

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
February 9, 2012

In attendance:

Barbara Geach, Chair, City of Henderson
Tim Burch, Clark County
Kathy Somers, City of North Las Vegas
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Annie Wilson, alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Gordon Absher, MGM Resorts International
Gina Gavan, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Marcia Evans, alternate, Veterans Administration
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

Absent:

Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration
Unknown Representative, City of Boulder City

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 Barbara Geach, Chair, City of Henderson, at 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, February 9, 2012, in the Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.

The agenda for the February 9, 2012, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

Kristy Sloane, Family Service Manager at HELP of Southern Nevada, announced that the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony for their ADA room on February 29, 2012. HELP also has a new permanent family housing program for families with disabilities. For more information, call 702-369-4357 x1809. Ask for the New Start Program.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for February 9, 2012; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the February 9, 2012, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 12, 2011, meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Receive an update from the Regional Initiatives Office; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Senior Management Analyst for the Regional Initiative Office provided the update. The Technical Working Group will create an analysis report of the utilization around Inclement Weather Shelters in comparison with previous years. A report will be prepared for a future meeting.

The Regional Initiatives Office is continually looking for Compassion Station partners, including houses of faith, as temperatures approach freezing or weather conditions make it hazardous to be outside for extended periods. Compassion Stations will also be needed for summer months. Contact Tyrone Thompson at 702-455-5626 or tyt@clarkcountynv.gov for more information or to express interest. A full report will be provided for the Corridor of Hope Housing Connect in March 2012. Thank you to all the providers who provided services for this event.

Agenda Item 6: Receive an update on the Prevention Working Group; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Senior Management Analyst for the Regional Initiatives Office provided an update on the Clark County, North Las Vegas, and State of Nevada HPRP grants.

There is still financial assistance available from the County Grant. Policies and procedures will be updated to open up eligibility and serve more households.

Households in rental housing facing eviction or needing to relocate into rental housing after recently becoming homeless may contact HELP of Southern Nevada at 702-217-2445 or Lutheran Social Services 702-639-1730; or 211 from a local telephone to get information on housing and additional resources.

Mrs. Huang Hara also provided the update for the City of Las Vegas HPRP grant. The City of Las Vegas is now accepting applications for rental assistance and moving assistance. Anyone seeking more information for HPRP or rental and moving assistance may call 702-229-4280 or visit 1581 Main Street (inside the Salvation Army Family Services building) between 8 am and 4 pm. The building is closed from noon until 1 pm.

Agenda Item 7: Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from WestCare Nevada, Inc. on their youth programs; for possible action.

Stacy Sutton, Project Homeless Connect Coordinator for the Nevada Homeless Alliance, provided the update. Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for December 6, 2012, at Cashman Center. The next Provider Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at the LGBT Center, 953 E Sahara Ave.

Kevin Morss, WestCare, presented a PowerPoint presentation on WestCare's homeless youth programs and services. Nicolette Davis, Supervisor of Transitional Living Program, discussed the VOYAGE program.

Tim Burch asked about WestCare's average occupancy. Mr. Morss said that they were about 90% full, 300 to 365 days. Mr. Burch asked about the per bed costs. Mr. Morss said about \$80/day.

Barbara Geach asked how long youth normally stay in the program. Mr. Morss said the average is 72 hours to 14 days, but WestCare keeps them until they are placed.

Mr. Burch asked about gaps in services. Mr. Morss said gaps in mental health services are the biggest issue.

Annie Wilson asked if after 24 months, the youth placed in permanent housing. Mr. Morss said yes and there are follow-up services.

Agenda Item 8: Identify emerging issues to be addressed by staff or members of the Committee at future meetings; receive updates from Committee members regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness; and direct staff accordingly; for possible action.

Stephen Harsin mentioned that he would like the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority to update the board in the coming months.

Tim Burch mentioned that the American Society for Public Administration International Conference will be held on March 2-7, 2012. One of the local providers will be receiving the International Humanitarian Award. He wants an agenda item to recognize this person.

Marcia Evans updated the board on the VASH vouchers.

Barbara Geach asked if the board would like add a standing agenda item for Strategic Planning updates.

Stephen Harsin announced that the City of Las Vegas offices will be moving buildings over the President's Day weekend.

Agenda Item 9: Public Comment

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, wanted to give special recognition to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for their efforts in supporting the Corridor of Hope Housing Connect, as well as supporting the community provider outreach efforts.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.