JOINT HOMELESSNESS WORKSHOP MINUTES

COALITION BOARD, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND *COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS*

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

June 16, 2005

In attendance:

Coalition Board:

Trustee Denise Brodsky, CHAIR, Clark County School District
Mayor Robert Ferraro, City of Boulder City
Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas
Councilman Lawrence Weekly, City of Las Vegas
Commissioner Myrna Williams, Clark County
Mayor James Gibson, Alternate, City of Henderson

Technical Committee:

Paul Gerner, CHAIR, Clark County School District
Phil Speight, City of Henderson
Jacob Snow, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada

Committee on Homelessness:

Thom Reilly, CHAIR, Clark County
Orlando Sanchez, Alternate, City of Las Vegas
Kenny Young, Alternate, City of North Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition
Pat Duncan, Veteran's Administration
Keith Willoughby, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Sgt. Kendall Wiley, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

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Please note that the meeting began at 3:35 p.m., without officially being called to order, with Agenda Item 4 – Workshop on Homelessness: A Regional Response to Homelessness – Accomplishments and Gaps as there was no quorum of the Coalition Board at that time. Agenda Items 4(a) – Preliminary Comments, 4(b) – Video, 4(c) – The Costs of Homelessness, 4(d) – Homeless Interventions and 4(e) – Building an Effective Continuum of Care were covered as informational items before quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

Doug Lyon, Facilitator, Clark County, began with agenda item 4(a) by stating that the Workshop would begin with an update on progress made by the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness regarding their Regional Plan; and the purpose of the Workshop was for input and directional dialog between the Committee on Homelessness and the SNRPC Board members so the final plan could be presented and approved by the Coalition Board at their July meeting.

A video illustrating challenges faced by both homeless individuals and service providers was presented at this time as agenda item 4(b).

Darryl Martin, Director of Social Services, Clark County, gave a presentation and report on agenda item 4(c) Costs of Care for Homeless-Related and Prevention Services, primarily for the Chronically Homeless. He

stated, for example, that "the Southern Nevada region has dedicated more than $56 million to homeless services in the past three years; and in the current fiscal year alone $25 million has been allocated to homeless prevention, intervention and treatment services." He commented that "according to client data compiled by Clark County Social Services over a three year period, from July 2002 through May 2005, 3,244 individuals were identified as homeless at a cost of approximately $10.9 million. While the majority of these individuals, the temporary and the episodic homeless, were assisted at minimal cost,…113 of these individuals, about 4% of them, utilized more than 55% of the total $10.9 million." He also stated how "Clark County Social Service conducted a study of four of these chronically homeless individuals over the same three year period…these four individuals accumulated more than $870,000 in expenses, primarily medical expenses during this time period;" and he discussed their individual break-down of costs in more detail. He concluded by stating that "currently we spend the largest share of our resources on treatment and intervention as opposed to prevention. While we know prevention is the key to avoiding homelessness, until we remove the thousands of clients off the streets and into suitable housing, we need to continue to make available treatment and intervention services. Intervention at any step in the progression of homelessness requires a coordinated effort between a number of sources."

Paula Haynes-Green, Regional Homelessness Coordinator, introduced Mr. Gerald Schmidt and Ms. Danielle Waters as people to "put a face on the problem." She said Mr. Schmidt is a 62-year old formerly homeless man who was homeless from 1999 to 2001 when he met someone from *Straight From the Street* who provided him with showers, clothing, shelter and transported him to other service providers for mental health treatment and rehabilitation. He is currently living independently although he still requires some assistance with some medical and mental health issues. She also said Ms. Waters was homeless for 5 to 6 years as a result of domestic violence, and she's been off the street for only three months. Ms. Haynes-Green then gave a presentation and report on agenda item 4(d) Homeless Interventions – Types of Services involved in getting people off the streets and some of the providers offering them. The types of services she discussed included: Street Outreach, Government Services and Benefits, Medical Services, Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Case Management, Emergency Shelter Providers, Domestic Violence Shelter Providers, Transitional Housing and Veterans Service Providers.

