

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

May 8, 2008

In attendance:

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Annie Wilson, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Jodi Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Mark Smasal, Alternate, Veterans Administration
Darryl Martin, Clark County
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Sara Duncan, Alternate, Clark County School District

Absent:

Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
John Bright, Veterans Administration
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District
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 2:06 p.m., on Thursday, May 8, 2008, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the May 8, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for May 8, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the May 8, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on March 13, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2008, 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 Prioritization Workshop would be held on July 10 from noon to 5:00 p.m.

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

Agenda Item 5. Receive an update from the Housing Working Group. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, stated the first meeting had been held on April 15; and she gave an update including: the need for affordable, permanent and transitional housing; including HUD, United Way and others as potential partners; meeting on a bi-monthly basis; arranging meetings with the Housing Authorities and looking at vouchers for veterans had been identified as early priorities; the next meeting was scheduled for June 11.

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

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on funding available through Assembly Bill 126. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, stated that Southern Nevada would receive the promised \$600,000 from the state; and the funding allocations had already been recommended and set and would be approved by the SNRPC Board at their March 20 meeting.

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

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the April 10, 2008, Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, and Ilona Nagy, Event Co-Chair, gave an update on the April 10, 2008, Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect 2008."

Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance, thanked many corporate sponsors and volunteers. She then presented several awards of recognition.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, read an e-mail submitted by Gaylord Pearson, private citizen, regarding April's Project Homeless Connect. The e-mail is as follows:

"My name is Gaylord Pearson & since I will be gone for a few months here are a few of my observations of the April 10 Project Homeless Connect.

1 – Police came up with a great idea to pass out numbers outside so homeless wouldn't have to stand in line for hours as in past.

2 – I thought all the give aways were good but I have a few I think are worth extra comment.

3 – Best give away is still free bus passes, it allows homeless who make appointments with the different organizations a way to get there. Without the passes a lot of appointments made

are missed.

4 – U had a new booth I hadn't seen it's sign said "Help is Here." I went over to the lady running the booth & ask her what the sign meant. She works for the America's Pharmaceutical Co. & they help people who have money problems paying for prescription drugs. Last time I talked to the lady she had only signed up 30 people. This lady flew in from California to work with this stand down. I think this is an excellent program & you should invite her back.

5 – Nevada Dept. of Motor Vehicles had a booth which provided information on how to apply for I.D. cards & Drivers Licenses. They talk to around 175 people & figured about 65 had enough information to get the cards. The ones who said they would get the cards as soon as they could afford to pay for them were sent to the Lutheran Booth which gave out 50 free vouchers for ID cards—cost \$11.25 each or \$562.25.

6 – Other busy areas I saw were – Legal-Social Security-Haircuts-Housing Assistance-Free Lunch-Giveaway Tables. I'm sure there were more but this is what I noticed.

7 – At a booth I was in charge of we gave away over 800 pairs of reading glasses which were donated by the Paulsen family. I also ran a little survey the same one I did at the 2006 stand down – I ask this question – Last night did U sleep inside or out? Out of 640 replies 308 slept inside—332 outside. In my 2006 survey out of 610 replies 295 slept inside 315 slept outside. Conclusion: In last 1 ½ years still over 50% homeless are sleeping outside. NO improvement—from my little survey I think it's time to come up with some new ideas for shelter for homeless!

8 – 2 booths I think are really needed at next stand down—A Vision Booth that does eye exams, glasses repairs, etc. – A Dental Booth or Van. I had 20-30 people stop by my booth asking where the dental van was & wanted eye exams & glasses repaired. Had 3 women ask where Mammogram Bus was.

9 – I feel sure some of you board members came to this Project but I never ran into any of you. Since I believe this is one of the best things this board does I believe you should get around to all of the booths & visit with each a few minutes & ask the question if they have any suggestions how to make this stand down better. If each of U takes 10 booths shouldn't take over an hour??

10 – LAST—I think the ladies who ran this did an excellent job with very few problems. I am looking forward to working the next stand down in the fall."

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

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the development and implementation of the Public Awareness Campaign. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, announced that George McCabe and Brown & Partners would no longer be working on the Public Awareness Campaign. Mr. McCabe then received an award of recognition for service.

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 Inclement Weather Shelter. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, stated the winter shelter program ended on March 31; and she gave an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program for March and April, 2008, as well as a summary of agency beds used from December through March.

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

Agenda Item 10. Receive an update on the Continuum of Care. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, gave an update on the Continuum of Care via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Continuum of Care."

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

Agenda Item 11. Public Comment.

Joseph Maviglia, private citizen, criticized the two minute time limit for public comments. He commented on churches filling the gap in criminal justice, affordable housing and child care. He also spoke about economic imbalances and families; and he stated there was not enough progress for the money being spent. Mr. Maviglia submitted a letter dated May 6, 2008, as follows:

"I am the director of H & E TRAINING SCHOOL'S INC. I am also a volunteer as I decided to do my work for mankind. I have spent many years doing research on the problems that face America today, and I can truthfully say the blame falls on all of us.

