happening. She spoke about CABs, which she viewed as an important community resource and a way for residents to have a voice in local government. She recalled individuals she previously worked with who budgeted their trips into town to twice per week because they did not have much money. They needed accessible resources. She said Commissioners were trying to cut out the one community resource that existed, which was CABs. She compared the annual investment of \$43,000 per year for CABs to the proposed higher-cost items on the agenda that day and determined the proposals were not the right way to direct funds.

Ms. Denessa Courneya spoke on behalf of an individual at CrossRoads who could not attend that day. The individual was 36 years old and lived at CrossRoads with her five-month-old daughter. She struggled with addiction for 25 years and believed a long-term program like CrossRoads was absolutely necessary for her to be successful in her recovery. Words could not describe how grateful she was that there was a program like CrossRoads where she could learn, grow, and change while meeting all of her daughter's needs. She would hate to think of where she would be without CrossRoads, which gave her the skills to be an amazing woman and an even better mother. She thought it would be wonderful if men were given the same opportunity. The individual's daughter's father was in prison and wanted to go to men's CrossRoads once released, but he did not want to miss out on any more time with their daughter. She held that it would be wonderful if men no longer felt like they had to choose between recovery and their families and could receive services while being loving, involved, and present fathers. If a program for fathers started,

her daughter's father would love to be a part of it, and she would gladly allow their daughter to be with him. She was thrilled to hear the idea being considered and was eager to see it progress.

Ms. Stephanie Myers expressed her gratitude for the support and expansion of family-oriented recovery programs such as women and children's CrossRoads. She explained why she had such immense gratitude. She had been a mother for 14 years with three children, as well as a person who suffered from extensive childhood trauma, which led to severe mental health problems and resulted in her using opiates to self-medicate. She disclosed that she tried to achieve detoxification and recovery numerous times on her own while raising her children and failed several times. She admitted it was not until she found CrossRoads that she was able to achieve recovery and a strong foundation comprised of tools and skills to maintain sobriety while integrating life and parenthood. She reported entering women and children's CrossRoads on March 8, 2024. She lived in one of the cottages on campus for women with children, and she was beyond grateful for the opportunity to work through the underlying issues that led to her use of opiates while also being an active, present parent. She described that since being at CrossRoads, she not only worked through trauma and built a strong support system with staff and other participants, but she also gained full-time employment as a community member with confidence in her newfound ability to face obstacles in a healthy way. She stated she was on track to graduate from the program and move into an apartment with her children. She thanked women and children's CrossRoads for its tremendous positive impact on her life, the lives of her three children, and their future as members of society. She thought it was imperative to have that same opportunity allotted to households of men with their children. She believed staying together played a huge part in the recovery process. She spoke about the trauma and impact on children who were affected by addiction, which affected society more broadly. She remarked children suffered at the hands of addiction in their parents, and the CrossRoads families program could eliminate the revolving door cycle of addiction and trauma.

Ms. Robbin Palmer introduced herself as a climate advocate and voiced her agreement with Mr. Miller's earlier comments. She stated Washoe County was in a climate crisis and the community was experiencing the effects. She commented that the BCC had a hard job, and she thanked them for their service.

Ms. Toni Harsh thanked the Commissioners for their time, energy, and devotion to the public. She spoke about CABs, which she thought functioned to give Commissioners information. She viewed CABs as an introduction and found they came with valuable and multi-faceted recommendations. She was interested in how the matter was evaluated and hoped for a robust discussion on invigorating CABs. She knew CAB attendance varied and said citizens cared about their voices being heard.

Ms. Stephanie Fresquez said she was a current member of women and children's CrossRoads. She disclosed that she and her son's father did not go into a program together because they could not; no recovery programs allowed men to stay with their children, so she had to fight her recovery battle alone. She reported that her son had not seen his father in person for six months. Despite their desire to stay together as a family,

they were all separated, and their son was placed in foster care. She described that along with the trauma and damage they caused through their addiction, their son was further traumatized because he was separated from his parents. She said she fought long and hard during the past year, and her child protective services (CPS) case was now closed. She thought it was important for men to experience a recovery program like CrossRoads and be with their children. She recalled she and her son's father were terrified to go to the shelter for help because she was on fentanyl and had been an addict for a long time. She correctly predicted that her son would be removed from her care because of her drug use. She shared that her son was placed with her sister and added that she did not have a supportive family because of her addiction. She said her family did not understand her addiction. Ms. Fresquez divulged that CPS conducted an observation in her sister's home and removed her son because he was being mistreated. She supposed the mistreatment was because of her addiction. She theorized things could have turned out differently if her child's father had the same opportunity for recovery as she did. She thought it would be amazing for men to be able to experience the same things in the CrossRoads program that women could. She advised she had completely changed her life and was now a different person. She said her children were now with her in her recovery journey on campus, and it was an amazing opportunity. She thanked the Commissioners for their time.

Mr. Nicholas St. Jon displayed a document, copies of which were distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. He explained the document contained three pages of voter rolls. After an extensive analysis of the voter rolls from the primary election in June, he found that 25,258 mail-in ballots were returned because they were undeliverable. He had been tracking the issue, and said he presented to the Commissioners a list of 14,147 people still active on the voter rolls. He stated the people on the list had the exact same address from which a ballot was previously returned. He asked Commissioners to ensure that mail-in ballots were not sent out to those 14,147 from whom ballots were returned as undeliverable. He said he had done extensive research and had a flash drive with the entire spreadsheet of his findings, which he was more than happy to share with the Registrar of Voters (ROV). He began addressing individual members of the Board, at which point Chair Hill reminded him he was required to address the Board as a whole. Mr. St. Jon demanded a town hall meeting and asked about an election CAB.

Mr. Bruce Foster displayed images, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk. He expressed surprise at the amount of taxes people had to pay. He divulged he was an avid bike rider along the Truckee River corridor. He remarked about the number of shopping carts left in inappropriate locations in the County and thought it indicated a larger issue. In addition to the shopping carts shown in the photographs he displayed, he noted many tents and individuals who slept outdoors along the Truckee River corridor. He understood that the City of Reno Parks Department was involved in removing shopping carts from the river and helping people connect with a CrossRoads program. He appreciated those efforts.

Ms. Helen Neff displayed a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. Regarding Agenda Item 5, she opined that CABs played a critical role in enhancing communication and collaboration between local government and residents. She

asked Commissioners to retain CABs as they were and not reimagine them. She viewed the proposed changes as a campaign to eliminate CABs. She requested that CABs be given more responsibility and a greater voice in Washoe County. She said her written comment, sent to all Commissioners and included with the backup material for the meeting, included key reasons why Washoe County should keep CABs. She recommended strategies for increasing engagement and justification for the cost of staff time. Ms. Neff determined that CABs improved community engagement. She thought the advisory role of CABs should be enhanced, not curtailed. She thought local expertise was essential, particularly in the Lake Tahoe region. She listed reasons that informed her perspective, which included the importance of transparency and accountability, the problem-solving platform CABs provided, and strengthened democracy. She said effective community engagement led to better outcomes. She believed staff time should be considered a strategic investment rather than an expense. She held that the investment contributed directly to the community's well-being and the efficient running of local governments. Ms. Neff stated CABs served an essential function in representing the interests of County residents. She asked the Commissioners not to disband them.