Thom Reilly, County Manager, Clark County, gave a presentation and report on agenda item 4(e) Building an Effective Continuum of Care-Sustainable Housing. He commented that over the past 18 months since the Committee on Homelessness was formed, at the direction of the Coalition Board, they've addressed the issue of homelessness from a regional perspective, they've begun a plan to get people off the street and keep them off and they've always spoken with one voice between all the cities, mental health, Metro, the School District, the Veteran's Committee and the Coalition of Homeless. He stated that the $6 million would not have been awarded by the federal government nor would the $4 million have been awarded by the State if the plan submitted had not been regional. He reiterated some of the points relating to cost and expenditures that Mr. Martin had made; and he discussed the focus of issues related to sustainable and attainable housing guided by the development of a two-way housing continuum format from prevention, shelter, transitional to stable housing.

He continued by explaining the four goals hoped of the Coalition Board during their July meeting including: verifying that the 10 identified priorities and associated expenditures are on the right track, approve the spending plan for the $4 million awarded by the State, get permission to re-prioritize the annual money spent over the priorities ($25 million last year) and finally to approve a marketing plan developed by Brown and Associates' donated time.

Mr. Reilly began concluding by discussing the Accomplishments and Gaps of each of the four steps of the Sustainable Housing Continuum as well as some of the Local Level Accomplishments (i.e. providing basic shelter services, funding additional winter beds, summer day shelter program, response to encampments such as the Wilson Street intervention, Homeless Trust Fund established, etc.).

Trustee Denise Brodsky, Chair of the SNRPC Coalition Board, Clark County School District, interrupted Mr. Reilly to officially call the meeting to order as Board quorum had been met.

Agenda Item 1. Call to order; notice of agenda conformance with the Open Meeting Law requirements.

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board was called to order by Trustee Denise Brodsky, Chair, Clark County School District, at 4:13 p.m., on Thursday, June 16, 2005, in Grand Ballrooms C & D, City of Henderson Convention Center, 200 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada.

The agenda for the June 16, 2005, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Roll Call.

All members of the SNRPC Coalition Board, as listed above, were present except for Councilman Shari Buck, City of North Las Vegas, Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, City of North Las Vegas, Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson, Councilman Amanda Cyphers, City of Henderson and Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald, Clark County.

All members of the SNRPC Technical Committee, as listed above, were present except for Vicki Mayes, City of Boulder City, Gregory Rose, City of North Las Vegas, Doug Selby, City of Las Vegas, Christine Robinson, Clark County Air Quality Department and Patricia Mulroy, Southern Nevada Water Authority.

All members of the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness, as listed above, were present except for Betsy Fretwell, City of Las Vegas, Bonnie Rinaldi, City of Henderson, Susan Wright, Clark County School District, Deputy Chief Theodore Moody, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Assistant Chief Joseph Chronister, North Las Vegas Police Department.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the agenda for June 16, 2005.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 16, 2005, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Brodsky stated that people interested in speaking during the Public Comments were advised to fill out and submit a speaker card found at the front of the room so names could be called. She also explained that Edward James, Regional Planner, had provided a list of questions that the Coalition Board had raised during their May Board meeting to ensure they were adequately covered or so they could be asked again. Additionally, she complimented the members of the Committee on Homelessness for the work and effort they had contributed.

Agenda Item 4. Workshop on Homelessness: A Regional Approach to Homelessness – Accomplishments and Gaps. Recommended action – Take appropriate action.

(The meeting resumed at this point with the conclusion of item 4(e) – Building an Effective Continuum of Care – Sustainable Housing and with items 4(f) – Reflections from the Street and 4(g) – Discussion.)

Mr. Reilly finished his conclusion of agenda item 4(e) by discussing the contributions by the State of Nevada including the special state funding of $4 million (i.e. Crisis Intervention Team equipped with "wrap-around dollars", Case Management Team, Community Assistance Program, mobile showers and restrooms, etc.); and

he discussed identified gaps within the community, the Wilson Street Intervention accomplishments and gaps and specifics of the Homeless Trust Fund and the marketing outreach campaign and plan developed by Brown and Associates.

Mr. Lyon, Facilitator, introduced Ms. Crystal Companion and Pauline (didn't give her last name) during agenda item 4(f) Reflections from the Street. Ms. Companion is an 18-year old formerly homeless person who discussed her abusive background, her current success of self-sufficiency with minor assistance, and she asked for consideration for homeless teenagers. Pauline discussed her troubled background involving drug and alcohol abuse, as well as two separate unsuccessful visits to Shade Tree before a successful third attempt. She also thanked individuals in the audience from various organizations who helped her.

Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas, thanked Pauline for sharing her experiences and asked her why she rejected the system until the third time at Shade Tree, and what was the difference that made her subject to change; and Pauline responded that "the difference was that there was a full focus of all the different resources in one place." Mayor Goodman asked if "there was a location where all of the support systems were located, in one place, that that would have been the defining moment as far as you're saying 'I realize I could help myself';" and Pauline responded that it was because she walked in and their door was open. Mayor Goodman commented on "…why people choose to be homeless or maybe you don't choose to be homeless you just happen to become homeless, and you reject the services that are available; but at this one particular time you said you realized you didn't want to be homeless anymore, and I'm trying to find out what makes somebody say that."

Trustee Brodsky thanked Crystal and asked to talk to her later about her experiences on finishing her education, as well as her being a role model to some of the current homeless students enrolled in the Clark County School District.

Mr. Reilly reiterated the four areas asked of the Coalition Board during their July meeting (1. Are we in the right direction on these 10 priorities, 2. Approve a spending plan for the State dollars, 3. Permission to re-prioritize the money spent to these 10 areas and 4. Approve the marketing campaign).

Trustee Brodsky responded that she wanted to begin dialog so that she could get a feel for where the Coalition Board members wanted to take things with direction.

Commissioner Myrna Williams, Clark County, asked where the money for the Trust Fund was going to come from, other than the $4 million from the State, and whether it was going to be borrowed; and Mr. Reilly responded that first would be the re-prioritizing of the existing dollars and second would be using the marketing campaign with the trust fund and going to the private sector, beginning in July with the approved plan, showing support by elected officials to a regional approach and supplementing the private dollars. Commissioner Williams asked if the leveraging, then, is from the private sector; and Mr. Reilly responded that it would be the private sector as well as federal grants written with State participation allowing for leveraging.

Trustee Brodsky asked where the Homeless Trust Fund dollars were used or asked for; and Mr. Reilly responded that there wasn't much money in the Trust Fund and it would begin being marketed in July, but as the money began coming in they wanted the flexibility to let the private sector target areas or populations; but in July they weren't asking the municipalities to give additional money, rather they wanted to re-prioritize and use the State dollars as well as begin the marketing campaign.

Mayor Goodman commented that he was very happy that the recognition that homelessness was a regional problem was widely understood since he was chair of the Coalition Board five years earlier; however he saw some serious legal problems in order to address the homeless issues in Southern Nevada. He told of a

gentleman he knew that used to live on the street that he spoke to daily before he was elected mayor, and who rejected his offer of assistance. After he was elected mayor, he again offered multiple attempts of assistance that have all been rejected. Mayor Goodman questions if "we who are spending $10.9 million can't get one man into treatment, off the street into transitional housing, can we succeed; and I'm not optimistic about it…the City of Las Vegas (has) bought into it and we're trying to help, but if we can't get one man off the street, there's something wrong with what we're trying to do. And the reason we can't get one man off the street is because in America…a person's socioeconomic status is not grounds to take that person into custody…I think we do need a law though…different than the one where somebody is in danger of hurting themselves or somebody else where we can take them into custody for some 72 hours and get them certified for treatment. I think we need a law and we have to start thinking about where we become the guardian for those who can't help themselves so we can take a person, like this gentlemen, kindly and gently and tell him he doesn't know what's best for himself…and we have to take that person and we have to be able to bring them into a system that puts them on medication, that gets them transitional housing, that tries to get him back into society rather than to allow him to live the life he chooses to live…that the first thing we have to do we have to figure out a way to help these kind of chronically mentally ill folks who are service resistant, not in a negative way, but they just don't want to be helped…"

Mayor Goodman continued "Number two, we have a degree of our population who are homeless who commit crimes and the crimes are not violent crimes, they're crimes that are basically…jaywalking…trespassing…staying too long in a park after the park hour…I think we really need to have a homeless court…where Metro can take these folks who are committing crimes…and bring them into a court system which then directs those persons to the facilities so they are able to be treated…Third, all the good folks who are here today, many of them are enablers who write letters to the editor but don't ever give solutions, but they enable the homeless to remain homeless and not want to better their station in life because they go out there and they feed them and they think they're doing the right thing, but they're enabling them to remain in that status; and when you try to give them a ticket to go home they're not particularly interested in taking that ticket…because they're eating pretty good here and they're being treated pretty decently here and they sort of like their lifestyle…when we have the opportunity we have to be able to address the homeless and try to get them the help that they don't necessarily want to get for themselves…(was) at Catholic Charities around Thanksgiving or Christmas and saw a terrific opportunity there where you get about 1500 of these folks who come into a facility, who aren't on the street, twice a day to eat decent meals which are donated to them and that's wonderful, but at the same time I didn't see any social workers there really…who are there trying to get them while they are a captive audience in order to get them into these programs we're talking about…we suggested that the jails have social workers so that when somebody goes in you ask them whether they have any relatives who live in a different part of the country and whether they would like to be with that relative, and if they say yes then you contact the relative and you buy the person a ticket..."

