

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

January 10, 2008

In attendance:

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District
Jacque Haas, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Pat Duncan, Alternate, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
John Bright, Veterans Administration
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce

Agenda Item 1. Call to order, notice of agenda compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Committee on Homelessness was called to order by Darryl Martin, Chair, Clark County, at 2:05 p.m., on Thursday, January 10, 2008, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the January 10, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for January 10, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the January 10, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on December 20, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the December 20, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Receive an update from the Regional Homeless Services Coordinator. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave a progress update including: a state committee meeting to decide AB126 funding is scheduled in Carson City on January 22; Clark County's outside agency grant application is available; HUD has made \$25,000 available in Southern Nevada for corrections, placement and planning coordination efforts; and HUD is also awarding money for technical

assistance towards a statewide HMIS system between Northern, Southern and Rural Nevada.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of membership of the Committee on Homelessness and the structure of its working groups. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, presented a membership roster, including alternate members, for the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness and the Technical Working Group. Ms. West also confirmed that Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, had been chosen as the new Chair, and Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, had been chosen as Vice Chair.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to direct Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, to present these items to the Coalition Board for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was later discussion by the Committee to direct Ms. West to invite Thom Reilly or any members of his organization to sit on the Committee on Homelessness or one of its working groups. Ms. West also stated that Dan Goulet, United Way, had requested starting a Trust Fund work group.

Agenda Item 6. Approval of the 2008-2009 Regional Homeless Budget. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, presented the proposed 2008-2009 Regional Homeless Budget, including a proposal combining and extending the winter and summer inclement weather programs to a single year-round program.

There was discussion by the Committee on approving the budget as a concept only as there had been no availability for review prior to now; costs associated with the inclement weather program (Ms. West estimated the costs to be \$13-18 per night during the winter, \$9-14 per night during the summer, and \$45-65 per night for hotel/motel rooms); and having no gaps in services as all agencies agreed to supply shelter beds year-round.

Ms. West stated that this approved preliminary budget would next go to the Coalition Board for approval but could be reevaluated at the end of the fiscal year for adjustments, if needed.

A motion was made and seconded to direct Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, to present the 2008-2009 Regional Homeless Budget to the Coalition Board for approval with the understanding that the increase(s) for year-round inclement weather program implementation may be dropped upon further review. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the Help Hope Home regional plan and implementation schedule. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, presented the final Help Hope Home implementation schedule and discussed it via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Help Hope Home: Southern Nevada's Plan to End Homelessness – Approval of the Implementation Schedule – January 10, 2008."

There was discussion by the Committee on public input received to-date; potential marketing of the document and the Trust Fund; and when it would go on the website.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Help Hope Home implementation schedule and to direct Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, to present it to the Coalition Board for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on Inclement Weather Shelter. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave a brief update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program, and she presented agency summaries of beds used.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update on the Continuum of Care. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an update on the Continuum of Care via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Continuum of Care". She announced that Southern Nevada had been awarded \$6.5 million even though the application was only for \$6 million, and per HUD, this was because of the homeless census results and updated rental rates.

Ms. West stated that the 2008 CoC supplemental applications were available beginning today, and they would be due on February 21, 2008.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 10. Receive a presentation from Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth on agency services. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Kathleen Boutin and Matthew Hirsch, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), gave a summary presentation on agency services and programs via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth – The Unseen Population".

There was discussion by the Committee on where assisted kids are placed; the new facility; the potential for another youth count; tracking based on zip codes; the Right to Shelter Law; CCSD enrollment; and on-site living.

The website for NPHY is: www.nevadahomelessyouth.org.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 11. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, submitted a letter dated January 9, 2008, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee as follows:

“Since I am unable to attend tomorrow’s meeting I am submitting my concerns in writing.

If my 3rd request for an accurate and concise survey of services provided, to the homeless, in September 2001 and December 2007 is not provided at this meeting it will prove that citizens input is being ignored. My reason for this request is to finally prove if the City of Las Vegas is still carrying an unfair burden or if the regional cities, and the county, have made an

honest attempt to treat homelessness as a regional problem and responsibility. Each nonprofit should list separate figures for calendar years 2001 through 2007 for emergency, transitional, program and affordable shelter and housing.

In your agenda the 10 year plan to address housing for the homeless will be discussed. Without this housing it is absurd to set a goal of addressing ending homelessness, without a robust program.

I have been advised by the SNRPC Executive Board, in public comment as veteran's representative of "Southern Nevada Advocates for Homeless People," that veteran health care is a federal issue and my efforts should be directed to our federal delegation. I have a 15 year history of advocating for veterans with federal, state and local politicians. The SNRPC Executive Board are not only politicians but they are citizens. As politicians they must be concerned about 1/8 of the population's healthcare, veterans, but as citizens they must advocate for our military which is engaged in the most traumatic combat for over 5 years.

We are all aware of our government's failure to fully address the wounds and emotional toil of our Vietnam and First Gulf War veterans, which have not been fully addressed to the present day. All veterans have suffered but in these two wars we have seen the neglect, recorded by the media.

Homelessness is an ethical and moral issue that is being treated as a political issue, which is especially true since the Veterans Administration Secretary has an executive cabinet post.

Our troops are suffering higher ratios of fatalities to casualties than any previous wars in suicide, PTSD, TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) a signature illness of this war and emotional illnesses which will be reflected in the homeless population and social problems in the future.

Homelessness is a disgrace in our county but is especially odious in Southern Nevada, the richest area in the country.

We must appeal to citizens, in our PSA's, to volunteer to mentor our veterans, when they return physically and emotionally suffering. The V.A., DoD, Pentagon and all politicians and citizens have an obligation to ensure that they receive the healthcare and benefits they've earned and deserve."

Joseph Maviglia, private citizen, stated that the failure of the Committee was because "...the proof of what you do is based not only on results but the cost to get results..." He was critical of the lopsided economic structure; and he stated that "...homelessness will not be eliminated until all low income wage earners can afford the basics..." He commented on doing things wrong years ago and continuing to do them wrong now if there's no change. Mr. Maviglia suggested mobile home conversions as a possible solution to allowing people to provide for themselves.

Teddy Russell, private citizen, stated that the Committee was doing such a good job that he would begin attending the Senior Citizens' Advisory Board in the City of Las Vegas instead since the meeting times conflicted. He commented on the working poor outnumbering all other citizens, but he commended programs like Three Square for assisting them.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.