11:19 a.m. **The Board recessed.**

11:30 a.m. **The Board reconvened with all members present.**

24-0613 **AGENDA ITEM 4** Announcements/Reports.

Emergency Management Administrator Kelly Echeverria provided an update on the Davis Fire. She said an Incident Management Team (IMT) assumed command the previous night, and first responders worked all hours to hold the fire. She mentioned that night-aerial crews were utilized to provide air support 24 hours per day. She remarked that the fire had been burning for 3 days and spanned 5,596 acres with 0 percent containment. She announced that the National Weather Service (NWS) issued its first Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) warning since 2019.

Ms. Echeverria expressed concern about strong winds in the forecast and claimed additional resources would be deployed from Clark County and surrounding regions to support the fire suppression effort. She believed the IMT's main priority was preventing the fire from crossing over Mt. Rose Highway and continuing structure protection efforts. She opined the firefighters did a great job of ensuring houses and structures remained intact. She stated that 14 structures were lost to the fire, and staff was working to notify those homeowners. She said the IMT worked daily with Emergency Management, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and Truckee Meadows Fire Department (TMFPD) to assess whether people could return to their communities.

Ms. Echeverria stated NV Energy reported that 3,000 homes were without power and 317 were without gas. She thought there was a chance that some lines could be reenergized, but others might be de-energized to ensure the safety of first responders and the community. She wanted to manage expectations about communication with the public because most incidents were fast-moving and allowed information to be pushed out

quickly. She asserted that the Davis Fire was a more prolonged, large-scale incident; therefore, details might flow more slowly. She remarked that the IMT's public information team planned to push out updates as soon as they became available.

Ms. Echeverria announced that the evacuation shelter was at the Washoe County Senior Center. She thanked the Human Services Agency (HSA) and the American Red Cross for their assistance in assuring day-to-day operations could be maintained at the Senior Center while still serving evacuees. She informed the community that large animals could be taken to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Equestrian Center in Reno or Fuji Park in Carson City and that multiple stalls and corrals were available at both locations. She shared that first responders used Perimeter to relay information about road closures and fire progression, noting there were approximately 9,000 site views from members of the public.

Ms. Echeverria reminded people they should listen if asked to leave or evacuate an area. She recalled that extra alerts had to be sent to one location because residents refused to leave an area targeted for a fire-retardant drop, which was unhealthy for humans. She declared that Emergency Management coordinated its efforts with regional, State, and federal partners to bring in subject matter experts. She added that she planned to work with volunteer organizations to streamline volunteers and donations.

Chair Hill asked Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Michael Large if the BCC could ask Ms. Echeverria questions. She acknowledged that the Board could not act because the Davis Fire was not on the agenda. DDA Large responded that, given the circumstances, it was appropriate for the Board to ask questions.

Commissioner Clark divulged that the Davis Fire was the third fire incident he experienced since moving to Washoe Valley. He remarked that his house was without power for 30 hours. He listed inconveniences caused by the outage due to his home being on a well. He posited that rural neighborhoods should be more effectively considered during emergencies because homeowners could not defend their properties against fires if they did not have electricity to operate their wells.

Commissioner Clark opined that the firefighters and first responders did excellent work. He mentioned public comments that claimed it took 20 to 30 minutes for crews to respond to the fire and asked if those figures were accurate. He spoke about a proposed fire station in Washoe Valley that was promised to the community in 2019 but never built. He wondered if that station would have lessened the fire's severity. He felt it was important for the public to understand that a fire station was proposed in the area affected by the Davis Fire and was blocked in 2019 by a former County Commissioner.

Commissioner Clark alleged that the County's public information officer (PIO) did not provide the community with adequate information, which upset people. He requested that the assessor work to remove all destroyed properties from the tax rolls immediately and asked for a tour of the affected area. He asserted that people were disconnected from the community when they did not have power, internet, or phone service

and could not recharge their cell phones. He suggested that the County provide generators to rural areas during emergency events to keep people more secure. He remarked that he attended the Great Reno Balloon Race and noticed several people who did not have adequate cell phone service at the event.

Ms. Echeverria appreciated Commissioner Clark's comment and thought it was an excellent opportunity to remind people about Emergency Management's preparedness message to create a kit, make a plan, and stay informed. She recommended keeping a water and food supply that could sustain the household for at least three days, which she understood was not always fiscally possible for people. She noted that Emergency Management worked with volunteer organizations to help provide people with as many supplies as possible. She suggested that people customize their preparedness kits with medication and anything else they might need.

Ms. Echeverria informed the Board that a third-party contractor would conduct an after-action review containing most of Commissioner Clark's requested information. She said the review would identify gaps and help Emergency Management improve. She stated she did not have further information about Commissioner Clark's comments on the Washoe Valley fire station. She remarked that TMFPD Fire Chief Charles Moore could give Commissioner Clark a tour of the fire operations. She reported that five cell on wheel (COW) devices were brought to affected areas to provide cell phone service, which she confirmed were operational before the Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) meeting.

Ms. Echeverria said that Emergency Management's advanced operation center was operational during the Great Reno Balloon Race and included WCSO, the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA), TMFPD, UNR, and the NWS. She reported that emergency messages were also sent through the radio, and she recommended that people include handheld radios in their emergency kits. She asserted that preparedness could help remove heartache during incidents. While it was inconvenient not to have power or cell phone services during an emergency, it was better than not having a home. She declared that if the power was out in an area, it was for the safety of the first responders and the community.

Commissioner Clark responded that he did not expect an immediate investigation. He commended the work of the first responders and opined that the coordination of the aerial team reminded him of a ballet. He said the Davis Fire was the first fire incident he experienced where his home could not access water. He thought this was an issue because he would not have been able to extinguish small fires near his home. He asserted that he had no heartache about the situation but was worried. He alleged that he had various supplies that could last up to one month and stressed the need for rural homeowners to have access to electricity for water retrieval.

Vice Chair Herman thanked Ms. Echeverria and the first responders for their hard work and said she would pray for them.

Commissioner Garcia thanked Ms. Echeverria for taking the time to update the Board. She stated the fire was heartbreaking, and her thoughts were with the people who lost their homes. She noted the coordination among community members. She said constituents throughout the region opened their homes to evacuees and helped with medical needs, transportation, and other things.

Commissioner Andriola echoed Commissioner Garcia's sentiments. She opined that an incident of this magnitude required the community to unite and depend on one another. She did not think an emergency was the time to make plans and stressed the necessity of emergency preparedness. She commended Emergency Management's communication and appreciated that the Perimeter map was always current. She echoed Ms. Echeverria's call for people to evacuate when asked. She remarked that she spoke with several people from the affected area and had shared information with the public as soon as she received it. She asked Ms. Echeverria what the Board could do to help or if there was an action plan that the BCC needed to execute.

Ms. Echeverria responded that a Commissioner's primary role during a disaster should be to listen to the community's concerns and follow the chain of communication through the County Manager, which was in place to mitigate confusion in the field. She mentioned a community meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Depoali Middle School for those directly impacted by the fire. She said Emergency Management planned to set up a community resource center to provide people with resources and information. She asked the Board to continue to be the listening ears for the community and pass along helpful information.

