

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
June 14, 2012

In attendance:

Barbara Geach, Chair, City of Henderson
Bobby Gordon, alternate, Clark County
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Annie Wilson, alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Gordon Absher, MGM Resorts International
Gina Gavin, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Paula Zier, Clark County School District

Absent:

Kathy Somers, City of North Las Vegas
Marcia Evans, alternate, Veterans Administration
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 2:04 p.m., on Thursday, June 14, 2012, in the Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. The agenda for the June 14, 2012, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

No public comment at this time.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for June 14, 2012; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 14, 2012, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the May 10, 2012, 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.

Tyrone Thompson, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, provided the update.

Mr. Thompson thanked the community partners for assisting with cooling stations on June 1-2 in response to excessive heat. On June 18-20, 2012, cooling stations will be opened again. Community partners are asked to open their doors. Flyers have been dispersed to outreach teams and police departments to make any homeless encountered aware of summer day shelter and the cooling stations. The Islamic Society has been a partner, and other faith-based organizations are encouraged to open their doors. The cooling stations are also for those who have inadequate air conditioning, as well as those

experiencing homelessness. Anyone interested in providing compassion stations for the summer may contact Mr. Thompson at 702-455-5626 or email at tyt@clarkcountynv.gov.

The Mainstream Programs Basic Training will be on June 27, 2012, 1-5 pm, at the Government Center, 500 S Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89155. The topic is Human Trafficking.

The Continuum of Care Evaluation Working Group will be meeting at Clark County Social Service on Monday, June 18, 2012, starting at 1 p.m., to approve the local 2012 continuum of care application for requesting funds from HUD. The applications will be available on June 25, 2012. There will be a press release, massive email distribution, and post on www.helphopehome.org.

Jeremy Sorenson was introduced to the board. He is a doctoral candidate in geography at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. His dissertation research will be tracing the contours of homelessness and hunger in the Las Vegas Valley. He is especially interested in how the challenges surrounding homelessness and general responses in care are sometimes conflicting.

Agenda Item 6: Approval of the 2012-2013 Regional Homeless Budget; for possible action.

Tyrone Thompson presented the budget to the board. The budget is flat-funded, and there are changes in proportionate share for the jurisdictions based on the 2010 census. There was a decrease in contribution for the cities of Henderson and Las Vegas, and an increase for Clark County. Inclement Weather includes funding for the current level of summer shelter through September 30, 2012. This includes 100 spaces at Catholic Charities, 200 at The Salvation Army. Motel vouchers are still available from Boulder City and HopeLink. The final determinations for inclement weather spaces to be funded are still pending the finalization of the Requests for Qualification (RFQ) that are in process and new contracts that will begin in time for the winter season.

Barbara Geach stated North Las Vegas appointed her as a proxy vote, which will be affirmative. A motion was made to approve the 2012-2013 budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Stephen Harsin asked if the budget will go the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition. Mr. Thompson stated the board members will put the interlocal agreement with the budget on their jurisdictions' respective agendas.

Agenda Item 7: Receive a preliminary report on Southern Nevada Registry Week for identifying the most vulnerable experiencing homelessness; for possible action.

Tyrone Thompson gave history behind Registry Week. Southern Nevada was selected from a joint task force of leaders from HUD and Veteran Affairs to be one of 16 communities in the country to pioneer a bold new way to aspire to the challenge to end veteran homelessness. The Federal plan deadline to end veteran homelessness is 2015. Mr. Thompson recapped the Rapid Results Housing Boot Camp attended in May 2012. During the Boot Camp, the communities that attended were charged to develop a 100 Day Plan to house veterans. There are approximately 50 HUD VASH vouchers left to be issued. The goal is to house the 50 of the most vulnerable, chronic homeless veterans by August 17, 2012 with those vouchers. In April 2011 our community signed on with 100K Homes to house 100,000 chronic homeless across the nation. Regional Initiatives Office and the Continuum of Care providers in this community decided the 100K Homes Vulnerability Index is a tool that could be implemented in our community by doing a Registry Week. On May 24, 2012, it was decided to move forward with the Registry Week, which was coordinated in 10 business days.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, and Divya Narala, VISTA, gave the preliminary report for the Registry Week. The 2011 Homeless Census tracts were given to the area outreach teams to determine if homeless were still in those areas or other areas in order to target the correct areas. Volunteer Center reached out to past Project Homeless Connect and Census volunteers to help. Nevada Homeless Alliance reached out to Three Square and Lutheran Social Services for snacks

and water to give to homeless. The VA wanted to help identify homeless veterans eligible for HUD VASH. US VETS hosted a veterans' breakfast. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department provided support and presence. Some outreach teams ventured into the tunnels to reach the homeless living there. The first day, volunteers deployed from Catholic Charities. Mike Shore, Western Regional Coordinator for 100K Homes, was there and expressed his pleasure with the process taken. The second day, volunteers deployed from HELP of Southern Nevada, as well as from US VETS to cover areas not covered the day before.

