

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

May 17, 2007

**In attendance:**

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County  
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District  
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Marc Joseph, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas  
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas  
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson  
Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance (formerly the Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition)  
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce  
Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration

**Absent:**

Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group

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**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 2:07 p.m., on Thursday, May 17, 2007, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the May 17, 2007, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, introduced Kim Amato as the new executive director of the Nevada Homeless Alliance.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for May 17, 2007.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the May 17, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on April 19, 2007.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the April 19, 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 Coordinator, gave a progress update including: a Mayors' Press Conference in Carson City; a recap on Assembly Bill 126; the Crystal Darkness public awareness campaign; and the status of the 10-Point Plan.

There was discussion by the Committee on participation and attendance in the 10-Point Plan sessions so far.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive a report and approve formation of Housing Work Group. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, discussed staffing, participation in and further member representation in a Housing Work Group to focus on building and developing housing for the community's poorest members. She stated their first meeting would be in June, and it coincided with a Housing Conference scheduled for June 21 and 22.

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

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, reminded audience members that the \$20 million proposed for transitional housing in state legislature was in jeopardy, and he encouraged everyone to call or write their legislators to express concern and support.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, agreed on the importance of this.

**Agenda Item 6. Receive a report of allocations to homeless services from each jurisdiction. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Mike Husted, City of Henderson, Leone Lettsome, City of North Las Vegas, Tara Ulmer, City of Las Vegas, and Tim Whitwright, City of Las Vegas, presented individual reports, by their respective jurisdictions, on budget allocations to homeless services.

There was discussion by the Committee on each report. There was also discussion on pooling and consolidating all the data into a single spreadsheet or report that could be presented at the August workshop.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Joe Maviglia, H & E Training Schools, stated "...all the money's going out, and none's coming back. Let's figure out a way to get some of the money coming back. Let these people get involved in the system where they pay as they go..." He commented on the billions being spent with good intentions but still wrongly, and the billions available through organizations like the Gates Foundation or through federal grants. He also commented on prisoner reintegration into the workforce via his nonprofit organization as well as helping the homeless by getting them to help themselves.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive a report on and funding recommendations for the Continuum of Care. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst/Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator, gave a report on the 2007 CoC applicants and their applications, and she presented the CoC prioritization and funding recommendations for 2007 via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Continuum of Care Competition."

There was discussion by the Committee on the HUD standards versus the percentages on the proposed application.

There was also discussion by the Committee on the new housing project submitted by Clark County Social Service.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, requested a list of all applicants that applied for funds.

There was further discussion by the Committee on the difficulty in locating a service provider willing to provide new housing for the chronically homeless population.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the prioritization and funding recommendations for the 2007 Continuum of Care application. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive a report on the 2007 Winter Point in Time Count. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, introduced Peter Connery and discussed community sessions, scheduled to begin next week, for service providers to discuss the findings and implications of the count.

Peter Connery, Applied Survey Research, presented the final draft of the 2007 Winter Point in Time Count via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Southern Nevada Homeless Census Survey and Panhandling Study." He stated that the final total number of sheltered, unsheltered and hidden homeless submitted to HUD was 11,417.

There was discussion by the Committee on the summer count, and the date for the summer count has been set at July 31, 2007. There was also discussion on prioritizing services and resources based on the data shown in the report.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 9. 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, reported that the mobile shower unit was on display outside, and she encouraged everyone to go see it after the meeting.

Larry Lovelett, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), presented a summary report for NPHY for April, 2007.

Pat Lau, OUTREACH Evaluator, presented the monthly OUTREACH report for April, 2007, and an OUTREACH comprehensive program report for November (2005) through April (2007). She also

recommended comparing local HMIS data with regional and national results as well as to the results found during the homeless count.

Ms. West reminded everyone that Clark County Social Service was committed to continuing the funding for the two AB580 programs.

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

### **Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.**

Dennis Larson, KEY Foundation, praised the mobile shower unit.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, presented an article from the May 12 issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled "State's vets missing out on benefits" and an article from the May 17 issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled "VA requests close look at awarding of bonuses." He read a letter he submitted as follows:

"Are the only persons responsible and accountable for their actions the American people?"

In the case of Jim Nicholson, Secretary of the V.A., are the veterans only held responsible and accountable? He gave bonuses not only to V.A. senior officials but to the V.A. performance review board members themselves, then he calls for oversight when complaints are made. How can these bureaucrats be expected to look out for the interests of veterans when they get bonuses for shortchanging veterans and jeopardizing veteran health care?

Where is the outrage, on our local level, from veterans groups, our congressional delegation and the population about the deceit in closure of the Guy Ambulatory Clinic in 2003? Since then \$16,000,000.00 has been wasted in the inefficient dispersal of the V.A. health care system and another \$16,000,000.00 will be wasted if the V.A. keeps to the absurd 2011-2012 completion date for the V.A. Health Complex at 215 and Pecos.

If the clinic was so bad why was Moreland Corporation, who built and leased it, given an \$18,000,000.00 award? Why did Cox buy it and was given land practically free? Why was the transportation company that provided transportation to 5 clinic locations shorted \$576,000.00? Are the returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and our homeless veterans going to be provided with housing and programs to address alcoholism, drug use, traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the Health Complex?

Finally, where are the voices of veterans, their families and friends? That's the reason we have the first amendment. Let our congressional delegation know you want more action and less lip service and crocodile tears."

Mr. Perna also requested members of the audience get involved with "Enough talk. More action."

Joe Maviglia, H & E Training Schools, submitted a letter he wrote to Justice Mike Cherry in 1987 as well as some background on H & E Training Schools. He discussed the history of his program, and he proposed moving the trailers and mobile home units not be used by Katrina victims to the suburbs of Las Vegas to mortgage to the homeless, ex-felons and dropouts. Mr. Maviglia also discussed low wage earners not being able to afford the cost of surviving, and the importance of "...everyone being on the same page." He stated "...\$75,000 to handle 15 clients? Come on, that's ludicrous. Even though 15 of the clients, or 10 of them, got some help...but when you put the \$75,000 expended to get that help for those 15 clients, that's shameful."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.