Commissioner Andriola wondered whether the community meeting would be available via Zoom. Ms. Echeverria responded that details about the meeting could be found on the Humboldt-Toiyabe Facebook page. Commissioner Andriola opined a Zoom option would be helpful for those who wanted to ensure there was enough space at the physical meeting for people directly impacted by the Davis Fire but still desired more information.

Chair Hill reported that a volunteer group wanted to donate to first responders and asked how people could do that. Ms. Echeverria stated that Emergency Management's website listed community businesses that could take donations for first responders. Chair Hill thought people looked forward to the community meeting at Depoali Middle School. She asked if there was a way to schedule one media announcement per day to inform the public about progress with the fire, upcoming forecasts, the acreage burned, and other quick facts. Ms. Echeverria said that the IMT gave daily updates at 10:00 a.m., and she would pass along the Board's request for a video or vocal information brief.

Commissioner Clark asked how the fire's containment was determined, noting that the fire had already burned some areas. He wondered if the burned acreage could be considered contained. Ms. Echeverria stated she was not a fire specialist and could not provide information on fire containment. She declared that some smoldering still occurred in burned areas, which the IMT monitored to ensure it did not become a more

significant issue. She remarked that even though nothing was burning on the surface, there could still be fire underground in things like tree roots.

Commissioner Clark declared he was talking about areas with nothing left to burn and remarked that he would ask Chief Moore how containment was determined. Ms. Echeverria added that the ground was still incredibly hot, even if no more burnable material existed. She recalled performing a damage assessment two days after a fire where the ground melted her shoes. She noted that crews needed to ensure the heat was no longer a safety threat.

24-0614 **AGENDA ITEM 5** Presentation by Washoe County Commissioner Support team members, Candee Ramos and Alexandra Wilson, regarding the Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) program, to include CAB attendance data, community survey findings, with discussion of a possible reimagination of the program. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Hill asked Mr. Nicholas St. Jon to stop disrupting the meeting. Mr. St. Jon questioned why the Board did not discuss the election information he presented. He posited the Board never provided answers to his questions regarding elections.

Media and Communications Program Manager Candee Ramos and Community Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Wilson conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Commissioner Support Team; History of CABs; Proposed Questions; CABs – Stats & Staff; CAB & Topic-Based Meeting; Engagement Surveys & Focus Groups; Takeaways; Possibilities Worth Exploring; Proposed Questions.

Ms. Wilson stated she and Ms. Ramos had been part of the Commission Support team since its inception in 2021. She explained they would provide information about the Citizen Advisory Boards (CAB) and request feedback regarding potentially reimaging CABs for enhanced community engagement.

Ms. Wilson informed that the Commission Support team's duties included overseeing Commissioner-led initiatives, providing concierge service for escalated constituent requests, creating community outreach opportunities to learn about County programs and services, managing the CABs, managing appointments to boards and commissions, and coordinating the Washoe County Leadership Academy (WCLA), which fed directly into applications for boards and commissions and supported a diverse constituency.

Ms. Wilson reported that the Commission Support team hosted 72 annual CAB meetings among 8 CABs and other community meetings as necessary. CAB meetings occurred during evenings and weekends. She noted that CABs were the County's current community outreach method and existed in several iterations throughout the County's history. Throughout their history, CABs consistently had regularly scheduled meetings

with board members appointed by that area's Commissioner. The CABs' purpose was to advise Washoe County on topics from within those unincorporated neighborhoods. She stated that one of the first CABs began in 1975 and was followed by a few others, which led to the creation of 13 CABs. Engagement struggles emerged in 2013 when the number of CABs was reduced.

Ms. Wilson stated the CABs' focus shifted between development and community for the past 11 years. The CABs were dissolved in 2021 and reinstated in their current iterations as a two-track system, as there were now community-based topics. She said Neighborhood Development Meetings (NDMs) were intended for citizens who only wanted to hear about developments. NDMs occurred much earlier in the development process before developers and builders could submit applications. She pointed out that NDMs did not have to follow Open Meeting Law (OML), so they allowed for more back-and-forth dialogue and gave individuals more than three minutes to speak. They also allowed for negotiation and deeper conversations with developers because meetings were recorded, and the information was included in staff reports for governing bodies to ensure negotiated promises were incorporated. She pointed out that NDMs offered numerous opportunities for the public to comment on development, as did the Planning Commission (PC), the Board of Adjustment (BOA), and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC).

Ms. Wilson stated the Commission Support team wanted to explore if the County's current community outreach methods were effective or a product of habit. The team wanted to differentiate between community outreach and community engagement. She specified that the former was the way County representatives spoke to constituents, and the latter occurred in a continuous communication feedback loop.

Ms. Ramos wanted the Board to consider if the Commission Support program's goal of providing greater and more expansive community engagement was being met. She questioned if two-way communication occurred between the County and its residents. She emphasized that the discussion's focus was on enhancing and improving engagement, not on taking anything away. The topics were directed at true engagement through creative means to address emerging concerns spotted through trends. These trends were identified through dialogue between the County and constituents. She said they wanted to examine how to best utilize assets, including technology and staff, to reach more people meaningfully. They also wanted to explore if statistics indicated that the effort paid off. She clarified that the Commission Support team did not fear the hard work or long hours that accompanied CAB meetings. She pointed out their focus was on achieving all they could, which involved true engagement, reaching as many people as possible, and considering the opportunity costs.

Ms. Ramos presented statistics on the PowerPoint slide titled *CABs – Stats & Staff*. She provided a document that was distributed to the Board and placed on file with the Clerk. She specified that the statistics provided were from 2023 because data from that entire year was available. She informed that 2024 data mirrored what was seen in 2023, and she clarified that attendance had likely decreased in 2024. Her team discovered that many people attended CAB meetings that covered significant community topics, such as

the Ormat Geothermal Project in Gerlach. She noted that Commission Support staff sometimes had to act in capacities they were not trained for, as seen on the PowerPoint slide. She specified that her team wanted to explore what community engagement could look like. She said they received community feedback stating CABs were great opportunities for people to come together, meet their neighbors, and express concerns. However, she inquired if the government's role was just to speak or also listen.

Ms. Ramos discussed the two photos seen in the PowerPoint slide titled *CAB & Topic-Based Meeting*. The photo on the left was from a regularly scheduled CAB meeting in Warm Springs where she, County Manager Eric Brown, CAB board members, Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) staff, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD) staff were present. She noted that three community members attended the meeting, the average number of attendees at the Warm Springs CAB meetings. She offered that data from the other CABs were also available. She noted that the photo on the right was taken at the senior scam seminar, an event proposed to a CAB to help seniors prevent scams. The Commission Support team believed the topic applied more broadly than to one CAB, so they held a community meeting that had over 100 attendees. The team was interested in hosting more topic-based meetings as opposed to regularly scheduled meetings.