Ms. Narala informed the board of the Quick Base database used to rate the homeless participants interviewed using the Vulnerability Index during Registry Week. Two hundred surveys were completed on June 11, 2012. Over 100 were completed on June 12. Fifteen volunteers were available to enter the data into the database. Special thanks to Catholic Charities for the use of its computers. Outreach teams will continue to use the Vulnerability Indexes and will give those indexes to Ms. Narala to enter into Quick Base on a weekly basis.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer continued the update. Ninety-six volunteers went out on day one. Fifteen did data entry. Day two there were 62 volunteers doing surveys. Many were duplicate surveyors returning from the previous day. Six volunteers did data entry on the second day. A total of 312 surveys were completed. 108 were vulnerable, chronic homeless. 71 veterans were surveyed, 19 of which were vulnerable, chronic. One hundred thirty-nine individuals refused to be interviewed. 15 pets were reported to be with the homeless individuals surveyed.

The next steps are: a list of the vulnerable homeless veterans will be sent to the VA; homeless outreach teams will contact the other homeless individuals; a look at the current programs will be assessed and what still needs to be developed; vulnerability indexes will be incorporated into the outreach teams; and eventually, Clarity will include the vulnerability index and Bitfocus will create an app for smart phones for outreach workers to complete the index on their phones.

Barbara Geach wanted to applaud community partners and volunteers and gave kudos to Ms. Fuller-Hallauer and Tyrone Thompson.

Stephen Harsin asked if the Registry would be ongoing. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated it would be blended into the intake process for all programs, including Project Homeless Connect.

Jodie Gerson asked the definition of vulnerability. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated the key elements used to score homeless individuals as chronic and vulnerable. Ms. Gerson asked if the app being developed would be secure. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated the app could only be accessed if the user could access Clarity.

Bobby Gordon commended the Regional Initiatives Office and the community members for the work on the Registry Week.

Ms. Geach asked how outreach teams will know how to contact those surveys. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer explained that photos were taken and locations were identified.

Agenda Item 8: Receive an update on the Prevention Working Group; for possible action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer gave the update. The Prevention/Discharge Planning Working Group has been reconvened. The working group concluded that its meetings would be the centralized place to receive information from the various discharge planning groups and committees. The focus will be challenges and barriers facing those coming out of systems of care. It was also decided it was very important to develop a recuperative care working group which is in alignment with the federal Opening Doors plan to prevent and end homelessness. The next meeting will be August 22, 2012.

Catherine Huang Hara, senior management analyst, provided the update for Homeless Prevention Rapid re-housing Program. Clark County is in the process of closing out homeless prevention and rapid re-housing project activities by August 7, 2012, which is the HUD deadline. State and North Las Vegas grants are currently being closed out before the end fiscal year. Applied Analysis was selected as the

evaluator to provide a comprehensive evaluation of implementation of the No Wrong Door model as the vehicle of the HPRP services in the community. Agencies and clients who participated in the project may be contacted by the evaluation team as part of this process. A comprehensive report with findings and recommendations will be presented in the fall.

Stephen Harsin presented the HPRP report for the City of Las Vegas on behalf of Tara Ulmer. The City of Las Vegas accepted its last application for assistance on May 30, 2012. The program is officially closed. The City has obligated 100% of the HPRP funds and will be completely spent by the end of this month. A final HPRP report will be given in the fall based on the evaluation which will include lessons learned and best practices.

Agenda Item 9: Receive an update on the Committee on Homelessness strategic plan; for possible action.

Tyrone Thompson gave the update. The Strategic Plan is made available on www.helphopehome.org website.

Governance: The board is given more time to review the bylaws. The bylaws should be reviewed and ratified during the July Committee on Homeless meeting.

Alignment of Federal and local plans: This alignment should be completed by September 2012.

Follow and integrate the CoC Community Action Plan (CAP): HomeBase is the technical assistance group helping with this through meetings. The main activity coming out of this plan is Michele Fuller-Hallauer is meeting with 10 of the CoC agencies regarding possibly converting transitional housing to permanent supportive housing. This is favorable with HEARTH Act performance.

Conduct homeless service gaps analysis: The Youth Services Working Group have been mapping exercises. This month's meeting will involve a Decision Tree. A report will be given in the fall.

Another component is the Housing Inventory Count/Point in Time Count (HIC/PIT). In January of this year there was a count of the housing units available for homeless. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer will give a more detailed report in July.

Create greater public awareness and increase funding and awareness for initiatives: The Public Awareness Working Group met on May 22, 2012. A past partner, B&P, a new partner, The Moonridge Group, and Dan Kulin from Clark County Public Communications attended the meeting. The focus of the meeting was to determine how to keep www.helphopehome.org updated with fresh information and how to get the community involved. The next meeting will be in August 2012.

