

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
March 13, 2014

In attendance:

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Julie Calloway, Vice Chair, City of Boulder City
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Bobby Gordon, alternate, Clark County
Terri Thompson, alternate, Clark County School District
Annie Wilson, alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Tamara Harris, alternate, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Tim Burch, Clark County
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, MGM Resorts International
Stacy Sutton Pollard, alternate, Nevada Homeless Alliance

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, at 2:02 p.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2014, at Clark County Department of Social Service, 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. The agenda for the March 13, 2014 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 public comment was presented.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for March 13, 2014; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda. The motion carried, without opposition or abstentions, and the Agenda was approved.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the February 13, 2014 meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2014 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, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, presented the update. The Inclement Weather program ends March 31, 2014, meaning there will not be increased beds that were available for winter shelter. Summer day shelter begins May 1, 2014. Even at that time, there will be more day center activities planned.

Mainstream Programs Basic Training is a monthly resources training for case managers, case workers, and faith based organizations. The workshops are always held the 4th Wednesday of each month. In the past, trainings have been at the Government Center. This year these sessions are at different agencies so they can show off these services. The first workshop, Medical Services/Affordable Care Act, was at the Cambridge Recreation Center. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. is the training with an optional tour of the facility from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Although there were less than 10 attendees who took the tour, they went to the Cambridge Community Center where Nevada Health Centers is located. Thanks to Samantha Ford for coordinating that tour to show all the services there. On March 26 is the next topic, Behavioral Health, at which we'll be discussing mental health and substance abuse. Thanks to our partners at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) at 6161 W. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89146, for hosting the training. Presentations are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the optional tour from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Something new that our office is very excited about is that we will begin rolling out Hydration Stations and Hydration Teams in our community. Previously during extremely hot weather conditions, cooling stations have been opened. In addition to day shelters, community centers and some of our faith based partners would open their doors. However, cooling stations had pretty low attendance. Because it is important to have people hydrating, a project to have Hydration Zones was proposed. Each zone will have a team captain that coordinates for their zone. Kick-off is tentatively set for May 1, which is the first day of summer day shelter opening and close it down on September 30 which is when summer day shelter closes. A coordination meeting will be held at Clark County Social Service on April 2 at 3 p.m. The announcement will be sent out by Nevada Homeless Alliance, as well as reaching out through the City of Las Vegas and the Mayor's Faith Initiative as well as any of you who are here and interested in attending. If you plan to attend, start thinking about it now, as our concerns are the whole Southern Nevada community. Start thinking of anyone who can sponsor water. In the past, Star Nursery has helped out, and HELP of Southern Nevada has received a lot of donations. Regional Captains are needed in addition to water, and a really good storage space for the water. This is a good opportunity for the community to participate.

At the last meeting I stated I would be giving a presentation on asset mapping and community collaborations. This was a report that was requested by the SNRPC board. The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition board is comprised of all our jurisdictions. We also have Metro and our school district on board and we will be reporting back to them about the great work we have been doing. Also we have some mapping that's done of all of the services that are in our Homeless Management Information System, so they'll be able to physically see on the map where those services are. I will be giving that report on March 24, at 4:00 p.m. at the Clark County Government Center.

The coordinated intake process is big and new for our community, but a facilitation team is working with us. The next step is Pre-Charrette meetings, which are meetings in which all stakeholders in a project attempt to resolve conflicts and map solutions. Hopefully the conflicts

are minimal, but the discussion can be passionate because providers are being asked to retool how they work on their intake process and make it more inclusive to the whole region. On April 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the meeting will be held at the Cambridge Recreation Center, 3930 S. Cambridge St., Las Vegas, NV 89119. When the flyers are sent out, you will have the opportunity to check your interests for your employees in case you have experts in different areas that are being presented. There have already been a few conference calls and the word is out that Southern Nevada is moving ahead with their coordinated intake. Everyone here is welcome to attend.

