

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

February 14, 2008

In attendance:

Orlando Sanchez, CHAIR, City of Las Vegas
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Val Juick, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Nancy McLane, Alternate, Clark County
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Pat Duncan, Alternate, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District
Darryl Martin, Clark County
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
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 Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas, at 2:01 p.m., on Thursday, February 14, 2008, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the February 14, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for February 14, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the February 14, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on January 10, 2008.

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

Agenda Item 4. Receive nomination for committee membership. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, confirmed Gina Jackson as the new representative for the Nevada Homeless Alliance with Shaun Schoener as her alternate; and she confirmed Val Juick as the alternate for Gary Schofield (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department).

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

Agenda Item 5. 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: the Help Hope Home Implementation schedule was approved by the Coalition Board at their January meeting; Assembly Bill 126 funding will not be affected by the Governor's proposed budget cuts, and \$600,000 will be allocated to Southern Nevada once a more itemized list of priorities is presented to the State; and Project Homeless Connect will be held on April 10th, and Michele Fuller-Hallauer will be this year's chair.

There was discussion by the Committee about attendance statistics from last year's Project Homeless Connect and data entry of this year's information.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on Inclement Weather Shelter. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, announced that, as per HUD, the CoC application received a score of 97.5 out of 100, and \$6.5 million had been secured.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then 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 7. Receive a presentation from U.S. Vets on agency services. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets, gave a summary presentation on agency services and programs via a PowerPoint presentation titled "United States Veterans Initiative – U.S. Vets-Las Vegas-Serving those who served".

There was discussion by the Committee on where the breakdown was between active duty and civilian employment that causes homelessness; success rates; location of facilities; the average length of stay; future expansion plans; and outreach teams and services.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, requested that Committee members read the letter he submitted at the last Committee on Homelessness meeting, and he asked about the survey comparison of services and bed numbers in 2001 versus those offered in 2007/2008. He also submitted a letter addressed to the SNRPC Executive Board as follows:

“A SNRPC Executive Board resolution, in support of veterans, will help Southern Nevada veterans by advocating an acceleration of the 2011 completion date of the V.A. Health Complex at 215 and Pecos and the construction of domicilliaris (veterans homes) to provide PTSD, TBI, alcohol and drug programs and housing in an inpatient setting.

This is essential because presently we have services spread over the valley, due to the closing of the Guy Addair Clinic in 2003. This consolidation will reduce travel time and increase efficiency. The construction of domicilliaris (veterans homes), being proposed in many states, will provide inpatient services and housing for Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans, homeless veterans and our 240,000 veteran population.

Our Vietnam, First Gulf War and homeless veterans have not received the health care and benefits due them for their service. It has become obvious that the Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans, who are suffering a fatality to casualty rate approximately four times greater than previous wars, require more innovative inpatient care to adequately serve them. Mental health care is especially needed.

This resolution, by elected officials, will lead to more support from relatives, friends and citizens for our nation’s veterans.

“They served us then” “We serve them now.””

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, announced the opening of Horizon Crest.

Ivo Plecko, private citizen, stated that he met with County staff regarding efforts to create affordable housing units that were compatible to Nevada standards. He also stated that he had future meetings arranged with City staff, and he was looking for potential properties that could be converted.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.