

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

December 21, 2006

In attendance:

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County
Kendall Wiley, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Theodore Moody, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance (formerly the Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition)
Susan Wright, 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 Darryl Martin, Chair, Clark County, at 2:06 p.m., on Thursday, December 21, 2006, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the December 21, 2006, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for December 21, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the December 21, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on November 16, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the November 16, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, gave a progress update including: *The Pursuit of Happiness* preview event; inclusion of the Southern Nevada Stand Down outcomes on the Project Homeless Connect website; planned statewide Discharge Summit in January, 2007; continuing conversations with law enforcement agencies, especially regarding mental illness awareness; and beginning individual jurisdictional updates.

There was discussion on the new state member leadership and how to best work with them in the future.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, spoke about a sweep at J.C. Park and potential sweeps at other parks not being a solution. He asked about storage lockers or other containers for property storage. Mr. Perna expressed disappointment that members of the National Interagency did not return his phone calls, and he was unsure if they were aware of what was happening locally. He concluded with discussion about the importance of drop-in centers.

Joe Maviglia, H & E Training Schools, spoke at length about low income wage workers not being able to afford to live under the current economic structure.

Gaylord Pearson asked a question about whether land was going to be secured for new homeless shelters. A question was asked about the definition of low cost housing and what it means.

Annie Wilson, Homeless Liaison for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), commented on an inaccurate story that was run in the newspaper recently.

Rod Stoll spoke on the homeless issue being all over, from affluent neighborhoods to less wealthy ones. He complimented the LVMPD on several instances he witnessed them handling.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, also spoke about procedures used during sweeps and mismanagement of possessions. He asked about the status of a forum with police agencies to develop appropriate procedures and awareness. Darryl Martin, Clark County, responded that a meeting had been set up to discuss those issues.

Agenda Item 5. Receive a report on the status of the AB580 funded "Transition from Homelessness" Programs. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, discussed the AB580 funds and presented the expenditure report submitted to the Legislative Council Bureau as well as the "Annual Status Report to the Interim Finance Committee on FY2005/2006 Appropriation to Clark County Pursuant to AB580."

Several clients of HELP of Southern Nevada, representing varying stages of assistance, spoke about their personal successes within the program.

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, introduced several clients who also shared anecdotal stories. Ms. Lera-Randle El commented on challenges facing providers such as the shortage of time intensive case management and keeping clients in programs and keeping them from returning to the streets.

Jovie, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, shared his personal story.

Donald, Center for Independent Living, also shared his personal story.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, spoke on the importance of proactive programs from the Veterans Administration, especially constructing housing domiciliaries for veterans. Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration, advised Mr. Perna visit the VA's website and perhaps apply for grant money to help with establishing domiciliaries.

Ms. West concluded with discussion on a transition plan for continuing the existing programs; and she presented an example of an outcome tracking report from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless titled "Denver Housing First Collaborative Cost Benefit Analysis and Program Outcomes Report."

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report and direct Ms. West to submit it to the Legislative Council Bureau. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was further discussion on future priorities and state funding requests for them.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a report on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, gave a report on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program including a program overview and a summary of the Winter Shelter Program for November. She also explained that the Emergency Shelter portion of the program takes effect when weather conditions worsen (i.e. freezing temperatures). Ms. West stated that protocols would be developed, similar to the ones created for encampment procedures, for emergency shelter situations.

There was discussion on how much of the annual budget was dedicated to the Inclement Weather Shelter Program, and it was estimated at approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a status report on the 2007 Point in Time Count. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Peter Connery, Applied Survey Research (ASR), presented a status report on the 2007 Point-in-Time Count via a PowerPoint presentation titled "SNRPC Census Survey and Panhandling Study-Status Report to the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness; December 21, 2006."

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

Agenda Item 8. Public Comment.

Patricia Pate, Clark County Social Service, solicited feedback from the Committee to be included in Shannon West's annual employee evaluation. All comments given were positive.

Carol Beinhorn, citizen, presented and discussed a packet titled "Research with Supporting Exhibits Submitted to (SNRPC) Committee Members Regarding the Perils of Going Forth with a Panhandling Study." Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, responded on the importance and benefits of the panhandling study.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, read a letter dated December 21, 2006, he had addressed to Mr. (Darryl)

Martin. *[A copy of this letter can be provided upon request.]*

Joe Maviglia, H & E Training Schools, commented on the ever growing problem of homelessness and that it is not being slowed or controlled at all.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.