Ms. Thomas-Gibson inquired how utilized the beds were at the Inclement Weather sites. Mr. Thompson stated that weekly reports are received, but deferred to the providers attending the meeting. Phillip Hollon, the Salvation Army, stated that depending on the weather about 80% were utilized. Steve Meriwether, Catholic Charities, stated that for his agency, it was usually 75% to 80 % were utilized. Both stated that when the weather is cold or rainy, it can be utilized up to 100%.

Jodie Gerson asked if people should contact the Regional Office to set up the donation of water for the Hydrations Stations. Mr. Thompson agreed that for now they could call him (702-455-5626), but since the meeting to initiate these stations will take place within the next few weeks, that it should be worked out. Ms. Gerson also clarified that space is needed for the storage of the water and asked whether the amount of space would be addressed at the meeting. Mr. Thompson replied that since this program is just starting up that the amount of space needed is unknown, but will be looking at outreach team reports to assist in making the determinations. He also stated that reporting the amount of water given out will be a part of the process. At this time, Mr. Thompson is envisioning a warehouse space, but once the zones have been determined, that having a regional area for the teams to go to, rather than one centralized space, would be ideal.

Ms. Gerson also inquired about the timeframe of the Homeless Census results since, at the last meeting, the phone surveys were just finishing up. Mr. Thompson responded that hopefully the results would be reported by the May meeting. Part of the delay is the fact that the appropriate amount of time is being taken to look at and analyze the numbers in order to give a good solid report for the community.

Annie Wilson stated that since the Inclement Weather stations are closing March 31, that she would like Theo to tell the committee things that he is doing to cover the time between March 31 and May 1. Mr. Thompson deferred to the Chair, who stated she wished to save that item for the Public Comment section.

Dr. Dodge stated her excitement about the Hydration Team. She suggested that just as the outreach folks are informing where the Hydration Teams are going, the Hydration Teams could inform us of outreach which could lead to coordination from time to time between the Hydration Team and the Outreach Team on where to go. Mr. Thompson stated that the Outreach Teams in the community are being invited so it would be all done together. Dr. Dodge clarified Mr. Thompson's response by stating that the Outreach Teams would be involved in the Hydration Teams, but also suggested more people would need to be involved. Mr. Thompson affirmed this and stated that this would be a great opportunity for faith based organizations to become involved. He also stated that by having a Hydration Team Coordinator for each Region, they could then serve as a volunteer coordinator, and keep track of the days and times those volunteers would be available. He also mentioned that the decision whether to provide the teams with hats or shirts to identify them to the community is still in the works. Another reason that

the Hydration Zones came about is due to the statistics received from the coroner's office showing that dehydration played a role in the cause of death.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance; for possible action.

Ms. Tamara Harris provided the update for the Nevada Homeless Alliance. A reminder that this year's Family Connect has been scheduled for May 29, 2014, to be held at the East Las Vegas Community Center. Flyers are posted on the website www.NevadaHomelessAlliance.org. Section chairs and meeting times are in the process of being confirmed. All booth materials will be posted on the website within the next few weeks. The monthly Service Provider meeting scheduled for March, which had been postponed due to the Veterans Stand Down, is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the main Salvation Army Campus on Owens.

