

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

November 15, 2007

**In attendance:**

Orlando Sanchez, Alternate Chair, City of Las Vegas  
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Nancy McLane, Alternate, Clark County  
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson  
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas  
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District  
Jacque Haas, Nevada Homeless Alliance

**Absent:**

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County  
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group  
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson  
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce  
John Bright, Veterans Administration

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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 Orlando Sanchez, Alternate Chair, City of Las Vegas, at 2:05 p.m., on Thursday, November 15, 2007, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the November 15, 2007, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for November 15, 2007.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the November 15, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Jacque Haas, Nevada Homeless Alliance, had not arrived yet.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on October 18, 2007.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Jacque Haas, Nevada Homeless Alliance, had not arrived yet.

**Agenda Item 4. Receive an update on the 2007 Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Jaime Weller-Lafavor, Lutheran Social Services of Nevada and Project Homeless Connect Chair, gave a summary report of Project Homeless Connect including an overall recap and specific statistics of participants

and services via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect 2007.”

There were many comments by Committee members giving thanks and appreciation for the event. There was also discussion by the Committee on HMIS data entry and information collected; services needed at future events; and comparisons to last year’s event.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, expressed concern that the numbers of homeless around Cashman Center and the surrounding areas seem to be increasing; and he stated that even service resistant individuals need to receive assistance.

Kim Amato, Nevada Homeless Alliance, presented certificates of appreciation to Jaime Weller-Lafavor and to Michele Fuller-Hallauer; and she thanked the following companies and individuals for their time, financial support and/or in-kind donations: US Airways, Nevada Community Foundation, MGM Mirage, Soles4Souls, Assistance League, US Food Service, Nevada Health Centers, America’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest, Smart City Networks, Lutheran Social Services, Central Las Vegas Rotary Aramark, PearlVision, GES, Salvation Army, Three Square, SOS Radio Stations, Las Vegas Convention and Visitor’s Authority, Supercuts, RTC, Perla Tavera, Paula Relleford Harrison, David Little, Carolyn Zirkle, Ana Puljic, Deanna Martell, Shawn O’Leary, Pastor John Yesh, Deon Derby, George McCabe, Catherine Huang Hara, Anthony Osorio, Jenelle Brewer, Officer Terry Roberts, Greg Abernathy, Mark Thoss, Ron Watson, Michelle Orton, Luis Urquiaga, Patricia Ellis, Barbara Grostick, Rich Penska, Sue Markham, Larry Lovelett, Jessica Rohac, Melody Cannon, Jane Pike, Pastor Troy Martinez, Tonia Kryszczuk, Rosa Cordova, Mark Matthews, Terry Lindemann, David Sturgeon, Revah Woodall, Lois Collins, Will Lockhart, Annie Wilson, Myrna Pili, Dorothy Turner, Charlotte Watkins, Samantha Ford, Colleen Duffy, Tara Ulmer, Ira Qualls, Paula Garriott, and Casey Hallauer.

Ms. Amato then announced that there were two Project Homeless Connect events scheduled for 2008; one in the Spring on Thursday, April 10, 2008, and one in the Fall on Wednesday, October 10, 2008.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on the development and implementation of the Public Awareness Campaign. - Take any necessary action.**

George McCabe, Brown & Partners, summarized the media coverage provided for Project Homeless Connect in newspapers and other print articles, on the radio, in television coverage provided by the local news channels, and via the PSA’s.

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, thanked George McCabe and Melody Cannon with Brown & Partners, and Jennifer Knight with Clark County.

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.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, stated the Winter Shelter was scheduled to officially open on November 26 with 882 motel nights and 506 shelter beds available.

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

**Agenda Item 7. Receive a presentation from the Salvation Army on agency services. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Major William Raihl, the Salvation Army, gave a summary presentation on agency services via a PowerPoint presentation titled “The Salvation Army – Increasing the Capacity of People to Improve the Conditions of Their Lives.”

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, asked what stopped people from accessing services; and Major Raihl responded that reasons included some have mental health issues, a familiarity with being homeless, poor previous experiences with shelters or other service providers, and lack of space and deterioration of property are also key problems.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 8. Public Comment.**

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on Housing First being mentioned in 2001 and finally having 78 units built for \$13 million is disgraceful. He stated that there should be outrage at hospital patients being sent out in their gowns with nowhere to go; and he commented on encampments at Foremaster and Main and Owens continuing to be a health hazard. Mr. Perna asked if a census had been taken of these individuals and whether any were veterans; and he noticed that the veterans’ representative was not present at today’s meeting. He offered extensive comments on current veterans from Iraq/Afghanistan returning with a higher rate of mental illnesses which were just as bad as physical ones; and innovative thinking and care needed to be provided to veterans, by the V.A., to support them before they become homeless and if they already are homeless. Mr. Perna concluded with expressing frustration that no response had been given to Ivo Plecko’s four letters submitted at the last meeting, and comments during this period were not taken seriously. He recommended that the suggestions offered should be made into agenda items so action could be taken on them.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, stated that employees from the Excalibur Hotel and Casino would be providing Thanksgiving meals on Tuesday, November 20 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the St. Vincent Lied Dining Facility (1502 N. Main Street).

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.