

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

In attendance:

Julie Calloway, Vice Chair, City of Boulder City
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Leone Lettsome, alternate, City of North Las Vegas
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Tim Burch, Clark County
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
Annie Wilson, alternate, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Donna Jordan, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance

Absent:

Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Maria Gatti, MGM Resorts International
Mary Ellen Donner, Chair, City of North Las Vegas

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 Julie Calloway, Vice Chair, City of Boulder City, at 2:06 p.m., on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at United Way of Southern Nevada, 5830 W Flamingo Rd, Vegas, Nevada, 89103. The agenda was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

No public comment.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for November 13, 2014.

A request was made to switch agenda items 6 and 9. A motion was made to approve the agenda with the stated changes for November 13, 2014. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made to approve minutes from October 9, 2014. The motion was approved.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office (RIO), presented the update. 2015 Homeless Census is scheduled for January 28th (urban area) and 29th (rural area). RIO is in the planning phases of the 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Census, which includes a point-in-time shelter count, street count, and survey. Deployment Stations include: Catholic Charities, SNAMHS Rawson-Neal Psychiatric Hospital, Cambridge Recreation Center, Walnut Recreation Center and Henderson Multigenerational Center. Volunteer registration is available at HelpHopeHome.org. Training will be held on January 22, 2015, with at least two options for community volunteers to attend in the morning and evening times. For more

information on how to participate, please contact Catherine Huang Hara at c3h@clarkcountynv.gov or (702) 455-5623.

Inclement Weather Shelter will resume on Monday, November 17th, 2014 for winter night shelter. Summer Day Shelter services concluded on September 30th, 2014. Winter Night Shelter will be open from November 17th- March 29th, 2015. Locations include: The Salvation Army for adults, The Shade Tree for single women and women with children, and HopeLink of Southern Nevada is also available to provide motel vouchers.

Dr. Dodge asked if there have been any significant changes to the PIT Count methodology for 2015. Ms. Huang Hara stated that this year, our community will be utilizing an electronic survey to capture the demographic data, allowing for minimal errors in the way data is collected. Other components of the PIT count methodology will remain the same.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Las Vegas Mayor's Faith Initiative Homeless Working Group; for possible action.

Pastor Henry Sneed of the Church LV and chair of the Las Vegas Mayor's Faith Initiative Homeless Working Group gave the update. The working group's mission is to recruit and collaborate with faith leaders, their volunteers and representatives of the Regional Initiatives Office and nonprofit organizations to end homelessness in this region. Much of the work being produced out of the working groups is centered around the idea of '*One vision, One voice, One goal*', Vision: faith leaders from the regional houses of worship support the vision to end homelessness as developed by the Homeless Services Workgroup through discussions with group members and representatives of the regional efforts of the Committee on Homelessness. Voice: faith leaders from the regional houses of worship speak the same language (verbiage) as developed by the Homeless Services Workgroup. Goal: faith leaders from the regional houses of worship share the vision to end HOMELESSNESS through collaboration with the Regional Initiatives Office and Committee on Homelessness. Current projects of the working group include: Hydration Teams, Interventions, Block Parties, Project Homeless Connect, and Awareness and Education, and Coordination efforts.

Hydration Teams have been developed in collaboration with the Regional Initiatives Office. Six zones outside of the Corridor of Hope area were identified where faith houses can distribute bottled water to the homeless on hot summer days, in conjunction with the activation of Cooling Stations. Participants and volunteers of the work group assisted with the B Street Intervention by providing resources and support to ensure the efforts were successful. Block Parties were spearheaded by Grace City Church ministry to the homeless to provide food, fun, and resources. Volunteers assisted with the event clean-up as well.

The Church LV and other faith houses are very involved with Project Homeless Connect (PHC) to provide volunteers, brown bag lunch, child care, bibles, and pastoral prayer. The Church LV annually provides approximately 2500 brown bag lunches to PHC.

The working group intends on bringing awareness, education, and coordination around issues concerning homelessness by way of educating community members on how to donate responsibly, and awareness to poverty and homelessness by offering free film screening of *American Winter*, on January 21, 2015 at the East Las Vegas Community Center. Volunteer recruitment for the 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Census will occur at this time.