Ms. Harris then introduced Ms. Kathleen Miller, Living Grace Homes. Ms. Miller opened her presentation with a scenario of a girl arriving at Living Grace Homes having just given birth and having nowhere to go and no way to provide for her newborn child. In addition to providing diaper bag items, Living Grace Homes provides food and shelter, as well as moral support and an ideal to foster family. Living Grace Homes is presently full with a capacity of 8 which includes mothers and babies. Since opening 7 years ago, they have provided shelter, education, assistance with legal issues and access to medical care for 135 young moms with 133 babies being born. On March 1, 2014, a second facility was opened. Living Grace has a social worker on staff and assists the young moms to have a place to go when they leave Living Grace Home which is the goal. Phase II allows these young moms who have not finished their education to stay an additional 21 months for a total of 2 years and receive sheltering, mentoring, case management, and transportation, so that once they finish the program they are no longer homeless, they are employed or very employable, and they have either finished high school or a vocational training program. They coordinate with Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, HELP of Southern Nevada, as well as the Latin Chamber. The floor was then opened for questions. Barbara Geach inquired as to the capacity of Phase II. Ms. Miller stated it was 4 moms and 4 babies. Bobby Gordon asked if they were licensed by the state of Nevada and under what category of housing. Ms. Miller stated that the state of Nevada does not have a category for the facility, but when they first opened 7 years ago, much time was spent with state, county and local municipalities. When the state devolved some of their services down to the county, they eliminated the designation of maternity homes. With the zoning requirements, the counties eliminated that category to comply with the state's definitions, so therefore, there is no licensing. They do have a 501(c) 3, a Nevada non-profit corporation, and a certificate of occupancy for non-profits from the city of Henderson. Ms. Gerson asked how to do a referral to The Living Grace Homes, the turnaround time for the referral, and the cost. Ms. Miller stated that there is contact information on the brochure, but the website has a question email that goes directly to hers or the social workers inbox. The website also lists the number of beds available, although sometimes that information may be a little lagging. Regarding the turnaround time, if a bed is available, it's usually pretty quick, i.e. about the time it takes to transport the girl there. Once at the Home, a tour of the facility is given, the intake paperwork is done, as well as giving a list of the rules and determining if the girl feels she can comply with those rules. There is no cost to enter the program, however, it's based on a sliding scale, since Living Grace assists them in applying for Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP; so they have to pay a portion of that for shelter and transportation.

If they do get a job, then they also have to pay a portion of their income. The maximum they pay is \$400 per month.

Agenda Item 7. Receive presentation from Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on The Giving Project; for possible action.

Lt. Harry Fagel, the Admin. Lt. for downtown area command with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation. Lt. Fagel mentioned that Sgt. Dave Schofield, the community policing sergeant, and his HELP team are also involved in The Giving Project. The downtown area's biggest problem is mental illness, homelessness, and violent crime. The main problem occurs at Main St. and Foremaster. Direct donations result in environmental hazards (trash piling up), vermin, blood-borne pathogens, crime, and urban blight ensue. The solution requires action, and although it may not be perfect or a complete solution, it can serve as a catalyst for others to become involved in the right way. First, there is a need to educate all those involved, the people giving as well as the homeless, about the urban blight and crimes, alternative giving programs, and The Giving Project. The plan includes distributing fliers that explains in 3 parts: the mission of The Giving Project, the preferred way of giving (through intermediaries, i.e., The Shade Tree, The United Way, Catholic Charities, Three Square, etc.), and a list of the laws being broken. A public service announcement is being filmed Tuesday, March 18, to go on the LVMPD website. Information is also shared through direct face-to-face contact utilizing the outreach people that are out there all the time.

The flier for the Giving Project, has a location where the Giving Project is going to occur, as well as the date for the next Giving Project. The rollout scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2014, at the upper parking lot of Cashman Field on Las Vegas Blvd. Once a month, The Giving Project is going to facilitate a location in the downtown area so folks wanting to give can do so in a safe environment. This is an opportunity to educate them about alternative methods of giving, as well as the ordinances being violated. This location will rotate every month. This will create volunteerism, which we have already seen occur through The Downtown Project, the City of Las Vegas, our faith based communities, and our own HELP team. Eventually, enforcement will begin of the ordinances being violated, but initially educating those who are feeding the homeless or handing out donations is important. Twelve locations are needed for the project, but presently there are 6 that are tentative. The first 2 locations are confirmed. Hopefully, the public will get on board with the project once they see that it is once a month, the police are going to be involved, and the blight will be reduced since the volunteers will be cleaning up afterwards. Benefits from this project are: the public becomes educated, there is a reduction in urban blight, there is a reduction in crime, outreach for those in need is provided, volunteerism is increased, and overall it makes for a better city for everyone.

