

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

July 20, 2006

In attendance:

Thom Reilly, CHAIR, Clark County
Kendall Wiley, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Frank Butterfield, 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 Thom Reilly, Chair, Clark County, at 2:08 p.m., on Thursday, July 20, 2006, in the North Las Vegas City Council Chambers, 2200 Civic Center Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the July 20, 2006, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for July 20, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the July 20, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on June 15, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the June 15, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 4. Receive an update on the development and implementation of the Public Awareness Campaign. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

George McCabe, Brown & Partners, and Robert Herdzik, Bitfocus Inc., gave an update on the Public Awareness Campaign via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Regional Approach to Homelessness – Public Awareness Campaign Update, July 20, 2006." Mr. McCabe recommended "Help, Hope, Home" as a brand and www.helphopehome.org as a website to replace the current homeless trust fund.

Jason Gray, Strategic Solutions, presented the results of the online business survey via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Corporate Giving Research, July 20, 2006." He also provided a report titled "SNRPC Corporate Giving Survey:Executive Summary."

Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas, asked about the apparent incongruence between the survey results and the public awareness campaign; and Mr. Gray responded about showing the importance of getting the word out and tailoring a targeted outreach to the business community.

A motion was made and seconded to accept “Help, Hope, Home” as an official brand name. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was discussion by the Committee on changing the Committee on Homelessness’ meeting location to either Clark County or the City of Las Vegas so meetings could be broadcast, as it was cost prohibitive to broadcast from the City of North Las Vegas.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, stated that the meetings would not be broadcast live from the Clark County Government Center, but instead would be taped and played back periodically on Channel 4 and possibly Channel 2.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, recommended the Clark County Government Center because parking would be free of charge there.

A motion was made and seconded to continue having the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m. but to move the venue to the Clark County Government Center beginning in September, 2006. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Receive a report on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Trina Robinson, City of Las Vegas, gave a report on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program and stated that all providers were serving at or over capacity daily.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, asked if any agencies had to turn people away; and Ms. Robinson responded that everyone who came forward was being accommodated.

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.

Pat Lau, OUTREACH Management Analyst, presented the quarterly OUTREACH report and summarized June’s efforts and results (i.e. case management load, waiting list, etc.).

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, introduced Angela Essex and Angela’s daughter April Sorenson who shared anecdotal stories about their lives and successes.

Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, summarized their progress to-date.

Trina Robinson, City of Las Vegas, summarized a recent meeting with Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie in Reno with discussions including: the success of the AB580 programs; possible Northern and Southern Nevada partnerships; the approach and level of service provided in Southern Nevada, especially regarding homeless youth and the OUTREACH team; etc.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, asked if there were any indications given of "...areas where we might be missing the mark"; and Ms. Robinson responded that Assemblywoman Leslie was impressed and thought we exceeded expectations.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, stated he spoke to Assemblywoman Leslie and reiterated she was impressed and was interested in the possibility of replicating some efforts in Washoe County. He said she was optimistic about additional funding for new programs but reminded him about the commitment made to self-sustain existing programs already developed.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the potential issues/concerns for the 2007 Nevada State Legislature. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Trina Robinson, City of Las Vegas, summarized five of the most important issues/concerns for the Committee on Homelessness, developed by a regional staff legislative workgroup, for the 2007 Nevada State Legislature: Enhancement to mental health systems (i.e. increase the number of beds, etc.); State funded homeless day shelters; Enhancements to support substance abuse treatment; Funding homeless youth efforts (patterned after the AB580 programs); and Funding for episodic and temporary homeless (also patterned after the AB580 programs).

There was discussion by the Committee on how best to introduce these (i.e. finding a Legislator to sponsor, include as part of an existing bill package, etc.) and prioritizing and assigning dollar allocations to each.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, recommended prioritizing the five areas, indicating a price tag for each and developing a strategy for getting them introduced.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, suggested adding permanent housing as a higher priority than temporary mental health beds.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, recommended beginning to look at how each jurisdiction will continue funding the existing AB580 programs when state funding runs out next year.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, recommended adding veteran funding as another priority.

A motion was made and seconded to clarify the local governments' commitments, including Clark County Social Service, for continued funding of the AB580 programs (especially the case management component); come back with a strategy for the introduction of the five new priorities; and develop an estimated price tag for the cost of each priority. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a report on the homeless youth study/survey. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Jason Gray, Strategic Solutions, and Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, presented the "Clark County Homeless Youth Study" Report and summarized the report via a PowerPoint presentation also titled "Clark County Homeless Youth Study."

Adrienne Cox, Focus Las Vegas, asked about the next phase of comparing these results to the general population and whether there was any sort of data check; and Ms. Boutin responded that there was some preliminary data from adults in homeless shelters who had been homeless prior to their eighteenth birthday, and a follow-up survey was being considered.

Trina Robinson, City of Las Vegas, stated that the future HUD homeless count would include a panhandling study; and the shelter and homeless count RFP would be published on July 26, 2006.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 9. Accept resignation of Thom Reilly; accept new designee from Clark County; and select new Chairperson.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, resigned from the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness and stated that Darryl Martin would be the new Clark County designee.

A motion was made and seconded to accept Darryl Martin as the new Clark County designee to the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness and appoint him as Chair of the Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.

Keith Willoughby announced his resignation from both Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services and from the Committee on Homelessness. He introduced Jodie Gerson as his permanent replacement to the Committee.

Frank Butterfield, Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition, resigned from the Committee on Homelessness and introduced Kathleen Boutin as his permanent replacement to the Committee.

Charleen Blenim, private citizen, introduced herself and asked to be placed on the next Committee agenda. Thom Reilly recommended she speak to Trina Robinson after the meeting.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, complimented Thom Reilly's integrity and leadership; and he commented on Mayor Goodman's stereotyping actions and laws. Dr. Pelton stated he wished this group would voice its opposition to the Mayor and protest the actions taken by him. He also commented on the loss of MASH village, the shortage of several hundred beds during the winter when compared to two or three years ago, and how permanent housing is a solution whether the homeless could be self-sufficient in paying for it or not.

Dwayne Sonnenberg, Salvation Army, thanked Thom Reilly and stated he supported the legislative agenda proposals and would e-mail Shannon West with further suggestions and comments.

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, thanked Thom Reilly for his support and leadership; and she agreed with Dr. Pelton that housing was needed, but it was only the tip of the iceberg.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.