



NUTRITION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 28, 2025

The Nutrition Council members convened virtually on MS Teams on October 28, 2025.

Members Present

Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede,
Chair
Jenice Kling
Daniel Lagerman
Trudy Ranallo
James (Jim) Sampson
Gloria Webster

Members Excused

InAdella Crawford
Michelle Descholtez
Annette Holder
Dwight Ivory
Gwen Madison
Karen Moe
Barabara Robinson
Carrie Spears
Douglas Tadeyeske

Members Excused Continued...

Earlene Wilson
E. Whitten

Staff Present

Bailey Knutson DHHS
Lori O'Connor DHHS
Ortrilla Paris DHHS
Gaylyn Reske DHHS

Attendees from the Public

Mark Behar
Michelle Drouillard

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Cindy Van Vreede called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. Gaylyn Reske Program Coordinator Senior Dining took the roll call. A quorum was not present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE July 22, 2025, NUTRITION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Due to a non-quorum the meeting minutes were tabled until the next Nutrition Council Meeting.

III. UPDATE ON FLAVOR STATION PILOT

Gaylyn Reske Program Coordinator for Dining Sites provided an update on the

Flavor Station pilot. The pilot at Washington Park concluded on October 3, 2025, and received highly favorable feedback. Garlic was the most popular seasoning, followed by onion powder, cinnamon, Italian seasoning, and red pepper flakes. Participants suggested adding Tabasco and Mrs. Dash. Startup costs were about \$200 for jars, and spices were purchased in bulk for quality assurance. Budget for 2026 will be tight due to a \$175,000 funding reduction, but there is interest in expanding to another site using cost-saving strategies like centralized stations. Accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges remains a priority.

IV. UPDATE ON HACM DINING SITE CLOSING

Gaylyn Reske provided an update on Site closures. The four housing authority dining sites Convent Hill, College Court, Lapham Park and Arlington Court were closed due to low attendance, limited activities, and access issues. A transition plan provided nutrition education, transportation options, and site visits. The last meal was served September 30, 2025, and the transition was smooth with no complaints. Participants are now attending other sites for meals and social activities. Closures were due to staffing costs and budget gaps, not food expenses.

V. UPDATE ON THE FOOD TRUCK

Gaylyn Reske reported that today marks the final day of the food truck for the year. Over the past eight weeks, the initiative was highly successful, serving approximately 60-70 individuals daily and receiving very positive feedback from participants.

VI. UPDATE ON DECISION TO NO LONGER SERVICE MANAGED CARE PARTICIPANTS THROUGH THE HOME DELIVERED MEAL PROGRAM

Gaylyn Reske announced that managed care services will no longer be provided, for Iris, community centers.

VII. NUTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Jim Sampson inquired about missing agenda topics and the status of Certificates of Appreciation that was previously discussed. Members noted shortages of ketchup packets and requested more sour cream, cheese, and larger food portions at meal sites. Questions were raised regarding funding for 2026.

VIII. NURTRITION ADVISORY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lorie O'Connor shared a helpful link in the chat with food delivery options and places to find extra food.

IX. ADJOURNMENT Meeting adjourned at 2:24 P.M.

Sincerely,

Ortrilla Paris
Administrative Assistant