

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
September 12, 2013

In attendance:

Stephen Harsin, Chair, City of Las Vegas
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Kathy Somers, City of North Las Vegas
Bobby Gordon, alternate, Clark County
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Annie Wilson, alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Rey Bouknight, alternate, MGM Resorts International
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Marcos Perez, alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, alternate, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Rose Ann Rabiola Miele, City of Boulder City
Tim Burch, Clark County
Captain Shawn Andersen, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Gordon Absher, MGM Resorts International
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Dr. Carolyn Hughes, Veterans Administration

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

A meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition's Committee on Homelessness was called to order by Stephen Harsin, at 2:03 pm, on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at Clark County Pueblo Room, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. The agenda for the September 12, 2013 meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. *No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes.*

No comment was made at this time.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for September 12, 2013; for possible action.

The agenda was approved. Paula Zier, Clark County School District arrives.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the July 11, 2013 meeting; for possible action.

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, pointed out a correction needed under agenda item 2 to revise "tem" to "item." Minutes were approved with this correction.

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

Tyrone Thompson, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, provided the update. Summer day shelter is currently open seven days a week until September 30 at Catholic Charities, The Salvation Army, and

The Shade Tree, and motel vouchers given if needed with HopeLink in the Henderson area. Winter Shelter will commence on November 18, 2013. There will be about a month-and-a-half gap. Mainstream Programs Basic Training is held on every fourth Wednesday. The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act is relying on mainstream services to stabilize those in our community. The next one is on September 25, 2013, 1:00 to 4:00 pm in Organizational Development Center Room 3 at the Clark County Government Center. It is a training and resource opportunity for case managers serving our homeless population, and the topic will be Senior Services. The Regional Initiatives Office (RIO) is proud to be a practicum site for three second-year Master's Level Social Work Students from UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), who will be with the office until May 2014. Melissa Maj, Dawn Smith, and Elizabeth Benston will be working on a variety of projects including, interventions, Project Homeless Connect, homeless census for 2014, Mainstream Programs Basic Training, and establishment of a standardized case management training program for the region. We appreciate the partnership with UNLV.

Coordinating Interventions, which includes encampments, is a function of the RIO. There are regional protocols that are followed when an assessment is sent to the RIO. There has been an abundance of tents and homeless in the "B" Street and Owens area for quite some time; therefore, it is necessary to have a regional and coordinated approach with resources. On Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 6:00 am, the RIO, in conjunction with the city of Las Vegas, Nevada Homeless Alliance, Clark County Social Service, METROP (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) will be conducting a mini-housing connect in the "B" Street and Owens Avenue area. There will be an intake process, canvassing of the area, and outreach to try to house those that are willing to be housed. The RIO is in the process of creating an inventory of immediately available vacancies for housing and/or intensive case management programs. Organizations who would like to assist can contact Mr. Thompson at 455-5626 or via email at tyt@clarkcountynv.gov. The effort has been working closely with faith-based partners that are working closely with the Mayor Goodman's Faith Initiative, which includes a focus area on homelessness.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Evaluation Working Group (EWG) and providers have been participating in the local CoC application process. The process transitioned into using Zoom Grants this year. The local applications were due in Zoom Grants on September 5. Due to some technical challenges, the CoC EWG re-opened Zoom Grants to those providers that submitted applications by the due date until September 20. Michele Fuller-Hallauer, the Continuum of Care Coordinator, is providing technical assistance as requested to ensure that the applications comply with the HEARTH Act regulations and will prepare us for a strong Consolidated HUD CoC application.

As a follow up to August's meeting, it was asked to provide packets that we given during Capitol Hill Visits during the National Alliance to End Homelessness National Conference in Washington, DC in July. Contents include State homeless statistics, success stories, executive summaries to the Southern Nevada Homeless Census, 2013 and the recent Gaps Analysis, and invites to upcoming events. Farewell to Ken LoBene, Field Office Director in the HUD (United States Housing and Urban Development) Las Vegas office since May 1998 and HUD employee for more than 35 years, is leaving to move closer to family and take on a new endeavor out of state. He has been a great partner and friend to our efforts in working with the homeless census, original member and catalyst to our Rapid Results Team, and assisted in the utilization of all HUD VASH (Veterans Administration Supportive Housing) vouchers and helped advocate to get 250 more this year. Thanks to Ken for all of his efforts.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from WestCare on the Community Triage Center; for possible action.