He concluded "These are the kind of programs that I think are practical programs…I think what we're talking about here may be a little too theoretical. I'm not being critical because it's a step and it's a step in the right direction…but I'd like to address the problems today and not necessarily tomorrow…affordability of housing is such in Southern Nevada now that people you would never dream of being homeless aren't going to be able to afford homes, and the first thing you're going to see is these good people who have jobs are going to be living in their cars and they're going to be looking for assistance so we've got a whole new generation that we're going to have to contend with and we haven't been able to resolve the old generation yet…"

Commissioner Williams responded that she "could appreciate the Mayor's consternation over this but to be pragmatic, reality tells us you're not going to get 100% of the people…but that doesn't in any way negate the premises put forward by the Homeless Committee. There are going to be people who do not want help…nobody gets help until they're ready to get it…but unless they have some assistance and they're ready…(like) crisis intervention and the availability of all the tools that the case workers need during that intervention…I like the idea of homeless court…but on the other hand I don't want to see us just take that

money…the homeless court is just taking people somewhere, it's not really doing that kind of case management…Are we going to have 100% of homeless people that will transition into a stable, sustainable life? No, that's just 'pie in the sky' to think we could ever do that…I personally like the idea of re-prioritizing and going forward with the four steps that have been suggested."

Councilman Lawrence Weekly, City of Las Vegas, stated that he was concerned "how people that we're servicing, people that we're taking care of, what type of perspective or opinions do they have because a lot of times you're talking to people that's not even affected by the issues that we're talking about; and we're formulating all these ideas and opinions and plans but never take the time out to talk to people who we are addressing…F and Wilson Street, that's a neighborhood…this is a two-fold situation here…how do we address those folks just because they don't live in $250,000 homes it's still someone's home, it's still someone's neighborhood. How do we adequately address those questions…I had a meeting dealing with day laborers…a lot of times you get these issues…I'm interested in knowing what people are saying, what do we do, how do we address those issues…I'm very sensitive to those out there that need our help, but I'm also very sensitive to the neighborhood that's also affected by this because they're wondering at what point do we get any relief, at what point does anyone speak on behalf of our quality of life…"

Mayor Goodman commented that "we've done a great job at F and Wilson…(but) there are still people there…I have been advised that the people who are there are criminals, that criminals have come in and replaced the homeless. That there are still some homeless…probably the chronically mentally ill who are still there who have not moved…I suggest that, if in fact, criminals are using homeless shelters to give themselves camouflage…they should arrest those people. We've got them all together, and put them in jail and let them do 6 months in the detention center, those who are the criminals who are taking advantage of the homeless situation."

Please note that at this time in the meeting, Mayor Goodman had to leave and quorum was lost.

Agenda Item 5. Public Comment.

Frank Perna asked "how do we know those people left on Wilson Street are criminals and they should be jailed?" He commented that "it's that type of thinking that's wrong. I'm sure there are some people out there, just as there are in the general population, that are criminals, but to label the people who are left there as criminals, I don't think is very helpful." He stated that "the Wilson Street Intervention was a necessary program precipitated by the Clark County Health District which did help many people. But this good work is going to be overshadowed by yet another sweep…negating the good work achieved…The regional governments must not let the sweep disburse the homeless throughout the region as has been done in the past. All efforts must be made to provide shelter, housing and services by removing bureaucratic barriers and increasing funding…The Board should also consider making public service announcements to increase public awareness. This will lead to donations to the Trust Fund and volunteerism to provide mentors…we also need more involvement from the Veterans Administration and Congress to help the approximate 2500 homeless veterans in our region…" Mr. Perna concluded with comments regarding three "children-only parks" being mandated to stop the homeless from using the parks, and that this practice isn't right, nor would be homeless courts; and "if we go into a 10-year program with this type of attitude, we're going to fail."