Ms. Ramos referred to the distributed document and said two surveys were conducted over the past year, with 2,000 responses to the first and 4,300 responses to the second. The survey asked how people wanted to hear from and speak to the County. Additionally, three focus groups were held, two with CAB board members and one with stakeholders, including WCSO and TMFPD staff. They found that most survey respondents lived in the incorporated Cities of Reno and Sparks. Since CABs currently only focused on unincorporated areas, many people who lived in the incorporated cities were ignored. She pointed out a significant demand for online and text options and said people were interested in engaging on their own terms, such as with recorded videos and seminars. She remarked that in-person meetings were a top selection for only 7 percent of respondents; 41 percent indicated in-person meetings were not useful, and 20 percent indicated they were. Her team discovered that people felt comfortable calling Commissioners directly and did not need to contact a liaison. People were also comfortable contacting Washoe 311. Focus groups indicated that CAB board members felt they needed a job to accomplish; they questioned the CABs' role, as it no longer voted on actionable items. She summarized that people sought actionable items to feel worthwhile. Her team hoped presenters could share data in a way that would reduce the need for physical meetings. She acknowledged that not everyone had internet access, which was being addressed with digital equity outreach and other actions.

Ms. Wilson clarified that the \$43,000 quoted in staff hours referred to the wage made by the lowest-earning employee. That wage was then multiplied by the average CAB meeting length, and that total was multiplied by 1.5 to account for the compensatory or overtime accrued. The \$43,000 did not represent the highest-paid positions, nor did it include the time spent to prepare, plan, and perform post-meeting items like writing minutes. She noted that an individual was previously paid just under \$20,000 per year to

produce the minutes for CABs, but that task was absorbed by staff. She mentioned that topics such as the Lands Bill and the Secretary of State (SOS) had a significant impact on CAB attendance. Therefore, attendance was not a communication issue; people knew about the meetings, as evidenced by large turnouts for topics they cared about.

Ms. Wilson said the Commission Support team wished to discuss opportunities for exploration. She pointed out that the benefits of reassessing CABs were displayed on the PowerPoint slide titled *Possibilities Worth Exploring*. She stated constituents and Commissioners had topics they wanted to hear more about, such as Vice Chair Herman and elections. Instead of holding CAB meetings, her team could facilitate regularly scheduled meetings about elections to discuss the effectiveness of the County's actions. Her team wanted to focus on topics of great interest to encourage citizens to attend meetings and obtain pertinent information. She stated that she and Ms. Ramos loved their jobs and helping people understand that the County cared about their interests. She asserted they were not afraid of hard work or weekend hours, they simply wanted to ensure their work was meaningful to those they interacted with. She pointed out that people enjoyed speaking with Commissioners. She mentioned the possibility of Commissioner-led meetings that allowed constituents to express their concerns to Commissioners firsthand.

Ms. Wilson stated her team wanted to increase jurisdictional messaging in the County's incorporated and unincorporated areas to reach individuals who were often ignored. For example, her team was exploring micro-academies in Incline Village with Chair Hill; they wanted to focus directly on that area since it was geographically removed. She reminded of the interest in text capabilities displayed in the surveys. She explained that her team did not have the staff time or ability to implement texting. They wanted to find creative ways for all residents to feel useful. She found out during a Spanish Springs workshop that people wanted to make government how-to videos, such as for obtaining a business license or reserving a park, something her team could help produce. Regarding NDMs, she said many people disliked that development notices were only sent within 750 feet. Her team sent notices to the entire District list, which could reach anywhere from 2,000 to 10,000 people depending on the topic, and those did not include Nextdoor or other posts. She reviewed the PowerPoint slide titled *Proposed Questions*.

Chair Hill acknowledged that it was difficult and stressful for staff to approach the Board and question processes. She believed no one doubted that Ms. Wilson and Ms. Ramos were committed to their jobs and to the citizenry. She opined that even if the Board made no changes that day, it was valuable to assess how things were done and how they could support the whole community. She asserted that the CABs did incredible work for the community and commended the discussion.

Vice Chair Herman stated that CABs were a crucial topic for her because they represented the people's voice. She appreciated the Commission Support team's work and understood the difficulty of working evenings. She had been involved with CABs for over 40 years. She stated CABs were previously stolen, and it took her nine years to get them back. CABs were especially important in District 5 because people were spread out over many miles, and the residents did not have adequate representation without them. She

said CABs were a training ground for people of all political backgrounds, including those who were politically unaffiliated. The CABs brought everyone together and served to give people their voices back. She remarked that CABs could teach people many things about the County, including OML, a topic she posited was not previously covered in CABs. She said CABs lacked in the area of development, and for years, every development was first brought before the CABs. She supported keeping CABs and said there would be many unhappy people if CABs were scaled back. She opined that WCSO and TMFPD staff loved attending CABs to provide reports and safety advice. She said \$43,000 was not a significant amount when considering the County's total budget. She advised that most of her district would be happy if they kept the CABs and added development topics.

Ms. Ramos agreed that \$43,000 was not a relatively large amount, but it spoke to the lost opportunity costs for staff hours instead of taking actions to engage more than 0.17 percent of the County's population. She reported that the Gerlach CAB had 31 total attendees to date that year and 78 presenters, which included staff, WCSO staff, and other individuals. She summarized there were twice as many people involved in planning CABs as there were attendees. She said the Commission Support team would be happy to facilitate topic-based meetings and reported that 36 people attended the Ormat meeting in Gerlach. She said her team would have wanted to host a community meeting about it because they knew people wanted to express themselves to the County. Vice Chair Herman stated that the CABs presented an opportunity to have a community meeting at any time and still hold regular CAB meetings. She pointed out that BCC meetings occurred at least once per month, and Commissioners still acted on many other boards. She said CABs were intended for the people and their voices.

Ms. Wilson stated that Chair Hill mentioned CABs were a training ground for people who wanted to get involved with the County. She offered that was more likely prior to the revitalization of the Boards and Committees program. She said there were about 53 boards and committees, 33 of which were appointed by the BCC, and the WCLA program fed into boards and committees. She explained that many individuals interested in boards and committees were encouraged to seek advisory boards or boards with topics that interested them. She noted that OML training was provided to CABs, boards, and committees approximately every six months. Those trainings were recorded and available online. Her team was planning to upload OML training as a Bridge course for individuals entering boards and committees, which they had to complete within three to four months of joining the board. She emphasized that participation opportunities were available, both within and outside of the CABs.

Ms. Ramos mentioned the WCSO and TMFPD staff and acknowledged that they enjoyed providing information sessions for constituents. She pointed out that the WCSO built a dashboard on its website that provided quarterly updates, which were read at the CABs verbatim. The reports were updated every quarter and contained the same exact statistics. She mentioned the possibility of WCSO and TMFPD staff being available to respond to other issues, such as burglaries, instead of attending CAB meetings. At times, they were not able to attend CAB meetings because they had to address other pressing issues.

Vice Chair Herman acknowledged that she and the Commission Support team were all attempting to provide perspective, and she was offering her constituency's perspective.

