

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

August 13, 2009

**In attendance:**

Maryann Ustick, Chair, City of North Las Vegas  
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District  
Annie Wilson, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Adrienne Cox, Adrienne Cox Consulting  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Nancy McLane, Clark County  
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson  
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas  
Gina Gavan, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration  
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

**Absent:**

Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

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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 Maryann Ustick, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, August 13, 2009, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the August 13, 2009, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for August 13, 2009.**

A motion was made and seconded to move agenda item #5 (Recognize Jewish War Veterans Murray L. Rosen Post #64...) before agenda item #4 (Regional Homeless Services Coordinator Update) and to approve the modified agenda for the August 13, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on July 9, 2009.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 5. Recognize Jewish War Veterans Murray L. Rosen Post #64 for their placement of their 1000<sup>th</sup> veteran in housing. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Dr. Komanduri, Chief of Staff for the Southern Nevada Veterans Administration, recognized the Jewish War Veterans Murray L. Rosen Post #64 for raising over \$100,000 for homeless veterans and for placing their 1000<sup>th</sup> veteran in housing.

Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration, commented on homeless veterans in the Valley.

Ed Kline, Jewish War Veterans Murray L. Rosen Post #64, introduced Dwight D. Canyon who is the 1000<sup>th</sup> formerly homeless veteran placed in housing. Mr. Kline then commented on homeless veterans and the Jewish War Veterans' program to serve them.

There were comments and congratulations by the Committee about the post's outstanding work and dedication.

Several requests were made by the Committee for contact information for more information and to make donations; and Mr. Kline provided the following numbers:

Edward Kline – (702) 256-6439

Lou Augenblick – (702) 633-8844

Abe Efros – (702) 362-5995

Mort Friedlander – (702) 645-1288

Mr. Kline also submitted an informational pamphlet titled “VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System – Healthcare for Homeless Veterans”.

Sue Markham, Salvation Army, commented on the ongoing partnership between Salvation Army and the Jewish War Veterans Association.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 4. Receive an update from the Regional Homeless Services Coordinator. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, gave a progress update including: Inclement Weather Shelter numbers served and program reports; two periods in July had temperatures exceeding 110 so cooling stations were implemented; the Veterans Administration has received another 175 housing vouchers in addition to the original 105; the 2009 Continuum of Care (CoC) applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on August 17; the 2009 National Alliance to End Homelessness Annual Conference was held during the last week in July, and the Southern Nevada Regional Approach to End Homelessness was recognized as a national successful best-practice model that will be implemented nation-wide; and an update on the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Congratulations on the best-practice model recognition were offered by the Committee; and there was also discussion by the Committee about the extra 175 vouchers received by the Veterans Administration and the expected distribution and implementation of them.

Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, requested an update by the Veterans Administration at a future Committee on Homeless meeting.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 6. Approve recommendations for lead agencies for homeless prevention funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, stated that four applications had been submitted during the open RFP process for the “No Wrong Door” project, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) review

process was followed to evaluate the applications. The Technical Review group recommended that both HopeLink and Lutheran Social Services of Nevada be considered as lead agencies, with the contingency that each hires a qualified accountant to manage their financials.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no comments were made by the public.

A motion was made and seconded to approve HopeLink and Lutheran Social Services of Nevada as lead agencies in the “No Wrong Door” project provided that they each hire a qualified accountant to manage finances. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Rob Herdzik, BitFocus, gave an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) via a PowerPoint presentation titled “HMIS Update (Homeless Management Information System) – August 13, 2009”. He also stated that additional information could be found at [www.miner-hmis.com](http://www.miner-hmis.com).

There was discussion by the Committee about data entry completion from the most recent Project Homeless Connect; length of use of HMIS; increasing amounts of data entered; data quality and accurateness; number of providers using the system; the housing component is the largest challenge faced by providers; reporting options available; comparisons of data between providers and overall; the RFP process for the HMIS contract renewal; nationwide use of HMIS; and customized report components and software upgrades written by BitFocus for ease in data entry and report generation.

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson, and Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, requested monthly or quarterly demographic and statistical reports for all providers; and Mr. Herdzik responded that the reports could be provided at the next meeting.

Ingrid Calderon, Shade Tree, gave an agency perspective on using HMIS and consistently achieving 100% data quality via a PowerPoint presentation titled “The Shade Tree”.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the Youth Housing Coalition. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Amy Jaffe, Clark County, gave an update on the newly developed Youth Housing Coalition.

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 coordination efforts on Main Street and Foremaster Lane (Corridor of Hope) in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Lieutenant Ted Snodgrass, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, gave an update on coordination efforts on Main Street and Foremaster Lane (Corridor of Hope) in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Hope Corridor Alliance – 2009”.

Tyrone Thompson, City of Las Vegas, discussed outreach coordination efforts of Neighborhood Services and the homeless individuals in the Corridor of Hope recently served. He also discussed a pilot program between the City of Las Vegas and several mental service providers.

There was discussion by the Committee about the increase in numbers of people seen walking into the City of Las Vegas' City Hall for service since the closing of the Fertitta Center; the difficult public relations predicament this situation presents; shelters already at capacity so what happens next; responses to and from the service resistant individuals; individuals having some financial resources but not knowing where to go to access services or how to navigate the system; and the continued monitoring of areas for new encampments.