Danielle Waters declined to speak.

Leroy Pelton, Southern Nevada Advocates for Homeless People, thanked and congratulated Thom Reilly and the Committee on Homelessness for obtaining the $4 million appropriation from the state legislature. He commented on "not so much the services but the structure of those services such as the shower facilities, toilet facilities, storage facilities and whether it is wise to disburse these amongst established organizations or whether it would not be better to put up a day center under a tent where we could have all these facilities

centrally located in one place…" He also referred to Denver's Day Care Center, with an annual budget of $1 million, where "1200 homeless people can receive mail, about 450 people can store their belongings there and they can receive phone calls…up to 600 people a day use showers, sinks and toilets…it is this type of center with a welcoming approach that is needed in Las Vegas…" He stated that "the day center that was open last summer in the Catholic Charities facility…it was rows of chairs…it was a rather cold looking place (and) perhaps this place could be dressed up and made more welcoming and accommodating…Center that Brother David founded, Poverello House…many homeless people said to him that they loved coming…that they felt welcome and accepted there…and it's that kind of underlying attitude and atmosphere that a center has to give off…use this same money to erect a large tent, much like the tent on the grounds of the Furniture Mart…that could be air cooled in the summer…cots or beds could be available…We appreciate the efforts and plans being made but we need to stop the cycle…of people congregating in an area that becomes unsanitary…and we're still not addressing even their basic needs…Once the 'tension of the streets' is off of them perhaps they'll be more receptive to the services that we do have to offer."

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight from the Streets, stated that "for every Mr. Bivens that the Mayor talks about, there's a Gerald Schmidt…there's a Danielle Waters…we are saving or assisting 10 more people like Mr. Schmidt and Danielle Waters…intensive outreach, that's what's missing…case management, that's what's missing…my program does not have all the answers but we do and can show you, and you can knock on the doors of a lot of chronically homeless people who did not have a door for many, many years…they are learning to come to these meetings and speak out and be their own voice…it's very scary for people to leave the streets, just because we offer them housing, just because we offer them food…we also have to have psychiatrists to go to the street…we do need to have outreach services…we do need to understand this is not going to go away but we are actually assisting people, there's just not enough people to assist them with…For every person that we took off Wilson Street…most of them could not be housed in the money that's already appropriated for housing for them…those $369 vouchers are not appropriate for the majority of people that were on Wilson Street…the Mayor is right on one issue…a person who decides to live in 115 degree heat wearing every outfit that they ever had in their life is a threat to themselves…need the psychiatrist or somebody in the street to start to assess and diagnose them from that street corner…"

Councilman Weekly asked "with the priorities that Mr. Reilly had set forth for us here today to review and to give some direction on, what is your opinion about the directions in which we're looking to possibly take, and what do you think that we actually need to do…what's the number one priority, what's the goal we need to take?"; and Ms. Lera-Randle El responded "you actually need almost a 9-1-1 center similar to…a phone base where somebody is answering those calls. None of us get quick response to anything. That doesn't matter, we're not going to get quick response because this issue is so far out of control; but we DO need some place where people can call in…There's just so much that needs to be done it's hard to say where to start, but we do need some place where people can call…we need to start with the youth, of course, too…we're really continually looking at Las Vegas. Everyone talks regional, but we never get to the region…we've spent a great deal of time on one block…in one area of this town, but regional means regional."

Trustee Brodsky stated that United Way is working with a state-wide collaboration on a 2-1-1 project which will be a call-in center for all types of services.

Gerald Schmidt commented how before he was homeless, he had a good job but then got depression and ultimately lost everything. He said if it hadn't have been for the daily visits and assistance by Ms. Lera-Randle El, he thought he'd "still be out there, if I was even still alive." He stated that what was needed was "teams going out there to try and talk to these people over and over and don't give up."

