

JOINT HOMELESSNESS WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**COALITION BOARD, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE AND
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS**

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

August 23, 2007

In attendance:

Coalition Board:

Mayor Oscar Goodman, CHAIR, City of Las Vegas
Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, VICE CHAIR, City of North Las Vegas
Councilwoman Andrea Anderson, City of Boulder City
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, City of Las Vegas
Councilwoman Gerri Schroder, City of Henderson
Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County
Commissioner Susan Brager, Clark County
Trustee Mary Beth Scow, Clark County School District

Technical Committee:

Doug Selby, CHAIR, City of Las Vegas
Lewis Wallenmeyer, DAQEM
Virginia Valentine, Clark County

Committee on Homelessness:

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Marc Joseph, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas

Absent:

Coalition Board:

Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson
Councilwoman Shari Buck, City of North Las Vegas

Technical Committee:

Gregory Rose, City of North Las Vegas
Phil Speight, City of Henderson
Tom Minwegen, Southern Nevada Water Authority
Jacob Snow, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada
Vicki Mayes, City of Boulder City
Paul Gerner, Clark County School District

Committee on Homelessness:

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

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

The joint homelessness workshop/special meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Board was called to order by Mayor Oscar Goodman, Chair, City of Las Vegas, at 3:30 p.m., on Thursday, August 23, 2007, in Conference Room 108 of the Regional Transportation Commission, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the August 23, 2007, joint homelessness workshop/special meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Roll Call.

All members of the SNRPC Board, as listed above, were present except for Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson, and Councilwoman Shari Buck, City of North Las Vegas. Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County, arrived after Roll Call although quorum was met without her.

All members of the SNRPC Technical Committee, as listed above, were present except for Gregory Rose, City of North Las Vegas, Phil Speight, City of Henderson, Tom Minwegen, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Jacob Snow, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Vicki Mayes, City of Boulder City, and Paul Gerner, Clark County School District. Doug Selby, City of Las Vegas, Lewis Wallenmeyer, DAQEM, and Virginia Valentine, Clark County, arrived after Roll Call.

All members of the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness, as listed above, were present except for Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson, John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the agenda for August 23, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the August 23, 2007, joint homelessness workshop/special meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 4. Receive resignations and accept nominations for Committee on Homelessness membership. Recommended action – Take any necessary action.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, stated that Marc Joseph, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, would resign and be replaced by Gary Schofield.

Mr. Martin also stated that Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, would resign and be replaced by Stuart Ghertner.

There was no discussion by the Board; and a motion was made and seconded to approve the above resignations and new nominations for the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness. The motion was approved

unanimously. Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Clark County, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 5. Workshop on Homelessness (I. Where we have been; II. Where we are going; and III. How do we get there – Workshop Discussion of Strategies). Recommended action – Take appropriate action.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, and Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an introduction and background of the regional homeless efforts to-date; and Ms. West presented and discussed the “Southern Nevada Regional Homeless and Housing 10 Point Plan – Two Year Implementation Update July 2005-June 2007.”

There was discussion by the Coalition Board on recent sweeps; attempts toward providing services to the “visible homeless” and getting them off the street; methamphetamine addictions and adult drug court problems of overcrowding; and additional problems of jails and prisons.

Dan Goulet, United Way, briefly discussed the Homeless Trust Fund; and there was discussion by the Board on long-term monetary targets; fund initiatives and possible giving options; and the need for a permanent revenue stream or streams.

Mr. Martin commented on an implementation schedule that was being developed and that housing would be an initial key target of funding.

Ms. West discussed services provided to the homeless (i.e. mobile showers, outreach efforts, etc.); and Myrna Pili, HELP of Southern Nevada, introduced the OUTREACH (Organizations United to Reach Educate Assist Chronic Homeless) pilot provider project via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Organizations United to Reach Educate Assist Chronic Homeless – OUTREACH Multi-Agency Team.”

There was discussion by the Coalition Board on interventions and encampments; mobile crisis intervention; coordination with the (Clark County) School District; housing via scattered site housing and temporary housing options; and retention in programs.