Continue to pursue HUD Technical Assistance where appropriate: A Performance Measurement Management Team met on June 13, 2012. Fiscal accountability of service providers was discussed, maximizing dollars allocated in our community.

Jurisdictional coordination for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (homeless related): Clark County and the City of Las Vegas presented their amendments in the last Committee on Homeless meeting. It is a work in progress.

Mr. Thompson commended the board on meeting the goals set forth.

Agenda Item 10: Receive a presentation from Three Square on the Summer Food Service Program; for possible action.

Lisa Corbett, program manager for Three Square Food Bank, provided the presentation on the Summer Food Service Program. The target age is 18 and under. The program is from June 11 to August 24, 2012. Meal sites can be found at schools, community and recreation centers, and faith-based organizations. Children who normally access school meals can participate as well as under school-age children. The Nevada Department of Education administers the program which is funded by United States Department of Agriculture. Local organizations such as Three Square and the Culinary Academy participate in the program. There is no cost to children accessing meals and snacks and no requirements.

Families can receive information at www.threesquare.org or call or text 702-556-9129. Volunteers can visit the Three Square website.

Barbara Geach commended Three Square on its work.

Stephen Harsin recommended that Three Square visited because it is an impressive operation.

Agenda Item 11: Receive a presentation on Family connect from the Nevada Homeless Alliance; for possible action.

Stacy Sutton, Director of Nevada Homeless Alliance, provided the update. Family Connect was on May 16, 2012, at the East Las Vegas Senior Community Center, and was an outreach event for struggling families who needed help stabilizing. 200 families were served, with 160 children visiting with their parents. Over 50 agencies and organizations participated. There were over 100 volunteers. Mass Mutual Free Life Insurance program was provided. Housing agencies were on hand to assist families with permanent housing or foreclosure assistance. Nevada HAND connected 34 families to housing. A family that was not able to attend the event was assisted via telephone, as the agencies needed were at the event. Higher education and scholarship programs were on site. Department of Welfare and Supportive Services were also on site to provide information and referrals for Medicaid, TANF, and food stamps. The give-away section, coordinated by For the Least of These, was very successful. For the Least of These provided household items and 65 bags of clothing for children. The Mirage provided hygiene items. Three Square provided three pallets of toys. Ms. Sutton thanked the Regional Initiatives Office, Title I Hope, Clark County School District, the City of Las Vegas, United Way of Southern Nevada, For the Lease of These, Three Square Food Bank, Cadeau Express, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada HAND, Clark County IT Department, and service providers. Ms. Sutton also handed out certificates of appreciation. Veronica Gibson translated all informational materials into Spanish.

Jodie Gerson commended Ms. Sutton and asked what the next step would be. Ms. Sutton stated Family Connect will be part of continued conversation between Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA) and the Regional Initiatives Office to determine if Family Connect is something to continue. Gina Gavin confirmed and stated NHA was looking to bring more partners into the conversation.

Barbara Geach also commended Ms. Sutton and the community partners on Family connect.

Agenda Item 12: 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.

Stephen Harsin provided an update on the Mayor's forum with the Community Inter-faith Council. On April 24, 2012, almost 100 senior pastors and leaders of some of the largest houses of worship in the Las Vegas valley identified addiction, strengthening the family, jobs, education, homelessness, and human trafficking as the top needs in our community. On May 31, 2012, over 120 faith leaders, topic experts, and top level representatives from Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro) captains were in attendance. Six discussion groups were formed to discuss the issues identified in April to develop solutions. Six work groups have been formed to move the solutions along. Tyrone Thompson commented on the break out group on homelessness. Metro suggested using their 1st Tuesdays to serve as a forum to address homeless issues that reside in that area command. Mr. Harsin would like an update presented in July or August, 2012.

Mr. Harsin also congratulated Jodie Gerson on being made director of Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health.

Agenda Item 13: Public Comment

Ken LoBene, director of the local HUD office, commented on the Registry Week. He commended Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Tyrone Thompson, and Divya Narala on their work to organize the event within 10 working days, as well as the community. He also announced the 100% of VASH vouchers have been leased.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, also commended Ms. Fuller-Hallauer, Mr. Thompson, and Ms. Narala. Catholic Charities hosted the first deployment site during Registry Week. Cooling Stations will be available on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the following week. Summer Day Shelter will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is expected to receive up to 200 people. Catholic Charities will need help with toiletry items. The food pantry will also need to be replenished with shelf stable food items. Wal-Mart Foundation provided a \$50,000 check on June 13, 2012.

Louis Lacey announced that he is now the program manager for the Shannon West Homeless Youth Center. He can be contacted by calling 702-813-7273 if there are any questions or concerns.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.