Terry Lindemann, Interfaith Hospitality Network/Family Promise, said she'd "like to be the voice for homeless families. There's so many stations of homeless in our city and across the nation, and I have met very few people who choose homelessness. They're homeless today because of economic standards…the top

1% of America makes more than the bottom 50%. Our organization seeks to partner with many other agencies in town that will help us lift these families up again…Our families' biggest frustrations now are the low minimum wage…They are also having trouble with housing…We cannot find enough transitional housing (or) affordable housing, and I get very concerned when I hear about apartments that are going to go to condos because that is going to decrease the amount of housing available to our families. They don't want to be homeless, but they cannot afford an apartment when they're making an average of $8/hour…I encourage everyone that has any input into the solutions to find ways to build affordable housing in Las Vegas…If some of those boarded up houses could be gifted to non-profits to use until they're sold or until they're going to be turned over to someone else then maybe we could find a solution for some of the families."

Councilman Weekly stated that "that's why we're discussing this on a regional basis…For us last year alone, 48 houses that we partner with Christmas in April, Habitat for Humanity…we're always looking for partnerships like that…that what's going to solve this problem is partnership."

Patricia Martinelli-Price commented about the recent sweeps and how they have a negative impact on tourism. She mentioned that she was in Santa Fe, New Mexico, during the last sweep and heard about it even there. She stated that "we do have a crisis in our hands because of the children…we need to do it in a humane way, and I do not like the situation that we have to have Metro do this…I think we need to all come together…when I was raised in this community we helped our brothers and sisters. Didn't matter what ethnic group they were (or) what religious group, we all worked together…I think it's important to try to do this in the most humane way…we need to do the right thing." She spoke of homeless individuals she's taken into her home, and she reiterated the importance of "doing the right thing."

Edward Kline, Jewish War Veteran's Post 34 Las Vegas, spoke about an innovative program he's involved with, in conjunction with CBOC (a community outreach program that is part of the Veteran's Administration), that assists homeless employable veterans. He stated that since July 2002, they've assisted 359 homeless veterans get off the street by placing them in hotels, giving them food, giving them tokens for transportation and assisting with job placement. Mr. Kline said 80% of them got on their feet; and the cost since 2002 totaled approximately $26,000 which was about $82 per veteran.

Brenda Dizon was not available to speak, however Pamela Valencia, Lutheran Social Services of Nevada, spoke in her place. Ms. Valencia stated that "3 years ago when Pauline Purdy, the young woman who spoke (earlier) about her stay at the homeless shelter at Shade Tree…at that time I was her case manager at the Shade Tree, and I spent two years there. As she came in and out of that shelter, the thing that made the difference for her was that those services were available…they just need to be available, and it's up to that individual person. When it's time for them to stop being homeless, they will make that decision for themselves. But it's our responsibility as a community to have those services available, because if we don't, when the time comes for that person to make that decision, if there aren't services for them to access they will continue to remain homeless…As a community we need to continue to listen to the voices of the homeless who are willing to speak because they know…"

Bev Campbell stated that she's working with the County now, and she's also worked with the State, with welfare and with Medicaid so she's gotten to see how the system works with families from babies to the elderly. She said the difference with Linda (Lera-Randle El) is "we do it immediately…one example that I can give is one father that we had at the rescue mission had a little girl and he was staying in the shelter and he had one week to stay and then it was time to move…we went directly to him…and he needed daycare…we immediately put the little girl into daycare…he had a chance to then go out and put job applications out…Because he only had three more days, he and his little girl would have been back out on the street, we put them into an apartment…and he got a job before the week was up…If you move quickly…it's not money wasted either, it's money that's very useful. So I think that having that pocket of money, and just going right at it and just getting to that person, seeing what they need and start helping as fast as you can…you can lose

them in a day."

Dan Mackell Hatton, Homeless Advocate, commented that "helping people get off the street is probably one of the greatest feelings inside I've ever had." He said he's "striving for community involvement…getting people to help the homeless one-on-one…" He stated that "I don't see a volunteer staff. I think that may be one answer we haven't looked at."

Reverend Charles Bowker, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition, responded that "all the institutional money that we can pour into this problem is never going to get the chronic homeless folks off the street mainly because we live in a country where we have free rights and the individual can refuse services; and those who are burnt out on the services will continue to refuse services. However…to help people who are volunteers to go out and make one-on-one contact…when the Mayor speaks of people who are enabling because they are taking sandwiches and bottles of water, those people are actually getting to know these folks by name…and once that one individual who is not representing an institutional or governmental agency comes up and says 'Brother, I'd like to introduce myself'…and then actually commits to taking them through the process…to stick with them…that's what it's going to take…That is the great untapped resource. We've got to get to the churches and synagogues, and mosques, that faith-based volunteer 'army of angels' who might be able to help…"

