

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION**  
**COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS**  
**July 10, 2014**

**In attendance:**

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, City of North Las Vegas  
Julie Calloway, Vice Chair, City of Boulder City  
Tim Burch, Clark County  
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson  
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas  
Paula Zier, Clark County School District  
Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department  
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Maria Gatti, MGM Resorts International  
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration

**Absent:**

Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department

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**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 Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. The agenda was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.**

No comments were made.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for July 10, 2014.**

A motion was made by Barbara Geach to approve the agenda for July 10, 2014. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the June 12, 2014 meeting.**

Barbara Geach requested a change be made to the minutes regarding item 9. She said the minutes should read, "Mr. Harsin explained that each jurisdiction is trying to find ways to work through their budget deficits. Ms. Geach said that not one jurisdiction makes a contribution without all the other jurisdictions participating." A motion was made by Barbara Geach to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2014 meeting with the above changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive an update from the Regional Initiatives Office.**

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, presented the update on the following: Inclement Weather Shelter Services; Cooling Stations available during excessive heat; Mainstream Programs Basic Training scheduled for July 23 1-4 p.m.; She announced on June 22<sup>nd</sup> the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness marked the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Opening Doors, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

No action was needed for this item.

**Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from Nevada Health Centers.**

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, announced the next Project Homeless Connect meeting scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> at 525 E. Bonanza at 8:30 a.m.. She then introduced Samantha Ford and Albert Aba of Nevada Health Centers Inc. They provided an overview of the health and education services offered. They also host the WIC (Women, Infants & Children) program at 7 locations. Dentistry is offered in the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and Statewide Mammovan services are provided throughout the community. The Las Vegas outreach Clinic is located on the Salvation Army campus. Ms. Ford explained the payer mix for their programs. Nevada Health Centers provide counseling and education through community events. More information related to the program is available at NVRHC.org.

No action was needed for this item.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the local Continuum of Care and the 2014 local application.**

Brooke Page, Regional Initiatives Office, provided an update on the local Continuum of Care 2104 local application. Ms. Page presented the project requests and the HUD Award received in 2013. On June 19<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced funding for 2014 for Tier 2. Tier 1 reallocated projects and Tier 2 projects ensured permanent housing, rapid re-housing and transitional housing, were able to continue for this fiscal year. Due to a reduction in fair market rent value rates, projects providing rental assistance received a reduction of roughly 3% from the amount requested. The SAFAH-Link move-in assistance project was not funded. Other resources are being sought to fund this project. The Las Vegas Continuum of Care received \$9,425,516 million of the \$9,629,929 million requested. Ms. Page shared the dates for local application mandatory technical assistance trainings. A pre-application is required this year.

Ms. Geach asked when the NOFA would be released. Ms. Page replied that this information was not yet known. Chair Thomas-Gibson asked for clarification regarding the scoring for 2013 versus 2014. Ms. Page explained that the local CoC scored high enough in 2013 to receive Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding. The local CoC's score will also carry-over into the 2014 CoC competition.

No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on implementation of coordinated intake.**

Bobby Gordon, Clark County Social Service, and Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration, gave an update on implementation of coordinated intake efforts. As required by HUD, coordinated intake starts at a single point of entry or "hub" where individuals are assessed for housing, homeless prevention, and other related needs in order to receive future funding. Needs are then matched and referred to the appropriate housing and services options available in the community. Clark County Social Service has been designated as the hub for single adults for Southern Nevada. The Veterans Administration will do the assessments for veterans. The coordinated intake process trial began on July 1. Future updates will be given as the model is developed. Dr. Dodge explained that nothing has changed as far as coordinated intake for veterans. They have developed a process for referring those individuals that they cannot help. Ms. Sutton Pollard asked if the model will be used as intake for rental assistance. Ms. Gordon explained that intake is not used specifically for rental assistance, but once the assessment is done, the appropriate referrals are given which could include that service. Ms. Wilson asked if the coordinated assessment is for just individuals. Ms. Gordon said that they are starting with individuals to develop the process. Others will be added at a later date with locations to be determined.

No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from the Youth Working Group.**

Paula Zier, Clark County School District shared the breakdown of the population of homeless youth in the Clark County School system. The numbers have gone up over 2,000 compared to last year. Next school year there will be a new student data information system being implemented. On the enrollment form

there will be a Title I HOPE survey asking about the living circumstances. The data will also help identify more students in that situation. The Youth Working Group is working on bringing awareness to the community regarding services available to homeless students, such as school based health centers. No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 10. Receive an update from WestCare on the Community Triage Center.**

Erin Kinard and Chris Nelson, WestCare, provided programmatic updates regarding the Community Triage Center. Ms. Kinard spoke of program expansion at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Maryland Parkway locations, Affordable Care Act & Medicaid Expansion, and data collection and reporting. The data collected for FY 2013-14 was given for number of clients served, average length of stay, and duplicated clients. The top zip codes at admission were also shown for FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14. The socio-economic factors, referral source, hospital referrals, discharge reason, discharge placements, primary drug of choice, and mental health data were reviewed. Chair Thomas-Gibson asked if any of the statistics appear to be attributed to anything in particular. Ms. Kinard said that none of the changes in data have yet indicated a pattern, however, that the data collection is getting tighter. Ms. Gerson asked about training on synthetic drugs. Ms. Kinard shared that WestCare has a drug education classes which includes current trends. It is available for any groups that are interested.