Marcos Perez, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services arrives. Kevin Morss, Regional Vice President, and Erin Kinard, Area Director for WestCare, provided an update via a PowerPoint

presentation entitled, “WestCare Nevada-Community Triage Center COH Update.” Ms. Kinard presented annual data outcomes for fiscal year July 2012-June 2013, which included breakdowns by quarter and a summary of the data outcomes. 3,655 total clients were served during the last year, with 678 clients having more than one admission. Self referrals and walk-ins are still the highest referral sources, but referrals from hospitals are steadily increasing. Drugs of choice has alcohol as the top choice, with heroin, and methamphetamine and other opiates or sedatives to follow. Fifty-one percent reported having a prior mental health diagnosis, with the top three primary mental health diagnosis including major depression, bipolar disorder, and anxiety. UMC, Valley, and Sunrise are the three top hospital referral sources, and the 89101 area code is the top zip code at admission and exit. Programmatic improvements included maximizing using WestCare staffing to reduce the use of contract medical staffing, which decreased costs by \$21,064 last fiscal year. Data collection is improving with after meeting with Robert Herdzik from Bitfocus, using administrative reports to note trends and compare data with the existing system. Safe Haven is continuing to provide services at the community triage center as well as the women’s and children’s campus, with two out of eleven clients moving to permanent housing. The MOU (memorandum of understanding) is in process for signature. WestCare is also working on adapting the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. A major barrier continues to be sufficient space to serve females. Hopefully, a bigger building can be moved into to serve more female clients.

Mr. Harsin commented that the data collection has come a long way, which is helpful for the jurisdictions and providing information to elected officials. Mr. Morss asked on the progress of the MOU. Ms. Geach said that she believes the document is final and needs to be bounced back to the all of the jurisdictions to discuss when it can be put on council and commission agendas. Mr. Harsin said that tentatively North Las Vegas, Henderson, and City of Las Vegas will agendize the MOU for signature in November.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from Bitfocus; for possible action

Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration, arrives. Robert Herdzik, President of Bitfocus, provided an update via PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Clarity Homeless Management Information System, September 2013 Update.” There has been continued growth in the number of agencies participating as users, which has increased to around 65 agencies with 518 users in Southern Nevada with more participation from food pantries, faith-based groups, and working towards adding hospitals with a pending partnership with UMC. The active client count is also increasing statewide with a dramatic spike in clients since last year when a Northern Nevada food pantry came on as a user. In Southern Nevada, 13,000 clients were entered in the month of June with the expansion of programs as well. It is anticipated that Southern Nevada will be able to meet the threshold to enter 5 of the 6 program shells of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) that goes to the United States Congress for the period of October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, which include emergency housing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing each for individuals and families. There is expansion of mobile and paperless utilization of Clarity to streamline processes, including GPS (global positioning system) and photo capture to create Clarity passports and finger or stylus signatures from the field. The expansion of Clarity passport swipe cards to simplify data entry processes. Agencies have transitioned from basic to full program data entry after extensive training, which also includes all family household information, for greater performance measurement. Additional tools have been added to provide detailed data directly generated from the system, such as performance monitoring, gaps analysis, and performance measures tools for Continuum of Care projects. Goals for 2013-2014 include implementation of new HMIS data standards, new performance measurement tools, expansion of program-based reporting, automation of the vulnerability index intake and assessment, centralized/coordinated intake, and bed

reservation management. Current projects related to HMIS expansion included the completion of the 2013 Southern Nevada Homeless Census, additional support staff for developing monitoring tools and providing help desk support, further growth of Clarity Passports, increase in software licenses, XML import from other data systems, goal tracking and recruitment of a data analyst. Help desk support with a ticket system, a full featured website that includes all of the documents and manuals needed as a user, remote classroom training, and custom reports are available.