Mayor James Gibson, City of Henderson, responded that "we've seen and felt the room full of hopeful frustration…there really is an army of volunteers, some of them are here and many others who work with them are in other places…in so many ways they are and will always be our volunteer staff, that's the only way that we can really get to the bottom of the needs that are out there…we have to start somewhere…getting the regional government act together. We have gone out in different directions…that hasn't gotten us anywhere, and it's time for us to really come together…and it may not even cause there to be a dip in the level of need in an immediate way, but we have to stay the course…and if we do it in an orderly way and we follow the recommendations that are made to us, we commit ourselves to the priorities…over time we can begin to make a difference. If we don't start here we can't just run to one solution or another, we have to lay a foundation that will be strong enough to support an effort that's larger than any one of us can do…" He then complimented Mr. Reilly on the excellence of what was presented, and he gave the support of the City of Henderson to the priorities and discussed expenditures.

Councilman Weekly also complimented Mr. Reilly on the fantastic job, and he thanked his staff, too. He summarized what he'd heard into four main points: "Multiple, available services that we need at a one-stop-shop equipped with a 24-hour crisis line…also heard that not only should we have a 24-hour crisis line but we also need a crisis intervention team…people who are readily available to go out there and provide treatment and intervention…Volunteers in my opinion are great. I think volunteers are wonderful people, but I also believe you get what you pay for; and I believe that with appropriations like this, we need to spend the money wisely. We need to stop increasing salaries and save some lives."

Trustee Brodsky commented that she agreed with Councilman Weekly's statements, and she thanked everyone who came forward with presentations of their time, thoughts and feelings as well as for the "eye opener for me." She asked Rob Warhola, Legal Council, about advice on next steps since no action could be taken without quorum; and Mr. Warhola responded that he thought they'd (Committee on Homelessness) received direction, and so those items could be placed on the Coalition Board's July meeting agenda for action at that time.

Mr. Reilly thanked the Coalition Board for the direction they'd given.

Trustee Brodsky commented that the United Way is working on the Community Impact Model, and part of that is on self-sufficiency, and a great deal has to do with homelessness. She also agreed with Mayor Gibson

that "we do need to come together and work, with all the entities together, all the non-profits…"

Mayor Robert Ferraro, City of Boulder City, complimented Mr. Reilly on the work he'd done, especially with getting all the information into one place.

Agenda Item 6. The next date and location for the regular meeting of the SNRPC Board is tentatively scheduled for July 28, 2005, 3:30 p.m., at the Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada.

This agenda item was *not* read by Trustee Denise Brodsky, Chair, Clark County School District.

Agenda Item 7. Adjournment.

The meeting was not officially adjourned as quorum was lost at approximately 5:00 p.m. when Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas, had to leave. The meeting ended at 5:35 p.m.

The following letter, dated June 15, 2005, was submitted to the SNRPC Board by Mr. Frank Perna:

"It has been three years and nine months since the HUD/SNRPC summit was held to promote regional cooperation to institute a ten year program to end chronic homeless.

Since then we have been engaged in a political exercise with the homeless used as political pawns. Aside from a formula to allocate costs there has been little regional cooperation. I won't bore you with a litany of unconstitutional actions against the homeless, consisting of sweeps where there possessions were trashed and selective enforcement of laws were used against them. Elected officials, who take an oath to protect and defend the constitution either stood by silent or actively participated in these actions.

Now the sixty day intervention on Wilson St. is drawing to a close with a threatened sweep. Metro will be given the unpalatible job of dispersing the homeless throughout the region because the promised services did not materialize. Housing first is an empty motto and bureaucratic barriers must be removed if a ten year plan is to be effective.

We need regional drop in centers where food, clothing, showers, restrooms, phone, internet service and copiers are available. This will allow the homeless, in dignity, to rehabilitate themselves. We also need regional emergency shelters with no temperature trigger. We also need innovative housing regionally. There are hundreds of empty buildings that must be utilized for housing.

The state of Nevada has, through the legislature, provided four million dollars for services. The Regional governments must match these funds and provide the drop in centers and emergency shelter along with housing.

Political wrangling must stop. Now is the time for action. The Regional governments must intercede on Wilson St. to prevent another humanitarian disaster. The costs for this must be shared regionally.

Without regional cooperation a ten year plan to end chronic homelessness will be an empty promise and a charade."