Many years ago I started looking for solutions instead of who was to blame, and I found some interesting facts that you may or may not be aware of, and every where I looked I found abuse, corruption, self interest, and most important the refusal to change.

The areas I looked at were the school drop-outs, the homeless, the job market, low income housing, crime and punishment, and most important the economic imbalance in our workforce.

For the low income wage earner there is no such thing as low income housing, also there is no way a low income wage earner can build some equity for their future as was done in the old days, and in those days people would help people, and I am sure you know that it no longer exist in America.

I also found out that many laws and regulations are designed to hold down progress for the low income wage earner.

I could go on and on with all the things that need to be corrected and I offer some examples. First, when they pass a child from one class to another when they did not learn in the class they were in they lost them to the drop-out system. The prisons are full of young people with little or no education."

Teddy Russell, private citizen, stated that he was pleased at the progress being made, and he expects Southern Nevada will be the model for ending homelessness. He applauded Project Homeless Connect, but he

cautioned that the grey blankets used in the winter shelter program caused problems with his asthma. Mr. Russell read the attached SNRPC resolution in support of accelerating the completion date of the V.A.'s medical center health complex and identifying funding for the construction of veterans' housing (domiciliaries).

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented about the Public Awareness Campaign not including veteran specific messaging, and he expressed frustration that there was no support from the local V.A. or Washington for veterans housing or domiciliaries even during wartime. He also requested a survey be done comparing services and available housing from 2001 to today, and he expressed continued frustration that he's asked for this at least five times with no response. Mr. Perna submitted a letter dated May 8, 2008, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee as follows:

“There is a crisis developing in which our Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans are entering our homeless population. Troops in these wars are suffering fatality to casualty rates at least five times greater than previous wars, due to the nature of urban warfare against our enemy using suicide as a tactic.

Our Vietnam and First Gulf War veterans did not receive the care they earned and deserve. They now represent about 60% of our 300,000, nationally, and 4,000, locally, homeless.

We have a need for facilities to provide services for those with (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, (TBI) Traumatic Brain Injury, alcoholism and legal and illegal drug addiction.

The enclosed resolution adopted March 20, 2008, by the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board [*attached at the end of these meeting minutes*], supports the acceleration of the construction date of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Complex and the identification of funding for construction of Domiciliaries veteran's homes to provide essential in-patient care for PTSD, TBI, alcohol, legal and illegal drug addiction.

Please follow the lead of our regional cities and Clark County and lend your support. **SUPPORT OUR TROOPS AND VETERANS.”**

An unidentified private citizen asked about the practice of EMT's picking up the same homeless individuals day after day, treating them and releasing them back onto the streets. He commented that money might be saved if these individuals could be released into a specific program instead of on the streets.

Ivo Plecka, private citizen, submitted a letter dated May 8, 2008, as follows:

In the City of Ljubljana, recognizing that the problems of homelessness will never go away, and realizing it, they came to a conclusion, which I think, the City of Las Vegas should follow. Solution: Affordable housing done from Slovenian perspective, which is: Finance housing for the homeless. Give poor, working poor, low income, homeless people roof over their head for life.

I am offering the State of Nevada the same, Slovenian solution, providing Smart PiterHome housing units at the cost of ONLY US\$20,000.00 maximum for Smart PiterHome integrated unit.

I am here in Las Vegas. Contact me for more information, and VISIT daily our web site at: www.piters.org”

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF ACCELERATING THE COMPLETION DATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' MEDICAL CENTER HEALTH COMPLEX
AT NORTH PECOS ROAD AND THE BRUCE WOODBURY BELTWAY; AND FURTHER IN
SUPPORT OF THE IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
VETERANS' HOUSING (DOMICILIARIES)

WHEREAS, approximately 216,000 veterans live in Clark County; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs is reconfiguring how care will be provided to 54,000 enrolled patients in the region, a client population that is expanding rapidly as service members retire to the area or return from foreign engagements, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Las Vegas ambulatory care center was closed in June of 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced the construction a future medical center health complex at North Pecos Road and the Bruce Woodbury Beltway consisting of a 90-bed hospital, outpatient clinic, 120-bed nursing home and benefits offices; and

WHEREAS, ground was broken for this facility in October of 2006, but the Health Complex is not scheduled to be operational until mid-2011; and

WHEREAS, acceleration of the completion date, and the addition of veterans' housing, will enhance the care and services provided to persons who have served our Country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition does hereby support accelerating the completion date for construction of the Medical Center Health Complex, and also would support the identification of funding for the construction of veterans' housing (domiciliaries).

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of March, 2008.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition adopts this resolution.