Commissioner Garcia stated she had been a Commissioner for a year and a half, and she loved her sole CAB. The CAB members in attendance that day continued to demonstrate their leadership and commitment to Sun Valley, and she acknowledged and appreciated their efforts. She asserted that CABs provided an opportunity for input and constructive feedback. She loved that CABs also generated and promoted volunteerism. She valued the collaboration and passion that was ignited by in-person meetings. She declared that she viewed the conversation from each perspective; she loved her CAB and also recognized the constant opportunity for improvement to maximize the County's outreach. She shared that she performed research to supplement the historical context the Commission Support team provided and had reached out to other jurisdictions to discover their approach. She always desired increased cross-jurisdictional collaboration, so she contacted a council member from the City of Reno and a council member from the City of Sparks whose jurisdictions overlapped with her district. She knew her Sun Valley constituents understood the time and effort she spent on Sun Valley's topics, largely because her CAB was located there. She said she had never attended a Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) meeting within the City of Reno nor a Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) meeting. She reported that the City of Reno council member advised her the city aimed to hold 10 NABs per year, with one or two typically canceled. Attendance fluctuated, and topic-driven meetings tended to have better attendance. She acknowledged that NAB attendance could be light. She had learned that each City of Sparks council member appointed two individuals from their ward to the SCAC. SCAC meetings occurred quarterly, on the second Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. She noted that the SCAC also consisted of an appointed planning commissioner, a member of Sparks Parks and Recreation, and an at-large mayor-appointed position. She thought it was a unique system and stated that the SCAC historically met more often but decreased the frequency to quarterly meetings due to low attendance. Quarterly meetings provided the opportunity to rotate through wards.

Commissioner Garcia said she contacted the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Board of Trustees president, who provided background about historical town hall meetings. The WCSD had since moved to a more individualized approach where the trustees were responsible for attending various activities for their specifically zoned schools, such as parent-teacher organizations (PTO) and booster clubs. The school-based model was targeted to families and children at those specific schools, so it was very topic-driven. She noted that the WCSD Board of Trustees president said the meetings were well attended. She said the examples she referenced all provided opportunities for the public to access council members, the WCSD Board of Trustees, and the County Commissioners. She wanted to contribute these examples to the discussion because many jurisdictions had different approaches, and she did not want Washoe County to get stuck in repetitive patterns simply because they did something a particular way for 50 years. She appreciated innovation and creative ideas, and she got excited about topic-driven opportunities to engage. She disclosed that her biggest issue with CABs was their OML restrictions. She

said these weighed on her the most, which her Sun Valley CAB members could attest to. She cited her availability and said she stayed after meetings, was available by text, and visited the Senior Center and people's homes. She noted that CAB meetings sometimes ran for two hours. She opined it could be difficult to dive deep with constituents in CABs because the OML structure sometimes restrained authenticity and the desired level of engagement.

Commissioner Clark referenced Chair Hill's comments about how scary this type of discussion could be and said the best part of his job was working with the Commission Support team because it was extremely fun. He told Ms. Ramos and Ms. Wilson they should not feel intimidated when he asked questions because they provided excellent interaction and insight. He mentioned former Reno City Council Member Toni Harsh and said he wanted to have a town hall meeting at the Chambers for his District, but it seemed challenging to schedule. He received a letter from the District Attorney's (DA) Office advising him to exercise caution. Commissioner Clark said he wanted to have a town hall meeting where he did not have to speak, he would simply listen to the people. He said the DA's Office was concerned that he would lead the meeting or a vigilante group, which he clarified he was not interested in. He said evening BCC meetings were previously discussed, but Chair Hill was not agreeable to them, even though they could allow citizens to attend a meeting after work. He declared it was the community leaders' job to offer meeting options. People could not be forced to attend them, but they could be made aware of those opportunities to share their views. He mentioned turnout and said he understood that television shows were cancelled when they had a low viewership, but he questioned the logic of doing the same for County events. He asked if it made sense to cancel elections and save money when there was low voter turnout. He posited that it was not the government's job to make money; it was the government's job to announce and hold meetings, show up, and let the people have a voice.

Commissioner Clark felt that people already believed they did not have a voice, which the current discussion would exacerbate. He opined that the County's cost of holding CABs was relatively small, and he did not think it was a good idea to eliminate them. He pointed out that Vice Chair Herman had been on the BCC longer than the rest of the Commissioners combined, and she thought CABs were a good idea. He thought the County appeared to be systemically reducing people's voices throughout the years. He inquired why the County would be curious about low meeting attendance when people felt they had increasingly less power. He compared the situation to certain people's choice not to vote because they did not think it mattered. He said the Commission Support team approached the situation with a particular perspective, and he offered that an alternative perspective was to make CABs interesting again and increase citizen involvement. He stated that if CABs were discontinued, he would hold a monthly town hall meeting in various areas of his district. He asserted that he did not need the County's permission to do anything; he would speak with whoever he desired, whenever he desired, and did not need staff presence. He suggested that compensatory time be explored for staff that worked in the evenings. He acknowledged that low attendance might cause staff to question a meeting's purpose. He posited that other solutions included evaluating management styles and management decisions to figure out how the CABs could work for everyone and

include more voices. He shared that he learned something from everyone he spoke to, whether he agreed with them or not. He desired more citizen involvement instead of less.

Commissioner Andriola commended the Commission Support team's hard work. She commented on her surprise when she first became a Commissioner that there was no Hidden Valley CAB. She said one of her first actions was to explore meetings for Hidden Valley residents. She spoke about community meetings that did not have OML restrictions and said they provided opportunities to solicit feedback directly from residents to target their desired focus areas. She mentioned that those meetings had a good record of attendees. She believed the Spanish Springs CAB reflected previous comments about topic-driven meetings impacting attendance. She discussed the importance of recognizing that each district was unique and possessed distinct opportunities to share information pertinent to its citizens. She acknowledged that some information applied to everyone but felt targeted information was essential. She said that reimagining the CABs aligned with her perspective and noted it was not an effort to disband CABs but to reimagine them for increased effectiveness, impact, and beneficial information. She discussed the compilation of the County's tools that CAB members might not be aware of and could be very useful. She thought the agenda item was an excellent topic to explore at the Board's strategic planning workshop in October. She mentioned that type of meeting was an environment to explore future-oriented staff recommendations and Commissioner ideas. She announced that a strategic planning workshop was held at a Spanish Springs CAB that allowed everyone to provide feedback on the CAB. She said it had been challenging to feel the work was impactful while she served on the SCAC for years.

Commissioner Andriola proposed that this agenda item be returned to a Board meeting to give everyone time to prepare information and ideas. She proposed that a meeting should take place with all of the CAB members to ask for their feedback and provide them with all of the County's tools and resources. She spoke about the County's consistent messaging regarding Washoe 311 and suggested that district reports be examined for common subject threads. She elaborated that information from the reports could be provided to CABs, allowing them to frame the outcomes. She suggested surveying areas to understand the topics residents were interested in and letting that drive meeting topics. She recognized that there might not be sufficient time to incorporate the topic of CABs into the agenda for the Board's workshop in October. She proposed a meeting to extrapolate beneficial information and examine common threads from the focus groups and CABs. She said collaboration among CAB members could produce ideas that the Board had not yet considered, and she asserted it was a potential major untapped asset.