Barbara Geach commended Metro for their proactive action to this situation and asked if the information could be posted to other jurisdiction websites, since it appears to be geared for Las Vegas. Lt. Fagel states he is presenting this to ACTION, which is Metro's communication tool for crime reduction. This meeting will be attended by all the captains and leadership of the department. The vision for this project is that other COP teams can apply this model to address their specific problems. Ms. Geach asked for clarification as to whether the PSA presentations would only be on the website or would be on television. Lt. Fagel stated they will be appearing on both. Ms. Geach then questioned whether there will be a restriction on what could be donated, i.e., homemade items, sandwiches, to which the reply was there would be no

restrictions, as people will donate what they want and Metro does not want to start controlling those things. Stephen Harsin stated that the City of Las Vegas will help to get the PSA's on channel 2 and channel 4. Mr. Harsin also asked if Councilman Barlow had been briefed by Metro, since it is his area. Lt. Fagel stated he had briefed his staff and they were sure he would be supportive. He also spoke with Councilman Bob Coffin and he has been supportive. Bobby Gordon raised the issue of promoting this event on the HelpHopeHome website. He has not contacted the county commissioners because the project is starting small in order to avoid being overwhelmed. Dr. Dodge voiced her excitement about the project and confirmed the event occurs on Saturdays, the first one on April 5. The second one will happen on May 10, the second Saturday of the month. From then on the event will always take place on the second Saturday. Lt. Fagel also stated that they will coordinate with the next Project Homeless Connect, which is to occur on November 19, 2014. Ms. Gerson asked who volunteers should contact. Lt. Fagel stated either to contact himself at 702-239-7112 or email him at h4644f@lvmpd.com or Sgt. Dave Schofield. Ms. Gerson also requested Lt. Fagel to return with an update after the first 2 events.

Agenda Item 8. 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.

Ms. Gerson stated the CoC met 2 weeks ago to hear proposals for moneys brought into the community to help veterans. Springboard, an agency coming to the table for the first time, gave a presentation about what they had to offer that was very helpful to the community. She requested that their presentation be put on a future agenda. Ms. Thomas-Gibson confirmed that RIO has that contact information. She also stated that the Committee on Homelessness and the Regional Initiatives Office is trying to plan out 3 months in advance so everyone can prepare. Ms. Gerson suggested having a link on HelpHopeHome website for people to be able to pull up past PowerPoint presentations. Catherine Huang stated it is available through a committee docs link from the front page allowing one to go see history of backup for all of the meetings. It is located directly under the NEWS banner, SNRPC Committee on Homelessness meetings in red and one can go through all the committee docs. Tyrone Thompson clarified the need to have access more easily obtainable, not through another tab, but perhaps another section just discussing presentation. Ms. Gerson also stated all agencies should be getting connected with 211 so they can be getting updates back from agencies. Mr. Stephen Harsin suggested within the next few months getting the faith based groups give an update on what they are doing. Ms. Thomas Gibson clarified that it would be the Mayor's Faith Based Subcommittee on Homelessness. Ms. Wilson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department, sated they will be putting together an outreach in the area of Foremaster and Main to take place on Thursday, April 3, 2014. Her hopes are to get community partners involved, especially those with bed space. She's working with Mr. Thompson from the Regional Initiatives Office and Tara Ulmer from the City of Las Vegas to kick off before The Giving Project rollout. Terri Thompson, from the Clark County School District announced the next Youth Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, March, 19,

2014, at 10:30 a.m. in the training room at Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.

Agenda Item 12. 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.*

Phillip Hollon, the Salvation Army, stated that in addition to what Lt. Fagel had presented, that individuals giving direct donations are actually keeping the homeless from taking advantage of the shelters. He also said that the Salvation Army is using some of the EFSP funds to provide gap funding. With the closing of the Inclement Weather shelters the end of March, these funds allow the Salvation Army to operate the night shelter during April, May and June. Also looking to community to help to adopt-a-month in order to fund the shelter for the months of July, August and September. Salvation Army has also reached out to the Walmart Foundation to get each of 5 stores to donate \$1000 worth of bottled water. Mr. Hollon also gave a shout out to the Pinball Hall of Fame at 1610 Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV headed by Tim Arnold for donating \$25,0000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle.

