

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

March 16, 2006

In attendance:

Darryl Martin, ALTERNATE CHAIR, Clark County
Theodore Moody, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition
Marcia Evans, Veteran's Administration

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, Alternate Chair, Clark County, at 2:04 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006, in the North Las Vegas City Council Chambers, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the March 16, 2006, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for March 16, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the March 16, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on February 16, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the February 16, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approve correspondence to forward to the SNRPC's Workforce Housing Subcommittee. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, presented correspondence drafted to the SNRPC Workforce Housing Subcommittee regarding impending mobile home park closures.

Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition, recommended adding the following sentence to the conclusion of the letter: "A moratorium on park closures may delay the problem and give valuable time to develop an equitable strategy that would alleviate the hardship on these low income residents and slow the impending impact on already overburdened homeless service agencies."

Darryl Martin, Clark County, commented that the moratorium is only being considered by Clark County at this time, and he asked if that would impact the letter since it's not going through the County. Reverend Bowker responded that he felt "...we ought to at least throw our hat in the ring and make some kind of comment on this proposal that's impending before the County Commissioners."

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, stated he was not in support of this letter moving forward.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the letter, with Reverend Bowker's suggested addition, and forward it to the SNRPC Board. The motion was amended that the letter be sent to the SNRPC Workforce Housing Subcommittee instead of the Coalition Board. The amended motion was approved by all members except Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, who opposed.

Agenda Item 5. Receive a report on the Winter Shelter Program and other housing programs. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, presented the Utilization Report for February, 2006 for the Winter Shelter Program and other housing programs. She presented a summary of West Care's numbers for February, 2006, including the Community Triage Center and the Mental Health Crisis Unit. Ms. West also gave an update on the status of the Inclement Weather Shelter Program RFP, including the RFP timeline.

Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas, asked who the three providers were who attended the pre-training conference; and Ms. West responded with Catholic Charities, Salvation Army and Emergency Aid of Boulder City.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, recommended addressing the sanitary conditions of the shelter beds with each of the providers.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, asked if there were outcomes provided on the clients served by the nonprofits or if the money allocated could be better used; and Ms. West responded that the monthly utilization reports were designed to give a snapshot of usage at the shelters, and those would eventually be used to get a bigger picture of what was happening overall once a baseline was established.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, asked if a threshold had been set for summer emergency shelter; and Ms. West responded it was still being researched, but as a comparison to last summer it was 105.

There was discussion on how the timeline for the RFP had been moved up and adjusted to compensate for summer emergency shelter beginning as early as May and lasting through September.

Mr. Young asked if there would eventually be more beds added at the Mental Health Crisis Unit; and Ms. West responded that the Committee on Homelessness traditionally didn't have stewardship over that. She added that West Care might be able to direct some of these clients elsewhere since some of the users may also be part of other service providers.

Mr. Martin recommended adding emergency room capacity to this report.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a report on the status of the AB580 funded "Transition from Homelessness" Programs. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, gave a status report on the progress and activities of Nevada

Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) and OUTREACH as summarized on the AB580 Monthly Report for February, 2006. She also referred to successes reported as a result of using the homeless encampment protocols.

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, shared anecdotal stories on case successes and challenges, including in encampments, stressing what a large undertaking it is to assist chronically homeless individuals.

Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas, asked for a quantification of successes; and Ms. Lera-Randle El responded that success could be proven by the number of chronically homeless served, to date, that had housing provided to them for any length of time (i.e. some chronically homeless people have been in housing since the beginning in November, 2005).

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, asked what could be done better with the interventions; and Ms. Lera-Randle El responded about providing more mental health assistance and increased accessibility to services and assessments.

There was discussion by Mr. Young and Ms. Lera-Randle El on an apparent disconnect with what NRS legally allows when determining a person cannot care for him/herself; and Ms. Lera-Randle El added that a temperature of 105 before providing emergency summer care is much too high.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, commented on looking at the definition of stabilization for the chronic population, what it means to them and how to measure and report it.

Patricia Lau, OUTREACH Management Analyst and Evaluator, commented on the on-going program effectiveness and outcome indicators as tracked by the HMIS database. She provided a quarterly newsletter, written to raise public awareness and as an update on the status and progress of the project.

Ms. Lera-Randle El commented on urgently needing more accessibility, especially with CPS and SPS; and Mr. Martin recommended setting an outside meeting to discuss specifics.

There was discussion on this being a regional problem with regional efforts; and Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition, commented on a current meeting at the Flamingo Hotel on affordable housing, with over 650 attendees from Nevada, California and Arizona, with seminars including chronic homelessness and transitioning chronic homeless into permanent housing.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, commented on evaluating provided funding to nonprofits and shelters and making them more accountable; and Ms. Lera-Randle El agreed on the importance of that.

Mr. Sanchez commented on the shortage of housing regionally, and he asked if the spending of the \$2 million for AB580 was on-target. Ms. West responded that if it's found that there will be money left over and potentially lost before the end of the period then some of the delayed capital expenses (i.e. mobile showers) will be purchased this year.

Ms. West stated that at next month's meeting, the first quarterly outcome-focused report would be provided.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the 2006 Continuum of Care competition process. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, announced that the RFP has been released; and Michele

Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service, gave a status report on the 2006 Continuum of Care (CoC) timeline and flowchart. She also provided a CoC Homeless Assistance Program Schedule of Meetings.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, asked who sits on the ranking committee; and Ms. West responded that the appointed Technical Advisory Board would make the recommendations to the Committee on Homelessness for allocation approval. She also gave an overview of the CoC program.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, asked for the estimated staff time commitment for the members of the Technical Advisory Board; and Ms. Fuller-Hallauer responded that the total commitment would be approximately 25 hours.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition (SNHC), discussed the history of the SNHC and the annual Homeless Stand-Down in Cashman Field; and he announced that they were now incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. He stated that an SNHC Board of Directors had been established, and he would be stepping down from the Committee on Homelessness so the SNHC Board would select a new representative.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, commended Reverend Bowker as a true asset, and he asked if the SNHC would be appointing a new person; and Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, responded that they would be designating their representative next week.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.

Bridgette Clarity, private citizen, commented that 105 degrees is way too high, especially with the elderly, children and medically fragile people. She stated that the Salvation Army couldn't provide for women and children in this community. She added that, relating to redefining being a threat to oneself, it was "...exasperating to be working with a woman that you know is a threat to herself and (there is) nothing that Metro can do. There is nowhere you can send them." She concluded with further comments on the mentally unstable, those with children, the importance of speaking to them longer to determine lucidity and needing to have realistic expectations of nonprofits and knowing what to hold them accountable for.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.