

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
May 8, 2014

In attendance:

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Julie Calloway, Vice Chair, City of Boulder City
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Tim Burch, Clark County
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veteran's Administration
Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Maria Gatti, MGM Resorts International
Mike Husted, alternate, City of Henderson

Absent:

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department

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 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, May 8, 2014, at Clark County Commission Chambers 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. The agenda for the May 8, 2014 meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment

No comments were given.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for May 8, 2014; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the March 13, 2014 and April 10, 2014 meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the March 13, 2014 and April 10, 2014 meeting. The motion carried and the Minutes were approved with one abstention regarding the April 10th meeting (Kathie Thomas-Gibson).

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, presented the update on Inclement Weather Shelter Services; Year Round Emergency Housing; Clark County Purchasing has placed an RFP for Mobile Crisis Intervention and for Outreach to the Homeless and Intensive Case management

for the Chronically Homeless; Mainstream Programs Basic Training is May 28th 1-4 p.m. Ms. Huang Hara congratulated their three Masters of Social Work Practicum Students who assisted with RIO projects. Elizabeth Benston, Dawn Davis and Melissa Maj will be graduating from UNLV.

No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from United State Veterans Initiative; for possible action.

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, announced the Family Connect Summer Resource Fair on May 29 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at East Las Vegas Community Center. Booths will be available for many community resources. She introduced Shalimar Cabrera with the US Veterans Initiative.

Ms. Cabrera spoke on the Las Vegas Veterans Stand Down event which was held March 19th and 20th at Cashman Center. They provided outreach services regarding transitional housing, permanent housing, employment assistance and training and rapid re-housing and homeless prevention. 128 partnering agencies hosted booths to offer services, information and long-term solutions. 938 veterans entered Stand down, plus 216 of their family members.

Dr. Dodge asked how many of the vets that attended were first time attendees. Ms. Cabrera explained that this along with all the data will be shared. Dr. Dodge also asked for clarification regarding of those veterans that who were not eligible to receive benefits. Ms. Cabrera took note of the questions and will research further.

Chair Thomas-Gibson asked if there was anything that stood out to be different this year in terms of needs or attendees. Ms. Cabrera said that dental services were requested by many. Also, the demographics showed the attendees are getting younger as well as an increase in females.

No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive and update on the 25 Cities Initiative; for possible action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Regional Initiatives Office, provided information on the 25 Cities Initiative. This is a national initiative to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015. Las Vegas was invited as one of 25 cities across the nation to participate. The plan is to conduct a Charrette Process with community stakeholders culminating in a coordinated intake model. The RIO will utilize HUD, CoC Planning funds to contract with Corporation for Supportive Housing to conduct the Charrette. A Pre-Charrette was held April 8 and 9th, Charrette will be held May 13 and 14th, and the 100 Day Goal Development Session will be held in early June 2014. A “25 Cities Launch” to provide a community roll-out of the Coordinated Intake Model, introduce the pilot process to include 100 day goals, and to ensure that the Coordinated Intake model is clear to all stakeholders on June 12th. The implementation of a pilot Coordinated Intake System is slated for July 2014.

No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a presentation from Clark County Department of Family Services on their Youth at-Risk of Homelessness Planning Project; for possible action.

Christina Vela, Clark County Department of Family Services, gave a presentation regarding the Youth at Risk of Homelessness Planning Project (YARH). She provided an overview of the 24 month grant. She explained who they will target, objectives, planning project framework and next steps. The grantor is the US Department of Health and Human Services- Administration for

Children and Families. The lead grantee agency is Clark County Department of Family Services. The purpose of the funding is to build intervention strategies for youth and young people who are most likely of experiencing challenges in transition to adulthood. Ms. Vela explained who is at risk and the objectives to reach them in a meaningful manner. The objectives include convening relevant partners to engage in the project to identify effective intervention to reduce risks of homelessness. A leadership steering committee will meet on a monthly basis and be responsible for the overall planning direction and guidance. No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from the Governance Charter Working Group; for possible action.