Commissioner Andriola clarified that she did not want to add to anyone's workload. She acknowledged that not everyone could attend meetings or had access to appropriate technology. She felt that moving to a quarterly system, like the SCAC, might help with gathering information because it allowed board members to focus on effectively advising policymakers. She felt the core role of CABs was to gather information, receive feedback, and provide resources. She admitted to creating opportunities that could apply to all CABs because she wanted to do everything she could to help as many people as possible. She stated that her responsibility was to those whom she represented. She said

the length of the agenda item's discussion indicated the need for a longer conversation. She felt it would allow her to dialogue with CAB members. She said CABs were extremely important, and she appreciated that they were being reimagined. She acknowledged that CABs were not being removed, but reimagined to increase effectiveness. She thought sharing information from other CABs might be helpful and she thanked the Commission Support team for putting a focus on CABs. She looked forward to exploring additional creative solutions.

Chair Hill said the two CABs within her district appreciated the topic expansion from only development to other issues. CABs were an excellent opportunity when significant issues arose, especially in Incline Village and Crystal Bay. She said it was imperative that the County continue ensuring that regions removed from its population center felt engaged, as mentioned by Vice Chair Herman. She felt there was an opportunity for collaboration with the City of Reno regarding the West Truckee Meadows and Verdi Township CAB. Citizens of that area consistently commented on occurrences in the City of Reno because a lot of that area was annexed into the City of Reno. She felt it was a great opportunity to foster better collaboration. She agreed with the other Commissioners that it would be beneficial to continue the dialogue. She did not know if there was room on the October workshop's agenda. She mentioned that budgets were tight, but perhaps the Board could see if there were opportunities to expand the Commission Support team during the next fiscal year (FY). She knew the Board wanted to ensure the team felt successful. Both CABs in her district had described how wonderful the Commission Support team was to work with. She thanked the team for their staff presence and said they did incredible work. She expressed interest in exploring how beneficial it would be for staff if CABs were not public meetings. Meeting minutes could then be sourced by community members, as seen at Incline Village's community forum. Meetings could also contain more free-flowing discussions. She acknowledged that the agenda item needed additional attention.

Commissioner Clark said the County's districts had many differences. He wished to see a town hall meeting in each district that would obtain feedback from CAB members and citizens. He thought the meetings should specifically seek citizens' thoughts on topics most important to them. He asserted that he wanted more citizen involvement. He provided two emails he received from citizens, copies of which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Chair Hill advised that dialogue about the agenda item would be continued. Ms. Ramos said the team looked forward to potentially hosting town hall meetings that were not limited to three minutes of public comment per the OML. She thought there was a lot of opportunity and thanked the Board for its attention and direction.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – 6A1 THROUGH 6G3 EXCLUDING
PULLED AGENDA ITEM 6G3**

24-0615 **6A1** Recommendation to accept additional funding for an existing Nevada Division of State Parks Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant [in the amount of \$72,587.99 with Washoe County as subgrantee with an

additional cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$72,587.99] and approve the Land & Water Conservation Fund Project Amendment #1 (LWCF Project #32-00371) with a grant period from November 15, 2022 through June 30, 2025 to construct a new trailhead and access path at the Washoe County owned Riverbend Open Space property along the Truckee River near Verdi, Nevada; and authorize Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Land & Water Conservation Fund Project Amendment (LWCF Project #32-00371) and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Community Services. (Commission District 1.)

- 24-0616** **6A2** Recommendation to approve an Employee Residence Agreement between Washoe County and Jackson Crews (Washoe County Sheriff's Office employee) to allow occupancy within the County owned residence located at 330B Sunset Boulevard, Gerlach, Washoe County, Nevada retroactive to August 21, 2024 [no cost]. Community Services. (Commission District 5.)
- 24-0617** **6B1** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of the 42nd consecutive annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Comptroller. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0618** **6C1** Recommendation from the Washoe County Audit Committee to approve the appointment of Sabrina Grenet pursuant to WCC Section 15.545 to fill the term beginning on July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2028, for the Washoe County Audit Committee. Finance. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0619** **6D1** Recommendation to retroactively approve food purchases, and future food purchases, by approving FY25 budget adjustments moving [\$5,000.00] from the professional services budget item into the food purchases item budget in Fund 223 Cost Center 223220 - HSA CrossRoads (net impact to Homelessness Fund is zero) and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget adjustments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0620** **6D2** Recommendation to accept a grant award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to support Continuum of Care supportive services in the amount of [\$30,000.00; \$7,500.00 county match], retroactive from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025; retroactively authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant agreement and related documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to

make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)

- 24-0621** **6D3** Recommendation to accept the Children’s Justice Act (CJA) FY25 sub-grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$15,000.00; no county match required] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the subgrant award documents; and direct the Comptroller’s office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0622** **6D4** Recommendation to accept the FY25 Medical Marijuana subgrant award from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) in the amount of [\$108,000.00; no county match] to provide Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRSS) services as an element of the START program retroactive to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; authorize the Division Director of Human Services Agency to execute the subgrant award documents; and direct the Comptroller’s office to make the necessary budget amendments. Human Services Agency. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0623** **6E1** Staff recommends the Board approve the cross-fund budget appropriation transfer of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the total amount of [\$170,000] for the Senior Innovations Project, from Other Restricted - SLFRF COVID Recovery to the Capital Improvements Fund to be used for facility improvements to the Senior Center at 1155 E. 9th Street. This allocation was previously approved but needs to be recognized as a Capital Project (net-zero impact, no additional funding is requested). And, if approved, direction to the Comptroller’s Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager’s Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0624** **6E2** Recommendation in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve FY25 Community Support grant award to: 1. Sun Valley General Improvement District in the amount of [\$90,000] to support general parks and recreation operation and maintenance; approve Resolution 23-191 for the same; 2. Silver State Fair Housing Council in the amount of [\$10,000] to support Silver State Fair Housing Council in providing services to encourage fair housing standards; approve Resolution 23-192 for the same; and direct Comptroller’s Office to make the budget appropriation disbursements. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
- 24-0625** **6F1** Recommendation to approve budget amendments totaling an increase of [\$214,665] in both revenues and expenditures to the FY24/25 Immunization Bridge Program and direct the Comptroller’s office to make

the appropriate budget amendments. The purpose of this grant is to support the Immunization Program's mission to public health by providing site visits specific to Bridge Storage and Handling and extends the Vaccine Confidence and Outreach activities for under and uninsured populations served by Northern Nevada Public Health (NNPH). Northern Nevada Public Health. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0626 **6G1** Recommendation to accept funding award number G24NV0001A [amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, no County match required] for the 2024 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Northern Nevada Drug Task Force to be used for overtime, investigative, and travel expenses from HIDTA as administered through Las Vegas Metro Police Department, for the retroactive period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025 and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0627 **6G2** Recommendation to accept the 2024 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Northern Nevada Interdiction Task Force funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as administered through Las Vegas Metro Police Department [amount not to exceed \$100,000.00, no County match required] to be used for overtime, investigative and travel expenses from HIDTA for the retroactive period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025, and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

24-0628 **6G3** Recommendation to accept the 2024 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Regional Narcotics Unit funding G24NV0001A [amount not to exceed \$80,000.00, no County match required] from the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) administered through Las Vegas Metro Police Department for the retroactive period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025 to be used for overtime, travel and investigative expenses, and direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

This item was pulled.