Ms. Geach asked what is the purpose of the swipe cards. Mr. Herdzik clarified that a client that has a card can be scanned in for services and automatically have their record updated, which is an easier way to not have to directly enter data to track service provision. It will also show up instantly for program reporting purposes. Mr. Harsin asked if the cards were easy to replace or deactivate if they were lost or stolen. Mr. Herdzik commented that they are very easy to create and recreate in HMIS with an uploaded photo with a few clicks in the system.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance on Project Homeless Connect and a presentation from Safe House; for possible action.

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, gave an update on upcoming events. The first ever Medical Connect is on September 29, 2013 at the Pearson Center by the National Osteopathic Medical Association to provide medical services to the uninsured, underinsured, and homeless clients. Volunteers are still needed and can sign up at on the Volunteer Center website at www.volunteercentersn.org. Thank you to Marlene Richter as she was originally contacted for an event at the Shade Tree, but connected to open this event to the community. Thanks also to Nevada Health Centers who will also be bringing out medical services for the event. Summerlin Lions Club is also providing vision services. Information will also be available about Medicaid expansion. Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for November 19, 2013 at Cashman Center to serve over 3,000 that day. Pet services will resume. Booth applications are still available at www.nevadahomelessalliance.org. It is hopeful that 100 organizations will be participating. Volunteers can sign up at the Volunteer Center website. Donation wish list includes clothes, hygiene items, bus tickets, baby supplies, and non-perishable food items. Sponsorships are still being accepted. Additional thanks to Moonridge to help in speaking to downtown business to get more community engagement to gain public support and participation from local businesses. Contact information is nhavoice@aol.com or 702-743-1487. Next provider meeting on September 18th at 8:30-9:30 am at HELP of Southern Nevada on East Flamingo. Annette Scott, Safe House, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "S.A.F.E. House: Where Abuse Ends and Healing Begins." Safe House is a full-service domestic violence service agency and was created by community members in Henderson. Judge Ken Procter started a group of community leaders including city officials, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, advocates, and survivors to see what was could be provided in the community. Almost 20 years ago, it started at a donated house from St. Rose that was undisclosed with two rooms and by 2008, Safe House generated enough funds to build a full service shelter that has up to 60 beds. All services are available at the shelter and work with other providers to bring in services. A 24-hour phone line is available for crisis calls or information. Advocacy and counseling services are also available to those not residing in the shelter. Five greatest accomplishments was building the shelter; establishing themselves in the community when there was resistance to discuss domestic violence issues; creating a certified model program for batterers; building relationships with other community agencies to provide quality services; but most proud of saving and changing lives.

Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, asked what outreach is available. Ms. Scott answered that she provides education and training on domestic violence as well as how to work with survivors. Bobby Gordon, Clark County, asked about average stay. Ms Scott answered that though the guidelines say 90 days, stays could range from two hours to two years depending on the needs, issues,

and situation of the individual. Ms. Geach commented that Safe House fulfilled a necessary need in the community and appreciates the services they provide.

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness-the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness members may speak on any item under this section of the agenda. Members may comment on matters including, without limitation, future agenda items, upcoming meeting dates, and meeting procedures. Comments made cannot be acted upon or discussed at this meeting, but may be placed on a future agenda for consideration by the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness.

No updates were provided.

Agenda Item 10. Public Comment-No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this tem of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be take. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, gave kudos to Nevada Homeless Alliance on the great events provided in the community from Medical Connect to Project Homeless Connect. On August 17th from 9:00 to 11:00 am, a back to school event occurred where over 500 backpacks were provided. Kids were able to select the supplies, lunch box, and goody bags from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Foster Grandparent Senior clowns provided entertainment. Thanks to the community for their contributions. If anyone is interested in learning more about Catholic Charities, the phone number is 702-385-2662 or the website is www.catholiccharities.com.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.