Rich Penska, HELP of Southern Nevada, presented service reports on the Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT) activities and outreach services.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, expressed frustration about the lack of opportunity by the public to comment on individual agenda items; and he asked Nancy McLane about the Clark County Social Service budget and expected funding.

Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, responded that the public was asked and encouraged to comment on agenda items requiring action, but the public was asked to wait until the time set aside for Public Comments to speak on the update and/or status agenda items.

**Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.**

Joe Maviglia, H & E Training School, Inc., provided lengthy comments on the wasteful attitude of this Committee; the people at Main and Foremaster just being pushed elsewhere; the importance of economic stability and creating jobs; stimulus money is not being used; meetings are always happening but nothing is ever accomplished; people mean well for the community but are going downhill and will continue to get it wrong and fail; and the first step is to admit failing and then restructure the economics. Mr. Maviglia also stated that the time provided during Public Comments is not long enough as the message will never get through and success will never happen.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, requested that the Committee look over past meeting minutes, especially those made during the last meeting; and he asked Nancy McLane about the Clark County Social Service budget funding. Ms. McLane responded that the budget was not fully funded and was not sure if the funding cap could be raised to increase the total amount available. Mr. Perna continued with lengthy comments on previous sweeps to Main and Foremaster being ineffective; the economic situation is the worst it has ever been and the solution is not to borrow from the future; expressed disbelief that the numbers of homeless served were as high as reported; requested cooperation and not obstruction of assistance by advocates and volunteers; illegal immigrants are a continuing problem that isn't addressed; recommendation that RV vehicles could serve as drop-in centers, and casinos have buses that are currently unused; elected officials and the Las Vegas Convention Center members needed to be educated; and part of the nondiscretionary portion of the federal budget should be used. He also submitted a Letter to the Editor from the August, 2009, edition of the *Veterans Reporter*; and he submitted a letter dated August 13, 2009, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee, as follows:

“8 years after the SNRPC/HUD Summit our elected officials, in the SNRPC Board, have failed to comprehensively address social services for the homeless and poor. We are in another depression, not a recession, because Congress and the Obama Administration have effectively stolen \$1.8 trillion dollars from our heirs and future taxpayers. This is the worst situation I have seen in 16 years of activism.

If elected officials want to find solutions and comprehensively address social services to the

poor and homeless they must be more transparent and frank. All subjects must be discussed such as illegal immigration and dumping by other states.

Las Vegas is carrying too much of the load in Ward 5 but it is unreasonable to prevent the charities from expanding their present boundaries. It is also unreasonable to turn down county proposals because they are too close to Ward 5.

The regional governments must further expand services and the county must fund at least the \$9.3 million Social Services budget and fund the Fertitta Community Center.

Americorps could be used at better advantage to staff the Fertitta Community Center.

Since elected officials have not been as transparent and frank I must assume that they believe if they expand services and plan long term solutions more homeless will come here. Of course that is incorrect. Our sidewalks aren't soft to sleep on and our deserts aren't inviting. If we discuss illegal immigration and dumping by other states other issues can then be honestly addressed.

I gave Ms. Ustick, chairperson, a newspaper article by Tim Pratt that had an interview of Pat Batiste. It was very articulate and addressed homelessness honestly. If we show more respect for the homeless it may reduce the service resistant person. Many times rules are too strict and limit access to services.

The Veterans Administration has a survey whereby veterans can comment on services. The L.V. Veterans Consumer Advisory Council, which reports to V.A. Director John Bright has had good attendance for the last two meetings and all interested veterans are welcome. We need more unity to raise public awareness about the trauma and suffering of our Iraq-Afghanistan troops.

RV vehicles to serve as mobile outreach centers are needed. They would be equipped with computers, fax and HMIS systems to provide immediate services, not a bus token and referral."

Joe D'Angelo, private citizen, said that he knew where the homeless had gone, and he stated that without property for the homeless to gather at the encampments would continue to form. Mr. D'Angelo recommended that the former Shady Acres trailer park could be a solution so homeless individuals could be directed there and faith-based organizations could step in to assist with providing services. He requested that if land could be identified that the local governments not shut down a project through bureaucracy especially since the existing organizations are overwhelmed; and he stated he would be presenting a request to the BLM regarding obtaining federal land to establish a community for the homeless with established rules, sanitary conditions, etc.

Mr. Maviglia submitted an undated Request For Funding Proposal for H & E Training School, Inc.

Ted Russell, private citizen, stated he knew success would eventually happen, but he questioned the actions at the Corridor of Hope and the meetings for the Alliance of Hope.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, commented on the successful partnerships of various organizations and on the Corridor of Hope efforts. He stated that it was a misconception that beds were always full as this was not true; and he commended the strong efforts being made even if successes were not always 100%.

Ivo Plecko, Piters LLC, presented an informational handout on his proposed modular housing solution titled “Pitersnevada”; and he requested feedback via his e-mail address of [pitershome@gmail.com](mailto:pitershome@gmail.com) or on his website at [www.pitersnevada.webs.com](http://www.pitersnevada.webs.com).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.