No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 11. Receive a presentation from Las Vegas Fire and Rescue on response to serial inebriates.**

Sarah McCrea, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, gave a presentation regarding serial inebriates. She explained the issue in the valley of the co-occurring homelessness, substance abuse and mental illness. Rarely do people voluntarily enroll in treatment, therefore the illness persists and the revolving door occurs with emergency rooms, shelters, jails, and detoxification centers. These issues consume community resources. The costs were presented of emergency room visits, as well as one night in jail. With chronic inebriates being brought to these facilities on a continual basis, the expense is estimated at \$33,882 annually. A lot of pieces of the solution to the problem are in effect. Las Vegas and stakeholders have been discussing what can be done to solve this problem. Research has been conducted of programs across that country and shown sobering centers as an effective solution in cities with similarities to Las Vegas, such as San Diego to Sacramento. Ms. McCrea explained that important steps need to be made to reduce the drunk in public who are a safety hazard to self or others. She defined a chronic inebriate as someone having 5 contacts within 30 days with EMS, ED, PD, Sobering Center, Detox, or HMIS. In order to address the issue an ordinance change is needed as well as a sobering center be in place. A guilty verdict with custody time imposed, and completion of a treatment program offered in lieu of time is suggested step as a step in the solution. Upon request of Mr. Burch, Ms. McCrea described a sobering center as a place where an individual may be taken to “sleep it off”, for someone who has no medical issues and be given a safe place until conscious and alert to take care of themselves. Such facility would not be a shelter. A cost model was discussed but no specific amounts or number of beds needed have been narrowed down at this point. Ms. McCrea spoke of a pilot program that is being discussed for Downtown Las Vegas. With much more information needed to be discussed, Chair Thomas-Gibson suggested an ad-hoc working group may pursue the topic further. Ms. Morris-Hibbler volunteered the City of Las Vegas to head up the working group as they have a history with the item. They will report back to the group at a later time.

No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 12. Receive an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from Bitfocus.**

Rob Herdzik, Bitfocus, provided an HMIS update. On May 1, 2014 HUD HMIS Data Standards were released. There is an intensive development and integration schedule established for October 1, 2014 implementation. The expansion includes additional Federal Partners (VA, RHY, PATH, HOPWA). In regards to data collection, new fields have been added, fields have been retired, and fields have been

changed. These updates will represent new data collection requirement for all agencies. Mr. Herdzik reviewed the coordinated intake objectives. 2014 goals for Clarity CMIS/HMIS include expansion of mobile and paperless utilization amongst agencies; encourage participation and coordination amongst non-participating agencies and first responders; continued refinement of eligibility criteria for agency programs; and identifying gaps based on data driven processes. An example was shown of a Clarity passport which allows an individual to be quickly identified and access services among agencies. Chair Thomas-Gibson asked about the capacity of the system regarding new agencies being added. Mr. Herdzik expressed that the statewide system is ready for the influx of changes and they work actively to train new users. At present there is no cost to new users. No action was necessary for this item.

**Agenda Item 13. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.**

Mr. Burch asked for any feedback to be given to him regarding United Funding Agency proposal. He asked that an item be added to next agenda to ratify the Draft Recommended Process.

**Agenda Item 14. Public Comment**

Marlene Richter, The Shade Tree, spoke of the medical clinic which was opened on site five years ago with the help of Touro University. The clinic provides services to residents of The Shade Tree. She announced that Touro has found a way to provide a mobile clinic in the community. The clinic will move through the community and provide services to the homeless.

Vince Pulsipher, new resident, took time to commend the staff at Clark County for making it easy for him to register his County Homestead and Veterans tax benefits. He said he was treated very well.

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, thanked Las Vegas Fire and Rescue for providing fire safety and fire extinguisher training for his staff. With the course being free of charge, he recommended it to anyone. He thanked Anna Vasquez, Las Vegas Justice Court and many other Court employees. They organized fund raisers to provide funding for bottled water. He also mentioned that St. Luke Lutheran Church Youth Group from Portland, Oregon, came to Las Vegas for a week to provide service at the Salvation Army and other non-profits.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.