There was no response to the call for public comment on the Consent Agenda Items listed above.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6G3, with the exclusion of Items 6G3, be approved. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Consent Agenda Items 6A1 through 6G3, with the exclusion of Item 6G3, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

BLOCK VOTE – 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, AND 13

- 24-0629** **AGENDA ITEM 7** Recommendation to set the order of alternates to represent the Washoe County Planning Commission (PC) on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Commission (RPC) in the event the regularly appointed PC members are unavailable to serve. The existing Washoe County Planning Commissioners serving on the Regional Planning Commission are Michael Flick, Daniel Lazzareschi, and Rob Pierce. The currently proposed order of alternates is as follows: First Alternate, Linda Kennedy; Second Alternate, Amy Owens; Third Alternate, Jim Barnes; and Fourth Alternate, Kate Nelson. After the Board's decision, the Planning Commission Secretary shall transmit the ordered list to the Executive Director of the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA). Community Services. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 7 be set.

- 24-0630** **AGENDA ITEM 8** Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of a Report of two emergency procurement contracts awarded pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 338.011 to [Taurus Construction in the amount of \$129,775.00 and to Sierra Nevada Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$275,000.00] in response to a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the public, caused by the Hidden Valley debris laden flash flood event on July 21, 2024. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 8 be acknowledged.

- 24-0631** **AGENDA ITEM 9** Recommendation to approve Amendment No. 2 to an Agreement for Professional Consulting Services between Washoe County and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., [in the amount of \$3,048,360.00 for a total contract amount of \$15,052,880.00] for the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation 2020 Facility Expansion Project within the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility service territory which receives and treats wastewater from both unincorporated Washoe County and areas of the City of Reno in the South Truckee Meadows. Amendment No. 2 addresses the increased costs related to unanticipated impacts resulting in project cost escalations, increased scope of work, and increased project schedule duration and extends the contract through May 1, 2026. Community Services. (Commission District 2.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 9 be approved.

24-0632 **AGENDA ITEM 11** Recommendation to approve amendment to contract with Allied Universal Security Services for armed and unarmed professional security services, retroactive from August 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Estimated expenditures are anticipated as [\$4,695,019]. If approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 11 be approved and authorized.

24-0633 **AGENDA ITEM 12** Recommendation to approve the acceptance of a Nevada Cares Campus Charitable Fund Grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to support Nevada Cares Campus Capital Improvement Project in the amount of [\$980,326, no match], authorize the County Manager to sign the award document and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 12 be approved, authorized, and directed.

24-0634 **AGENDA ITEM 13** Recommendation to accept the amended FY 2024 Office of Traffic Safety award from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety [amount not to exceed \$28,300.00, 25% or \$7,074.75 In-Kind County match required] as administered through the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety, to cover overtime costs related to conducting DUI saturation patrols, for the retroactive grant term of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 and if approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.)

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Herman, seconded by Commissioner Garcia, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 13 be accepted, approved, and directed.

24-0635 **AGENDA ITEM 10** Recommendation to approve allocation of Washoe Opioid Abatement and Recovery Fund (WOARF) non-bankruptcy funds through the One Nevada Agreement, in the total amount of \$4,009,786, approve associated resolutions, and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents, for the following six projects awarded to government entities or nonprofit organizations created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes: Human Services Agency - CrossRoads Families - WOARF24-00002 in the amount of \$1,000,000 to provide therapeutic living community to families impacted by OUD to engage in recovery together. Northern Nevada HOPES - Opioid Treatment Expansion Project - WOARF24-00007 in the amount of \$984,002.00 and approve Resolution R24-186. Funding supports establishing a new opioid treatment program at the East 4th Street Clinic Ridge House Inc - OUD Outpatient Services - WOARF24-00006 in the amount of \$300,000 and approve Resolution R24-187. Funding supports providing outpatient and aftercare service to uninsured and underinsured Washoe County Residents. Northern Nevada Harm Reduction Alliance - Building Communities of Support - WOARF24-00001 in the amount of \$523,4023 and approve Resolution R24-188. Funding supports comprehensive harm reduction strategies, community engagement, and advocacy, led by the expertise and leadership of individuals with lived experience. Join Together Northern Nevada - Partnerships for Prevention - WOARF24-00004 in the amount of \$250,000 and approve Resolution R24-189. Funding supports providing support and resources to bridge transportation and resource gaps in Washoe County for individuals who are unhoused and at-risk or in current use of Opioids Bristlecone Family Resources - Medical Detox Building - WOARF24-00003 in the amount of \$952,381 and approve Resolution R24-190. Funding supports building a medical detox facility. And, if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers and budget amendments. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Grants and Community Program Analyst Lauren Beal conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: WOARF Funding; Application closed June 30; Response to the NOFO; Reviewer Teams; Key Eligibility Criteria and Scoring; Individual Reviews; Priority 2: Emergency Department Buprenorphine and Care Navigators; Priority 1: Increasing Access to Treatment for Uninsured/Underinsured; Priority 3: Overdose Prevention and Education; Priority 4: Child Welfare Best Practices; Priority 5: Increasing Bed Space for Detox; and Total Recommended Funding.

Ms. Beal stated she was honored to discuss the Washoe Opioid Abatement and Recovery Funds (WOARF) with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She recognized the CrossRoads participants in the Commission Chambers. She pointed out that reengaging with the community was a key step in recovery because it was not just about individual growth; it was also about how someone reengaged and connected with people. Chair Hill called for a round of applause for the CrossRoads participants. Ms. Beal informed the Board that a phrase she would use throughout her presentation was opioid use disorder (OUD). She provided background on WOARF and noted that the money came from litigation settlements Washoe County pursued with the State and other jurisdictions against pharmaceutical companies and distributors of opioids that played a role in the opioid epidemic. She said Washoe County anticipated to receive \$41 million over 20 years. The funds were to be explicitly used for OUD treatment, recovery, and abatement, or the pharmaceutical companies might try to rescind the money. She remarked that when the first round of funding was announced in May 2024, the County had already received \$4.75 million in WOARF. She declared that the initial funding would address the top five priorities identified in the December 2022 OUD community needs assessment as required by the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS). Since May 2024, the County had received an additional \$2.24 million, and by the second round of project funding, the County would have \$5.7 million available.

Ms. Beal reviewed the timeline of the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) process conducted in the summer of 2024. She reported that the County gave participants one and a half months to complete their applications. Staff then took three weeks to review the applications. After initial recommendations were selected, staff worked with the potential awardees on their performance measures and clarified the County's expectations. In response to the NOFO, staff received 25 complete applications requesting just over \$13 million. She thought the reviewers had a difficult task because the County did not have enough funding to fulfill all the project requests. She noted that the reviewers were in teams of three that consisted of someone with lived experience, a subject matter expert, and a grants management professional from the Community Reinvestment team. She mentioned she was not part of the review process as she was responsible for concealing identifying information and providing review teams with an objective evaluation environment. She recalled that reviewers looked for specific qualities in the applications, which included no supplanting of funding. This meant if a project already had another funding avenue, it could not be allocated funds from WOARF. Other qualities reviewers looked for in the applications were evidence-based projects, projects that were an acceptable use of funds according to the litigation settlement and NRS, and projects consistent with the needs assessment. After determining if the project met the key eligibility requirements, reviewers evaluated if it would be sustainable after the 20 years of funding ended and if the organizations could implement their proposed projects as designed. She pointed out an example of the rubric and scoresheet on the slide titled *Individual Review*. She explained that the rubric broke down each section to describe what was needed for a project to be considered excellent, strong, average, weak, or basic. The reviewers plugged the scores from the rubric into the scoresheet for each section, and the scoresheet would auto-calculate the project's score out of 100.