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, provided an update from the Governance Charter Working Group. Team members have put together the Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) Governance Structure. A draft was presented to the members. The governance structure has been created to comply with the HEARTH Act. The structure builds on the initial framework of the CoH. The broad membership will bring the CoH and the CoC into a single cohesive structure. The CoC delegates to the SNRPC Homelessness Continuum of Care Board (HCCB) the responsibilities that must be carried out per the HEARTH Act to include, but not limited to, the operations of the CoC. The expanded board includes additional stakeholders being six (6) jurisdictional stakeholders and fifteen (15) community stakeholders. There will be two co-chairs and two vice co-chairs. A collaborative applicant is selected by the CoC through an application process conducted by the HCCS. On behalf of the CoC the collaborative applicant collects and combines the application information from all applicants for all projects within the CoC's geographic area. The time schedule for adoption of the Governance Structure was discussed which includes upcoming roundtable workshops, recommendation to the CoC in July, and having the first SNRPC HCCB established by August 30, 2014 per the HEARTH Act. Feedback and comments were requested and should be submitted in writing. No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 10. Receive the final report of the 2014 Southern Nevada Homeless Census; for possible action.

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer, RIO provided a report regarding the key findings of the 2014 Homeless Census. Under the HEARTH Act, communities are mandated to do a full count every year to receive full points on the CoC applications. This year the Veterans Affairs helped offset the cost which allowed expanded law enforcement, fire and rescue presence in order to provide a safer environment for volunteers. HUD approved methodology is used. The point in time count is broken up into sheltered count and unsheltered count. Key finders were 9,417 homeless identified in the 2014 Homeless PIT Census which is a 28% increase from 2013. It was noted that this is a 29.4% reduction from 2009. Data was presented from street and shelter counts, and annual estimate of homeless as well as survey results of race, ethnicity, event leading to homelessness, economic support, disabling conditions, homeless sub-populations, veterans, mental illness, depression, PTSD, or any possible variation thereof. The full report and executive summary may be found on the helphome.org website. Dr. Dodge asked if they know why there was an increase in utilization of the emergency housing. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer explained that the Clark County Social Services financial assistance increased dramatically, women's shelter was over-utilized in the past which now reflects in the

increase family shelter beds. Some right sizing the emergency response system has been done as well as some programs which have been changed to permanent or emergency services.

Ms. Gerson asked about comparison to other cities and whether we have nationwide comparison. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer explained that New York and L.A. did not do a count since they were not mandated this year, so a comparison could not be done. She also asked for nation-wide numbers on youth. The response was that the national data isn't compiled and available yet. Ms. Gerson stated that if the number one reason for homelessness is lack of transportation to jobs. She stated that bus passes could be a key solution. It was discussed that this is something that needs to be brought up to stakeholders in the community.

Mr. Burch said that Southern Nevada Strong (SNS) is addressing transportation planning and accessibility and that this could be something that a workgroup bring to light and focus on in conjunction with SNS initiatives. He also asked a question, do we know how our mental illness and co-occurring disorders stack up against national averages. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer said that she would look into it. Ms. Gerson asked if next year we could ask the homeless if they are in treatment for their disorder.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer spoke of the need for an electronic version of the survey so that they could possibly ask more questions in less time. At this time the paper version is restricting.

Dr. Dodge spoke of the veterans in the homeless count. She asked if we can we figure out how many chronics stated that they were honorably discharged. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer said that she is not sure they have the capability but she would explore that. Dr. Dodge reiterated that permanent housing may only be available to those who were honorably discharged

Ms. Gerson suggested that we further explore the hardware that would be needed to do an electronic version of the census. Mr. Burch offered that since most volunteers have a smart phone, maybe an app should be created that could be a more cost effective solution.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer added that the School District has really pushed and ensured that homeless services were available to children. They speculate that the efforts were effective based on the census figures. Chair Thomas-Gibson asked how we know when a change is statistically significant. It may help determine where resources are focused. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer said that data analysis would need to be done.

No motion or action was necessary for this item.

Agenda Item 11. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness

Chair Thomas-Gibson welcomed the new member Maria Gatti, MGM Resorts International. Paula Zier announced the next Youth Working Group meeting on May 21 at 10:30 a.m. She also shared that Title 1 HOPE has a website page on CCSD.net.

Chair Thomas-Gibson asked if all of the information shared in this meeting could be included on the website. It was discussed additional program information will be included on the upcoming new site.

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment

David Schofield, Las Vegas Metro Downtown Area Command HOPE Team, announced the second event of the Giving Project on Saturday May 10th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, at the Eagles Lodge at Washington and Bruce Street.

Philip Hollon, Salvation Army, spoke of the need for more bottled water. He asked that anyone contact the Salvation Army office at (702) 870-4430. He shared the Little Caesars and Subway adopted a homeless community meal. They hope to have many more business help with hunger issues. He announced that Saturday May 10th is the Mail Carrier Food Drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.