

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

June 12, 2008

In attendance:

Maryann Ustick, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Tim Burch, Alternate, Clark County
Mike Husted, Alternate, City of Henderson
Mike Darley, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce

Absent:

Darryl Martin, Clark County
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas
Richard Failla, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
John Bright, Veterans Administration
Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

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 Maryann Ustick, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:01 p.m., on Thursday, June 12, 2008, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the June 12, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for June 12, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 12, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on May 8, 2008.

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

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

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to nominate Mike Darley, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and Richard Failla, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, to the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness; and to forward the nominations to the SNRPC 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: a Prioritization Workshop would be held at Nevada Partners on July 10 from noon to 5:00 p.m. and would replace the regularly scheduled Committee on Homelessness meeting for July; the AB 629 funding for \$600,000 has been received from the State and would be disbursed as recommended; and \$1.2 million in grant money may be awarded by HUD to a Southern Nevada Rapid Rehousing Demonstration Project if it was chosen as the final applicant.

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

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, stated that the Summer Day Shelter opened for the first time yesterday (June 11, 2008).

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

Agenda Item 7. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, submitted a letter dated June 12, 2008, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee as follows:

“My name is Frank Perna and since I don’t want to fit the classic definition of mental illness by repeating the same actions and not learning, when I get the same results, I am going to try a new tactic.

Since our economy is in a recession and the poor and homeless are increasing, including our Iraqi Afghanistan veterans, our tactics in addressing homelessness must change unless we want the status quo or failure.

There is a need, and has been for years, for housing for the homeless, drop in centers to increase access to services and as I’ve stressed for about 6 months veterans homes (domicilliaries) to provide therapy inpatient care for our returning Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans suffering PTSD, TBI, alcohol and legal and illegal drug addiction.

We only have to look to our federal government and congress to see the results of rigid political ideologies and the lack of true debate and consideration which has led to economic chaos and failure.

Homelessness is a humanitarian issue which has been treated politically and this must change. We need less meetings, with a fixed agenda, and more open debate on solutions which are practical.

Homeless housing at about \$140,000 per efficiency apartment and with a staff expense for case management is not practical, economical and can never meet the needs of our 11,400+ population. We need alternative solutions to include transportation container, modular

housing and trailers.

We have had a March 20, 2008 SNRPC Board resolution which supports domicilliarities (veterans homes) on the V.A. Medical Health complex location at North Pecos Road and the Bruce Woodbury Beltway. We now need a public debate involving our local V.A. administration, congressional delegation and the public to make an open decision on this essential program already being implemented nationally.

We now need public debate.”

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.