

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
Technical Committee on Homelessness
Thursday, January 22, 2004

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

The Technical Committee on Homelessness meeting was called to order by Thom Reilly, Chair, at 1:45 p.m., Thursday, January 22, 2004, in the Pueblo Conference Room, 1st Floor, at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89155.

The Agenda for the January 22, 2004, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the open meeting law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for January 22, 2004.

A motion was made to approve the agenda for January 22, 2004, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Minutes from the December 18, 2004, meeting.

A motion was made and accepted to approve the Minutes from the December 18, 2004, meeting.

Agenda Item 4. Receive an update on the Regional Homeless Coordinator position recruitment process; take any necessary action.

Nancy McLane, Clark County, introduced Paul Haynes-Green as the recommended candidate for the Regional Homelessness Coordinator position. Pending ratification from the SNRPC Board, Ms. Haynes-Green is scheduled to officially begin work on February 2, 2004, and will be housed at Clark County Social Services. Mr. Reilly and Mr. Ramos thanked everyone for their involvement in the interview and hiring process for this position.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation and forward this item to the Coalition Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Hold discussion regarding an Interlocal Agreement for shared funding of regional homeless coordination; take any necessary action.

Each member received a copy of the Interlocal Agreement for Shared Funding of Regional Homeless Coordination (Exhibit A). Ms. McLane stated the Interlocal Agreement is in final draft form and has been presented to the Technical Committee on Homelessness and the SNRPC Coalition Board. The final draft has been approved by both groups and is now ready to be presented to each jurisdiction for their respective Board or Council for approval.

A motion was made to forward the Interlocal Agreement to the participating SNRPC entities to be presented to their respective Board and Council for approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Hold discussion regarding an inclement weather shelter plan; take any necessary action.

- a. Consider criteria for establishing an inclement weather emergency**
- b. Consider transportation and temporary shelter issues**

Each member received a copy of the 2003 Winter Weather Shelter Update (Exhibit B). Mr. Reilly stated that a three-phase implementation program has been established for winter shelter for the homeless. As of November 25, 2003, Phase I has already been implemented. Phase I includes use of contracted winter beds that are provided by Catholic Charities, Shade Tree, and The Salvation Army. No one has been turned away but the shelters are filled to capacity. Discussion has been held regarding the criteria for determining an inclement weather emergency and it has been determined that the combination of the shelters being filled to capacity and persistent inclement weather patterns would warrant an emergency. When an inclement weather emergency is declared, Phase II will be implemented. Phase II consists of using the \$75,000 Emergency Food and Shelter Grant to finance the purchase of motel vouchers and bus tokens. Decentralized areas throughout the Valley would be established for distribution of the vouchers and tokens. Ms. McLane informed the members that currently there are 12 or 13 motels in Clark County, City of Las Vegas, and the City of North Las Vegas. Mr. Reilly requested that staff provide a list of the motels to include a diagram of their location to the next meeting. Ms. McLane recommended that Request for Proposals (RFPs) for additional motel providers be considered. Mr. Reilly stated that the subcommittee discussed approving the three-phase plan as an interim plan for shelter services; therefore, implementing the same type of plan during the summer months. Criteria for the summer months will be determined. Phase III includes use of the Armory or another State identified facility. Phase III would be triggered after the inclement weather emergency has been established, shelter capacity has been reached, and all of the vouchers have been exhausted. However, before Phase III is fully implemented it would first be determined if more money would be allocated to prevent the Phase III option. Details such as funding and transportation have not yet been completely worked out. The use of the Armory is of no cost; however, there are costs associated with issues such as clean-up and security.

After discussions, a motion was made to accept the report and forward this item to the Coalition Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the Continuum of Care Application process; take any necessary action.

Each member received a copy of the Southern Nevada Continuum of Care 2003 CoC Award (Exhibit C) and the Continuum of Care Conclusions and Recommendations (Exhibit D). Shawna Parker, Clark County, gave the report. The consolidated application submitted to HUD consisted of ten projects requesting \$3,062,692 in Homeless Assistance Funds. The application was not considered for funding because the overall score of the application was too low; therefore, only the projects that were submitted as renewals (seven projects) were awarded enough funding by HUD to continue for another year. The application scored 76.75 out of 100. The minimum score for funding consideration was 78 points. In the past Southern Nevada's application has scored in the mid-to-high 80's, and touted by HUD as a model; however, HUD has recently changed its priorities from providing "supported housing" to now ending chronic homelessness by providing housing first. In this new paradigm, paying for housing activities for the long-term, hardest-to-serve homeless individuals takes priority over past initiatives focusing on supportive services for homeless families. The application received low scores in two categories: 1) The percentage of funds requested for housing activities versus supportive services activities caused the application to score only 3 out of 10 points for that category. 2) The "gaps analysis" and prioritizing of submitted projects received 8 out of 15 points, primarily because the gaps analysis identified shortages of shelter and services. In addition, Southern Nevada's "street and shelter count" of the homeless was more than two years old. The mandated HMIS System did not receive funding. Recommendations for improving Southern Nevada's competitiveness for future application submittal are: The governmental entities that facilitate this community effort take a more active, leadership role by orchestrating rather than facilitating the applications and priorities. Governmental entities should proactively recruit projects from housing developers and mainstream programs, and perhaps even establish ground rules to eliminate projects from the competition. Southern Nevada must conduct a "street and shelter count" of the homeless before April 2004 so that more current data can be used for the Continuum of Care Gap Analysis, and then repeat the count at least once every three years. The regional governments invest the necessary finances of \$389,000 for the first two years, and approximately \$155,000 thereafter to fully implement the HMIS project within the next 12 months, and make full utilization of the HMIS, which is a requirement for local government funding, by January 2006.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Select the next date, time, and location for the next Technical Committee on Homelessness meeting.

The members agreed to target the third week of February. Regarding future meetings, the members agreed to continue to meet on a monthly basis; date, time, and location will be determined. During the months that the SNRPC Technical Committee meet, the Technical Committee on Homelessness meetings will be scheduled to coincide with the SNRPC Technical Committee meetings; however, at an earlier time of the day.

Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.

Patricia Martinelli-Price, homelessness advocate, thanked Mr. Reilly for his leadership and the members of

the Committee for their work. She stated that major service providers that she has spoken with really want to be a part of the process and solution. Ms. Martinelli-Price stated that some of the service providers have lost their objective; which is for the human issue, not the money issue. She would like the new coordinator to be more receptive to the issue of human beings' needs that happen to be homeless.

Agenda Item 10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.