

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

In attendance:

Stephen Harsin, Chair, City of Las Vegas
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Kathy Somers, City of North Las Vegas
Tim Burch, Clark County
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, alternate, Veterans Administration
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

Absent:

Dr. Carolyn Hughes, Veterans Administration
Captain Shawn Andersen, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Vacant, City of Boulder City
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Gordon Absher, MGM Resorts International

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 2:08 pm, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at the Clark County Government Center, Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. The agenda for the December 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 December 12, 2013; for possible action.

Tyrone Thompson, Regional Initiatives Office (RIO) Coordinator requested, on behalf of the RIO staff, that Item 8 on the agenda be held until the January 9, 2014 Committee on Homelessness (CoH) meeting. The notice that was sent out to ZoomGrant applicants approximately one hour before the start of the CoH meeting was read into the record, to wit: "Notice of the Reconvening of the CoC's Evaluation Working Group". The Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) attempts every effort to make proactive measures to insure a timely and transparent local application process for the annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), based upon previous year's guidance and direction. On December 11, 2013 at 12:00 noon, HUD conducted a fiscal year 2013-2014 CoC 'Competition Strategies for Success' webinar, which provided guidance for consolidated applications that is significantly different from years past. This guidance has resulted in immediate action required by our local CoC to reconvene the EWG to review the latest guidance and changes affecting the Continuum's local process. A reconvening is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2013, from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm. The location will be posted on the agenda which will be provided to all applicants vial email. During the reconvening, all submitted CoC applications will be reevaluated and

ranked based upon the newest guidance and changes affecting the consolidated application. Notification provided to applicants on December 10, 2013 via ZoomGrant is considered null and void at this time. We look forward to the discussions and outcomes of the reconvening and encourage the community to participate in this important process. If you have questions or concerns regarding this notification, please contact Tyrone Thompson at (702) 455-5626 or [TYT @ clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:TYT@clarkcountynv.gov) or Michele Fuller-Hallaeur [CoC Coordinator] at (702) 455-5188 or MHF@clarkcountynv.gov.”

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda with Item 8 in abeyance until the January 9, 2014 CoH meeting. The motion carried, without opposition, and the Agenda was approved.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the November 14, 2013 meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the November 14, 2013 meeting. The motion carried and the Minutes were approved.

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

Tyrone Thompson, RIO Coordinator, presented the update. The Inclement Weather Program began November 18, 2013 and will run through March 2014, during which time the number of beds is expanded in the emergency shelters of The Shade Tree, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities and HopeLink, all of which provide housing to enable individuals to come into a warm environment. Warming stations were also opened on December 4th and 5th, wherein community centers and faith houses in addition to the abovenamed shelters opened their doors to the homeless.

Mainstream Program Basic Training (MPBT) consists of training workshops held monthly to provide case workers, faith-base personnel, and others with information about Mainstream programs in Southern Nevada. In the past, these monthly training sessions have been held in the Clark County Government Center, on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1 pm – 4 pm. As of 2014, the monthly workshops will be taken to the community and will be held at various local sites, based on the topic of the month. For example, the monthly training topic entitled “*Seniors*” will be held at The East Las Vegas Community/Senior Center. The training sessions will continue to be held the 4th Wednesday of each month (from February through October) from 1pm – 4pm. In addition, a second, exciting innovation to the MPBT will be the option to tour the facilities at the end of each workshop, from 4pm – 5pm. This will allow the attendees not only to hear about services that are offered, but to actually see the facility and the services it offers, and meet its staff. The complete confirmed MPBT schedule for 2014 will be included in the packet for the January 9, 2014 CoH meeting.