Ms. West spoke further about mobile crisis intervention; and Larry Lovelett, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), presented information about NPHY titled “Mobile Crisis Intervention Program for Youth – November 2005 through June 2007.”

There was discussion by the Coalition Board on homeless and at-risk kids; homeless with families versus “runaway homeless”; causes of homelessness in youth and treating possible abuse; and statistics found in the youth study portion of the “2007 Southern Nevada (Winter) Homeless Census and Survey”.

Mr. Martin paid recognition to many of the providers in the audience; and there was further discussion on continuing the AB580 funding via Clark County Social Service.

Ms. West introduced a proposed business plan via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Help Hope Home: Southern Nevada’s Plan to End Homelessness”, and she presented “Southern Nevada’s Regional Plan to End Homelessness – A Business Case by the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition’s Committee on Homelessness.”

There was discussion by the Coalition Board on preventing evictions and family options available; the limited availability of affordable housing in Clark County especially of apartment complexes; the overall effects of the housing shortage; and the importance of identifying “at-risk” or vulnerable people or groups to assist before they become homeless.

Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas, discussed the kick-off luncheon scheduled for September 25 by the Community Interfaith Council; and there was discussion on continuing and increasing participation among the interfaith organizations.

Nancy McLane, Clark County, discussed Project Homeless Connect (formerly the Homeless Stand Down) which is scheduled for November 6 at Cashman Center.

Mr. Martin introduced the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness' Housing Working Group; and Mike Mullin, Nevada Hand, discussed low-income tax credits; difficulties and challenges faced when building affordable and low-income housing and thresholds.

Mr. Martin also presented a letter submitted to Hilary Lopez, Chief of Federal Programs for the Nevada Housing Division, dated August 16, 2007, about "...additional input into the development of the State of Nevada's 2008 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) which is developed annually by the Nevada Housing Division for the implementation of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (Tax Credits) program for the upcoming calendar year period."

Additionally, Mr. Martin presented a spreadsheet titled "Resources for Building Housing for the Low-Income" which listed the Name of the Program, the Agency, the Program type, the Target Population, the Eligible Applicants, the Funding Requirements, the Activity Type, the Use by Southern Nevada, and the Limitations.

Danielle Turner, City of Henderson, discussed a tax fund program used in the state of Utah that could possibly be introduced here to help fund homeless services. She also discussed other funding options and potential revenue opportunities (i.e. contributions from utility and/or cable bill payments, donations from grocery stores, identifying a high profile "champion", etc.).

Mr. Martin commented on dedicated funding importance and development, and he stated that the Committee on Homelessness' Housing Working Group would continue to work toward identifying alternate funding sources. He then thanked all participants of the joint homelessness workshop and gave brief concluding comments.

George McCabe, Brown & Partners, and Kim Sherwood Schofield, Clark County, played a video titled "Help Hope Home – Homeless Outreach" that was designed and developed for presentation purposes and as a companion piece to the business plan/case. Mr. McCabe stated that it would begin airing on local television channels 2 and 4.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the "Southern Nevada Regional Homeless and Housing 10 Point Plan" and the "Southern Nevada's Regional Plan to End Homelessness – A Business Case by the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition's Committee on Homelessness", and to approve the current evaluation and reporting schedule by the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness' as well as to approve the Housing Working Group continuing working on affordable and low-income housing solutions. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was discussion by the Coalition Board on continuing the progress and successes presented at the joint workshop and working toward solving remaining challenges, especially offering service to resistant individuals.

Agenda Item 6. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on veterans and veterans' rights, especially homeless veterans; and he asked for the acceleration of construction of the veteran healthcare building and domicilliarities. Mr. Perna spoke about the physical and mental injuries suffered by returning troops (i.e. PTSD and TBI), and he reiterated that support for them is lacking, especially for housing. He concluded by expressing disappointment that advocates' comments are disregarded and ignored, and that good ideas, like Arnold Stalk's shipping container conversions to affordable housing units, are also ignored. He recommended that funding for the homeless could be requested from the state's Interim Finance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.