

Working Group Report to the Board

1. Working Group: PLANNING (PWG)
2. Champion: CITY OF LAS VEGAS
3. Working Group Members: only jurisdictional partners were present for the meeting: see attached sign in sheet.
4. Date, Time, and Location of Working Group Meeting

Standing meeting dates in 2017 will remain the same: 4th Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm, Las Vegas City Hall 5th Floor, 495 S. Main Street, Las Vegas 89101.
5. Accomplishments-Action Items Completed:
 - Discussed finalizing evaluation underway by UNLV
 - No additional input; collaborative applicant needs to close out the contract
6. Near term: Action Items In-progress/Pending:
 - Discussion of CoC planning dollars and providing regular updates to Steering Committee and Board. Also explored leaving dollars to administrative purview of collaborative applicant, like all HUD allows and other communities follow.
7. **Sub-Committee Reports**
 - **Youth**
Youth Summit report will be provided at November CoC meeting.
 - **Housing**
Minutes attached.
 - **Coordinated Intake**
May be moved to stand alone working group, pending Steering Committee recommendations and Board approval.
 - **PIT Count**

Jurisdictions met to begin planning for the Jan 2018 count.

- **Functional Zero**

From Built for Zero – Brooke Page:

The Southern Nevada Continuum of Care has been afforded a unique opportunity with HUD Multifamily Section 8 Housing to develop a homeless preference for our households in need of permanent housing which we believe is perfect timing and can support our BFZ Action Cycle 2 efforts of accelerating housing placements by 1/31/18.

We proposed a strategy known as “Moving On” which takes households who have been stable in supportive housing and moving them on to permanent housing destinations, which in this case, can be the Section 8 preference. This would free up the supportive housing unit for a more vulnerable chronically homeless household from the BNL. (See a PowerPoint Presentation from CSH attached about Moving On)

In order to establish this process in our community, we need support from the BFZ team. We need to establish a working group who can help to design the assessment criteria to determine which clients in supportive housing are most appropriate for this type of intervention, establish a matching strategy to quickly respond to HUD’s vacancy requests, and determine the standard of case management expectations which is required for the homeless preference.

If you or someone in your agency is interested in assisting with this process, please respond to me directly with your contact information. Once we have at least 5 members from various agencies, we will send a Doodle Poll to those interested and schedule a planning meeting to further discuss.

Contact Brooke if you have any questions or concerns,

8. Goals not yet met/Issues:

n/a

**Joint Housing Working Group
Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2017**

In attendance: Co-Leader Steven Silverman (HELP USA), Karen Schneider (CCSS), Tammy Thomas (HUD), Catherine Huang Hara (CCSS), Ritchie Duplechien (HPN-myConnections), Tim Whitright (NV Housing Division), Arneva Smith (NV DHCFP) and Kevin Sharps (Nevada HAND).

Steve welcomed all to the meeting and explained that Katy Miller from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness was invited to participate at the meeting; however, she was not present during the time of the meeting.

Steve opened by describing some various activities occurring outside of the joint working group meetings. He first talked about the housing summit, at which we were able to identify the needs of both landlords and service providers and work toward connecting the homeless with landlords who would be willing to reduce barriers.

He also talked about the Built for Zero initiative, which he described as a strategic plan for the chronically homeless. BFZ representatives were asked to introduce their plan to the joint HWG, with the intention of determining how to potentially integrate their efforts with our own.

Steve then explained how the joint working group is still in the beginning of planning efforts around addressing homelessness. He shared that it is his observation that the numbers are increasing, and specifically the female homeless. He asked Catherine if the group could get the matching report to look at the number of people in participating in the intake process. He then asked if perhaps the increase in female homeless might be associated with changes at The Shade Tree. Catherine clarified that even though The Shade Tree serves women and children, they did not facilitate permanent housing.

Catherine then went on to explain more about Built for Zero, indicating that over 70 communities are involved with BFZ. She talked about how this community was able to declare functional zero to veteran homelessness approximately two year ago, and then she defined functional zero (number of people experiencing chronic homelessness is less than the average number of chronically homeless being connected to permanent housing each month; in other words, there is enough housing for everyone who seeks it). She talked about the 25 Cities initiative, which worked to end veteran homelessness; BFZ was a transition from 25 Cities to work toward ending chronic homelessness. She also described how more challenges exist because of the fewer resources available (in comparison with veteran resources).

She then talked about how our community sends in data to Community Solutions (technical assistance provider) to create monthly data dashboards. Based on agency and provider estimations, it would cost \$23,000 per household per year to end chronic homelessness. This includes not only the housing, but also the case management and supportive services.

Because Tammy had to leave unexpectedly, she quickly informed the group about another summit that HUD will be facilitating on November 9th, at which time multifamily housing owners can discuss their concerns of housing clients and work toward understanding case management and supports that are typically included.

To continue the conversation about BFZ and addressing chronic homelessness, Kevin commented about the significant challenge due limited housing stock. Catherine then mentioned the concept of “Moving On”, in which providers encourage and assist clients that are able to transition to self-sufficiency to do so, which opens up new placement opportunities for those more vulnerable to be served.

Steve commented that the BFZ initiative may impact where the joint working group is heading and that goals may need to be reexamined. He mentioned the brief slideshow that was presented at the last CoC Board Meeting (attached for reference).

Steve redirected the group to the four subgroups/areas of focus identified in earlier joint housing working group meetings, to include the landlord liaison, housing mapping, prevention, and peer support. He then described how overlaid on these areas are needed short, medium, and long-term plans. He expressed concerns about multiple programs making the same requests to the same landlords and suggested that we need to integrate with other programs so that there is a combined ask of the landlords.

Kevin then asked about the landlord concerns that were expressed in the summit. Steve shared some examples and referenced some slides that were presented at the last CoC Board Meeting (attached for reference). Kevin commented that it was an accomplishment to at least bring landlords to the table; however, next steps include identifying strategies to address landlord concerns, which could potentially include a master lease situation. After addressing the housing need, then case managers can address other issues and challenges through their case management, life skills training, etc. He said that landlords do not want to absorb risk alone, to which Catherine explained about case management as a partnering strategy with the landlord. Plus if it is a subsidized program, there is guaranteed payment or subsidy each month. Kevin replied that we have to start thinking like landlords do, instead of expecting them to think like we do. A pitch that may work on a social service organization may not work on a landlord. They have the property to increase their profit, not their risk.

Steve then suggested that we need to look at what has been accomplished in other communities and expand upon what has been successful. Ritchie suggested that we look at models in other areas like Phoenix (site of earlier trip to see other programs/models that have worked). Tim mentioned an application that he would like to work on for Low Income Housing Trust Fund (LIHTF). He requested from Catherine some information around how HUD defines low-barrier housing. He explained that trust fund dollars plus tax credits can equal substantial resources for housing the homeless. Steve closed by declaring that we should evaluate other successful endeavors and model them uniquely to our community, as part of a long-term strategy; he indicated that this would be a goal that the joint HWG would continue to work toward.

Steve then adjourned the meeting.

The next Joint Housing Working Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6th, at 1:30-3:00pm, at the Las Vegas City Hall, 5th Floor.