A Coordinated Intake and Assessment process is mandated to be implemented in our community by July 2014, pursuant to The Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing Act (HEARTH). To this end, the RIO has been working diligently with the agency directors of the various community programs that provide homeless services. A meeting was held in November 2013 to determine what the model will look like. A survey was generated through SurveyMonkey to get as many agencies to provide input as possible. The deadline to respond has been extended to Friday, December 13, 2013, at the close of business, and the agency directors will reconvene January 8, 2014, 8:30 am – 11:30 am, at Clark County Social Service, 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada, in the 3rd floor Training Room. The public as well as local faith-based groups that provide housing to the homeless are encouraged to participate in the survey and attend the meeting. Please contact CoC Coordinator, Michele Fuller-Hallaeur, at (702) 455-5188, with any questions.

The 17th Annual Homeless Candlelight Vigil will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 4 pm, at 1640 E. Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, Nevada, in the parking lot of HELP of Southern Nevada. The Vigil, presented by Straight from the Streets, a non-profit local provider of outreach services to the homeless, memorializes the lives of the homeless in our community who passed away at some time during the year. The Vigil will take place regardless of the weather conditions at that time.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Senior Management Analyst with the RIO, provided an update. The 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census will take place on January 29th and 30th, in compliance with HUD's mandate that each CoC in the nation provide a point-in-time count of the homeless population during the last 10 days of January. Information gathered impacts federal funding allocations, including the NOFA requirements. HUD guidance is followed to perform a comprehensive enumeration, which includes: expanding census activities to include an annual count, which is why a census will be conducted in 2014, instead of waiting until 2015, and street count canvassing by census track surveys to determine subpopulations that are being counted. In addition, this year we have received funding from Veterans Affairs to continue census service, with a special effort to identify homeless veterans at risk. All information concerning the method underlying the census can be found at the OneCPD website, which is hosted by HUD. The urban area count will be conducted on January 29th and will include the shelter count, by which agencies that provide emergency and transitional housing services will provide program utilization figures of how many were in their services that night. The general deployment for the urban count will begin at 1 a.m. on the morning of January 29th. The determination of the deployment station locations will be based upon the density of census tracks which have traditionally had a high concentration of homeless persons, as reflected in the count, as well as data currently being compiled with input from other first responder departments, including the Clark County Fire Department's figures on how many homeless response calls they get in a particular area. Beginning at 5 a.m. on January 29th, a tunnel and wash deployment will occur, working with the mobile crisis intervention teams from HELP of Southern Nevada to perform that part of the census. This population traditionally does not interact with the homeless who reside on the streets, so it is unlikely that a duplication of the count of homeless individuals will occur. At approximately 10 a.m., a youth count deployment will be conducted. At that time, the RIO will have some focus groups with our youth providers to determine the best areas to focus upon. RIO will also attend the next youth working group meeting the Clark County School District hosts, in order to finalize the deployment plans. On January 29th, Clark County School District will continue to provide figures and information on the residences that housed students the night before; those figures will not be duplicated by those of the shelters' count. The rural area deployment will take place on January 30, 2014, with the focus on Laughlin and Mesquite, as it was last year. In addition, recruitment is also being sought from first responders and volunteers to assist in other areas considered to be rural. From January 29 through February 12, 2014, RIO will conduct surveys to help determine the homeless subpopulations in our community. They will be administrated to extrapolate demographics, subpopulations and reasons for homelessness. This year's surveys will continue to include integration of the vulnerability index, which was started last year. The targeted goal is to complete approximately 1500 surveys, which will be distributed across geographical areas, types of shelters, and input from those on the streets. During that same period, RIO will work on the hidden homeless phone survey, a random digit dial survey conducted to determine the number of those living on the property of another, which may not be captured during the urban area deployment. This will be a count of those who are unrelated to the head of the household of the respective residences. Applied analysis will be used to complete this component of the count. Multiple resources will be needed to complete this effort. For deployment, we will continue to have extensive coordination with a number of our strong partnerships, particularly our EWG and technical groups previously used. There is still a strong need for at least 500 more volunteers, who can volunteer via the Volunteer Center, volunteer lists, by website at <http://bit.ly/2014HomelessCensus> or email at c3h@clarkcountynv.gov. Community volunteer training sessions will take place in the morning and evening of January 23, 2014, at the Clark County Government Center, in the Chambers. Tentative times for the training are 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. for the morning session, and 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. for the evening session. On the morning of the deployment,