Ms. Beal mentioned Priority 2, which was ensuring access to Buprenorphine, a medication used for OUD. She pointed out that no applications were received for that priority, so the reviewers met to discuss how to proceed. It was decided that the County should take \$300,000 of the funds set aside for Priority 2 and allocate them to Priority 1. The remaining funds would be budgeted for capacity building around Priority 2 in hopes that new implementation ideas might be brought forward during the winter of 2025. She declared there was \$1.3 million available to address Priority 1, which would increase access to treatment for uninsured or underinsured Washoe County residents. Of the 11 applications received, the highest scores went to the Northern Nevada HOPES' project to create an opioid treatment program and the Ridge House's project to provide outpatient services. She stated that both projects would expand treatment access for people without insurance or whose insurance made accessing holistic treatment fiscally impossible.

Ms. Beal spoke about Priority 3, overdose prevention and education, and claimed it was a critical, lifesaving need in Washoe County. There was \$775,000 available, and nine applications were received. Reviewers recommended funding for two projects, as seen on the slide titled *Priority 3: Overdose Prevention and Education*. She opined that in addition to focusing on the needs of individuals who used opioids, entire families should be supported to break the cycles of substance use disorders.

Ms. Beal noted that Priority 4 implemented child welfare best practices for families impacted by OUD. The reviewers recommended an expansion of the Human Services Agency (HSA) CrossRoads program to assist family units and provide a therapeutic community model to help family members heal together and individually. She said that medical detoxification was a critical infrastructure gap in the community. She asserted that after the closure of the Community Triage Center (CTC), only one location in Washoe County accepted Medicaid patients for detoxification. She remarked that reviewers recommended the Bristlecone Family Resources' project to build a 20-bed detoxification center that would accept uninsured and underinsured people. In total, staff recommended that \$4,009,789 be awarded to the six projects presented.

Chair Hill asked where the new CrossRoads family facility would be located. Ms. Beal said the project required a ten-unit apartment building. She noted that CrossRoads budgeted for a warm-up period to locate a suitable facility and hire adequate staff. She stated that most of the proposed projects had funding for necessary preparations to get the project running.

Commissioner Andriola commended Ms. Beal for her enthusiasm and care. She opined that the reviewers had a hard job selecting which projects would best fit the community's needs. She was encouraged to hear about the programs to keep families together because she thought it was critical to success. She believed that pulling away one member of the family, whether it was a parent or a child, caused unnecessary trauma during the recovery process. She asked Ms. Beal if there was another program in Nevada that kept families together during recovery. Ms. Beal responded that she could not speak to other areas in the State but could confirm that CrossRoads was the only project of its type in

Washoe County. Commissioner Andriola looked forward to hearing about the project's successful outcomes.

Chair Hill congratulated Ms. Beal on her first appearance before the BCC.

On the call for public comment, Ms. Anne-Elizabeth Northan introduced herself as the executive director for Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN), the substance misuse prevention coalition of Washoe County. She stated that the organization offered comprehensive prevention services, including kindergarten through twelfth grade education, parenting support, and system-level collaboration. She asserted that the nonprofit believed in the power of the community to overcome circumstances, broken systems, and addiction. She opined that, in many ways, community was the antidote for addiction. She told a story commonly shared in recovery circles and claimed JTNN worked with people to meet their needs regardless of circumstances and provide them with hope. She declared that prevention was community; it was helping people regardless of where they were in their journey and creating preventative measures to ensure other people never fell into OUD in the first place. She said that the JTNN WOARF project spoke to the nature of prevention in Washoe County and provided tools to empower the community to make a difference while walking beside people toward recovery. She noted that a major component of the project was community education and connecting individuals to care. She opined that the project worked to tear down transportation barriers and provide a voice on the other end of the line to help people start their recovery journey. She mentioned that the project provided life-saving Naloxone and education to empower more people to save lives. She thought the project intended to touch the community and inspire courageous actions in the fight against OUD and overdose. She thanked the Board for its consideration.

Commissioner Garcia inquired about the timeline and process between the first and second funding rounds. Ms. Beal responded that County staff intended to be hands-on in the grant management process, including regular meetings to ensure collaboration and teamwork amongst the approved projects. She noted that staff would also work on a new needs assessment for the 2026 round of funding as required by NRS. She thought a new assessment would identify additional service gaps in the community and allow for continual projects to maintain funding through a reduced application process. She asserted that staff would continue thinking about ways to create collaboration opportunities for the applications not awarded in the initial round of funding.

Chair Hill commended Ms. Beal on her work and on the County's partners that were recommended for funding. She hoped that Board members would tour facilities, especially the new CrossRoads once it was operational, to learn more about the different organizations' community impacts so the Board could better support them.

On motion by Commissioner Andriola, seconded by Vice Chair Herman, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 10 be approved, authorized, and directed. Any and all Resolutions or Interlocal Agreements pertinent to Agenda Item 10, are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes thereof.

24-0636 AGENDA ITEM 14 Public Comment.

Ms. Penny Brock said she was often concerned about how taxpayer money was spent. She recalled the Board initiated the County's use of Checkbook Nevada. She informed that she submitted a request through Washoe 311 regarding Checkbook Nevada and was impressed with the information she received. However, she understood there was no target implementation date and did not know why. She shared that the State's Checkbook Nevada website looked great, and the County could use it as a reference. She looked forward to knowing the implementation date and thanked Commissioner Andriola for introducing the subject. She stated she lived in the area where the Davis Fire occurred. As a board member of the South Truckee Meadows Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), she felt responsible for knowing what her neighbors said about the fire so she utilized the application NextDoor for multiple days. She explained that many of her neighbors were frantic for information and did not know where to go. She opined the County's Facebook page was not very useful, and she was eventually informed to utilize the platform X. She said the County's Emergency Management website did not contain a plan for traffic evacuation from the area. She stated the area's homeowner associations (HOAs) had plans to evacuate people from the communities, but there was not an appropriate plan once thousands of cars were on the major roadways. She commented that stoplight outages caused chaos. She believed there was a need for the County's Emergency Management staff to address evacuations on major roadways due to the dangers posed. She previously lived in Galena Forest, where she experienced two evacuations and a house fire, so fires were a significant topic for her. She mentioned the deeply impactful nature of fires and implored the Board to address evacuations and communications.

24-0637 AGENDA ITEM 15 Announcements/Reports.

Commissioner Clark noted that when he asked questions or stated information on the record, he never intended to accuse, as any accusations would be apparent. He read from a document, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He said he was made aware several times that the Incline Village General Improvement District's (IVGID) finances were concerning. He requested that staff research the concerns. He stated he would appreciate a report if the County investigated the allegations.

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1:40 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

ALEXIS HILL, Chair
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

JANIS GALASSINI, County Clerk and
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

Minutes Prepared by:
Heather Gage, Deputy County Clerk
Kendra DeSoto-Silva, Deputy County Clerk
Taylor Chambers, Deputy County Clerk

Pending Board Approval