Steve Meriwether, Catholic Charities, reported that they are meeting 137% funded capacity in the night shelter. The bed capacity is 550 which anywhere from 450 to 500 are filled. The night shelter will be open even if the funding runs out. Ms. Wilson inquired whether individuals were being accepted into the Resident Empowerment Program (REP). Mr. Meriwether stated there is a capacity of 65 beds to take individuals from an emergency shelter into a more stable environment and a permanent location.

Crystal, US Vets, shared that the Veterans Stand Down is on March 19 & 20, 2014 at Cashman Center, 850 Las Vegas Blvd. North, Las Vegas, NV from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. VIP tours are being offered to partners who are interested at 12 noon to 1 p.m. Lunch is provided. You may register on the website, www.usvetsinc.org/lasvegas. The opening ceremony to be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Some congressional delegates, as well as the mayor, are invited to join us. Nellis will be presenting the colors, and we will be talking about the number of veterans housed as well as the number of veterans employed. Throughout the Stand Down, there will be updates on those numbers, and 15 employers are ready to hire on the spot. Seven housing agencies are able and willing to house, on the spot, those veterans that are in need of housing. On both days, if a veteran, in need of housing, does attend the event and are unable to be placed housing, transportation will take them to emergency housing for that evening. There are also currently openings available in US Vets to provide housing for the veteran in one of our programs if they are eligible.

Sebastian stated he was homeless and was grateful for the Salvation Army and other shelters. However, he believes that the area at Foremaster and Main is like it is because a lot of the beds at the shelters are infested with bed bugs and there is a lot of thievery occurring. He also believes that the service resistant individuals are because they are evading the police or have had a bad experience with the law. He also praised the new program, The Giving Project, for what they are trying to accomplish. However, he feels that those homeless individuals that are trying to stay away from the law will not take advantage of the project. He also voiced his concern about the rumor of closing Foremaster off, because he doesn't feel there will be a place to go for some of the homeless. He also feels that the Committee on Homelessness should inform the homeless population of the monthly meetings so the members of the homeless community can be heard.

Ms. Thomas-Gibson voiced her gratitude for Sebastian's presence and inquired as to how he found out about the meeting. He told her it was through word of mouth. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated that outreach teams are supposed to be out in the community informing the homeless of how connecting with services, and asked if they were also informing the community of the monthly meeting so that all stakeholders could be represented. Ms. Wilson stated they are being informed. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated she felt it was an awesome idea and requested that Sebastian stay after the meeting adjourns in order to connect him with services and get the community members that are to be served to become an active stakeholder in these meetings. Gratchin Johnson, Las Vegas Rescue Mission, stated she felt it was important that Sebastian perhaps become the person to get the information out to the homeless community since he is a part of the community and therefore would be more trusted. Mr. Thompson also informed Sebastian that in the near future he would like to have him become a member of the team to be an advocate for the homeless community.

Tara Ulmer, City of Las Vegas, also came forward to state some of the programs being looked at are Peer-to-Peer, recruiting other homeless individuals of the services and resources available and taking that information back with them. They are also looking at setting up a program so the homeless persons have a voice by bringing them in, doing surveys, to overcome the disconnect that seems to be prevalent, especially for the service resistant. This would also be accomplished by having groups come in and share that information so that better decisions could be made in coordinating resources and allocate funding. Ms. Gerson stated to Ms. Ulmer that her agency is doing a statewide Peer-to-Peer but was missing the connection, so she will be contacting Ms. Ulmer, or someone, to get her agency onboard.

It was announced that the next meeting would be held at the Clark County Government Center in the Chambers on April 10.

Ms. Gerson introduced Ms. Donna Jordon who will be an alternate for Ms. Gerson.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.