volunteers will be asked to arrive promptly at 1 a.m. A select number of homeless individuals will continue to serve as homeless guides in locating areas where hidden homeless individuals might be found. The guides will be referred by service providers that work very closely with RIO, from their housing and residential programs, and will be paired with the general volunteers. A number of first responder partnerships will assist to perform this census, including Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, which contributes officers in the area, as well as air support for ultraviolet canvassing of areas that are difficult to drive to, and Clark County Fire Department in a more concerted staff effort. The City of the Las Vegas Fire Department has also been approached for their assistance. The Clark County Public Response officers, who have been invaluable over the years in the census effort, are again assisting with canvassing in both the urban and rural areas. More information on the census can be obtained on www.HelpHopeHome.org.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance on Project Homeless Connect and a presentation from Baby's Bounty; for possible action.

Tyrone Thompson, RIO Coordinator and Co-chair of Project Homeless Connect (PHC), provided the update for Stacy Sutton Pollard, Executive Director of Nevada Homeless Alliance and Co-chair of PHC. The preliminary results of the event are as follows: over 130 organizations and government departments were in attendance (an increase from the previous year); over 520 volunteers participated; 2,992 homeless clients were served (an increase over the 2,812 who were served last year), including 300 families, 485 clients who were checked in through the Preregistration entrance, 44 clients who were brought in that day through Outreach efforts, and 129 children who were served in the Children's Activity area. A full report of PHC will be presented by Ms. Sutton Pollard at the next CoH meeting, scheduled for January 9, 2014. Upon the request of Board member Jodie Gerson for a comparison of yearly PHC results, Mr. Thompson stated that a comparison over the past five years will be completed.

Kim Amato, founder and Director of Baby's Bounty gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Baby's Bounty: A Good Start for Every Baby," as an overview of the organization's services. The goal of Baby's Bounty is to provide a good start for every baby, by providing essential clothing and gear to babies born into low income families. Baby's Bounty collaborates with over 120 social service agencies, including the Dept. of Family & Child Protective Services, schools, hospitals, faith-based agencies, and others, that identify families in distress and request assistance on the families' behalf. Referrals can only come from caseworkers, and their agencies provide the case management for their referrals; Baby's Bounty does not perform any case management. The organization also advocates for an infant's health, safety and well-being by providing information to the mothers and conducting seminars, such as the Safe Sleep Practices seminar that was conducted in October. The typical mother is between the ages of 18 and 29, single, and predominantly Hispanic or African-American. The organization is in dire need of volunteers to assist in the preparation of the diaper bags and distribution of donations received each month from corporations and community members. Donations are accepted for infants aged 0-6 months. Donors can drop off items at the Baby's Bounty's office, call 702-485-2229, or send an email requesting a pick-up. The office is open Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am. - 4 pm. for drop-offs. Referring caseworkers are notified when a package is ready for them to pick up and disburse to the referred mother or family. The Annual Baby Tea will be held April 27, 2014 at the Mandarin Oriental.

Agenda Item 8. Approval of recommendations for funding for the local 2013 Continuum of Care competition and authorize the Continuum of Care Coordinator to make necessary modifications for final application submission to U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD); for possible action.

This item is held in until the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 9, 2014.

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority and the Regional Initiatives Office on the Connection to Home Partnership; for possible action.

Dwayne Alexander, Deputy Executive Director of Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority (SNRHA) and Catherine Huang Hara (RIO), Coordinator of the Connection to Home Partnership, presented an update via a joint PowerPoint presentation entitled, "The Connection to Home Partnership: One Year Progress Update." Connection to Home Partnership is a collaboration of the SNRHA, the RIO, and CoC homeless service providers. The goal of this partnership, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), is to increase housing opportunities for qualified families and end homelessness in Southern Nevada. In just one year, since the Partnership was formed, 79 formerly homeless families now have permanent leased housing with the SNRHA (i.e., over 215 people in Southern Nevada are out of shelters, off the streets, and now connected to a home). The SNRHA pledged to provide 150 units of housing opportunities throughout Southern Nevada and unincorporated Clark County for qualified homeless families, veterans and emancipated youths. Under a "Homeless Referral Preference", which strives to serve underserved populations, 10% of applicants are veterans of recent conflicts (regardless of discharge status) and 10% are homeless youths, ages 14-24, who are legally authorized to sign a lease. In addition, chronically homeless households that have been referred are now tracked. The service providers are responsible to insure that applicants have the financial assistance necessary to move to and dwell in the housing, and to provide follow-up case management for at least 3 months after the lease is signed. At the end of November 2013, 308 referrals had been received, 248 were interviewed and 173 were withdrawn for various reasons, including no-shows by the clients, non-compliance or negative background checks. The program still faces some challenges, including fewer units available for clients, a freeze on new referrals (since August 2013) and difficulty for some to meet the minimum rent requirements.

Terry Lindemann, Family Promise; Victoria Lopez and Cherry Richardson of Lutheran Social Services of Nevada; and Tim Burch, Clark County Department of Social Service, offered testimonies of clients who moved from homelessness to permanent housing through the partnership.

Ms. Huang Hara added that the MOU has been renewed for another year or until 150 households have been leased. There is also the possibility partnerships will continue at the conclusion of the MOU. For further questions or information, she can be contacted at (702) 455-5623 or by email at c3h@clarkcountynv.gov.

Agenda Item 10. 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.

Kathy Somers, North Las Vegas, announced that she will be retiring from the City of North Las Vegas at the end of December 2013, so will no longer sit on the CoH. She offered thanks to the service providers, the RIO, the other CoH members, and Stephen Harsin, chairperson. Kathi Thomas-Gibson will replace Ms. Somers as a CoH member. Ms. Somers plans to continue to be involved with the homeless issue.

On behalf of the CoH, Mr. Harsin presented a certificate to Ms. Somers for her service on the committee.

Agenda Item 11. 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.

Terry Lindemann, Family Promise, thanked Paula Zier, CoH member, for helping get a zone variance for a mother with six children. She also thanked Kim Amato for providing items for newborns over a long period of time.

Debbie Harpster, United Way of Southern Nevada, and secretary for the Emergency Food and Shelter local board for Clark County, announced that Clark County has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security, through the Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. The funding is \$1,074,675 to be made available to 13 local agencies serving throughout Clark County. The funds are to be used to assist community members with serving congregate meals, food vouchers, motel shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance. Those in need can call Nevada 211 via a landline phone or 800-429-2669 via a cell phone to be referred to an agency that is a recipient of a portion of this funding.

Marlene Richter, The Shade Tree, presented a picture painted by some children and their mother for Kathy Somers, for helping them move from the shelter to a home. In 2012 and 2013, an average of 6,000 women and children has stayed at Shade Tree each year. Ms. Richter applauded the partnership for all of the lives that have been changed due to their collaborative efforts.

Phillip Hollon, Salvation Army, thanked a number of organizations, businesses, and volunteers who provided assistance or donations to the Salvation Army for the benefit of homeless individuals and families. Gratitude was also expressed to the CoH. A Christmas meal will be provided to the homeless or otherwise needy on Christmas Day at 2:45 pm at the Salvation Army Lied Social Services Campus.

Julie Murray, Moonridge Group, expressed appreciation to Kathy Somers for her service on the Board. She also reported that the “speaking points” she presented in the CoH meeting of November 14, 2013, concerning the status of homelessness in Southern Nevada, are being effectively used, inspiring more individuals and businesses in the community to actively engage in providing for the homeless, with the goal of ending homelessness in Southern Nevada.

Meeting adjourned at **3:33** pm.