Additional next steps for the working group include: increasing utilization of social media and general media, expand programs to ensure that all homeless sub-populations are being served (chronic, families, youth, Veterans, etc.), and develop a calendar of opportunities for involvement. For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Pastor Henry Sneed at HSneed@thechurchlv.com or visit the Mayor's Faith Initiative Website at www.lvmfi.com.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update from the local U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Field Office; for possible action.

Brian A. Sagert, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Las Vegas Field Office, gave the update. Mr. Sagert attended the CoH meeting primarily to introduce himself in his new position at the local HUD office. He stated that he has 17 years of experience in affordable housing and community development field in both the public and private sector. He has been residing in Las Vegas community for over 13 years.

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business. Succeeding Shaun Donovan, Julian Castro has recently been appointed as the new Secretary of HUD. Mr. Castro's vision is to build a stronger HUD, help American secure quality housing, end homelessness, strengthen communities in this century of cities, level the playing field for all Americans, and address climate change and natural disasters.

HUD Las Vegas Field Office programs include: housing for single-family, multi-family housing, Fair Housing Investigators, housing counseling, labor relations, Office of Inspector General, Community Development and Planning, and Field Policy and Management. The Field Policy and Management office provides leadership and field coordination, customer service: HUD's "front door", and communication and leadership with special initiatives. 25 Cities Initiative is a key federal strategy led by the VA, in partnership with HUD and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), through which 25 communities are receiving technical assistance and support to mobilize local planning efforts and partnerships, to create the most effective systems for aligning housing and services through coordinated systems and homelessness. Currently, Southern Nevada is in the 2nd 100-day goal to end homelessness for at least 45 high priority chronically homeless individuals and 200 homeless Veterans. Another initiative known as the Mayors Challenge is designed to serve as a catalyst for expanding the political will necessary to end homelessness in our communities. On June 4, 2014, as part of the Joining Forces Initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the commitment of growing coalition of mayors, governors, and county officials to meet the goal and called on additional mayors and local leaders to commit to ending Veteran homelessness in their communities by the end of 2015.

According to the 2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, Las Vegas/Clark County area had 9,417 homeless individuals, 2,359 of unaccompanied children and youth and 1230 homeless Veterans. Las Vegas/Clark County has the 3rd highest homelessness population in the country.

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas welcomed Mr. Sagert to the Committee on Homelessness and to the homeless services community. He is looking forward to working with the local HUD office in increasing resources and funding in our community. Mr. Sagert responded that he and his team can offer access to best practice models that can be locally implemented.

Tim Burch, Clark County stated that there have been great strides made towards ending Veteran homelessness but resources are still needed to end family homelessness to stay in alignment with the federal initiative to end family homelessness.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the implementation of coordinated intake and progress on the 25 Cities Initiative; for possible action.

Dr. Cynthia Dodge, VA, gave the update. Las Vegas/Clark County area has been identified as one of 25 cities across the nation of having the highest number of homeless Veterans. 25 Cities Initiatives is primarily focused on assisting the 25 communities to intensify and integrate their local efforts to end Veteran Homelessness by 2015. This a joint effort by VA, HUD, USICH, and local community partners to work closely and identify all of the remaining homeless Veterans and in their respective communities

and work together to identify permanent housing solutions for these homeless and chronically homeless individuals. The strategies of this effort recognize that ending Veteran homelessness requires strong coordination between all partners working to end all types of homelessness in a community. The focus of this effort is on three areas: 1) building and strengthening the elements of a coordinated system for identifying, assessing, and matching homeless Veterans and chronically homeless individuals to the most appropriate housing and service intervention, 2) to strengthen and integrate the data systems used to end both Veteran and chronic homelessness, and 3) to further integrate the work and assets of the VA with broader efforts to end chronic homelessness in the community.

The 2nd local 100-Day Goals are as follows: end homelessness for at least 100 high priority individuals using the permanent supportive housing, and for at least 100 homeless individuals using rapid rehousing. To date, 92 individuals have been placed into permanent supportive housing (58 HUD-VASH) and 105 individuals have been placed into rapid rehousing (all SSVF). Sub-goals include: assessing 2000 homeless Veterans and non-Veterans using the VI-SPDAT, 400 registered clients will be document ready in 100 days, make at least 225 matched in 100 days, and integrate emergency housing (minimum 30 days) into Coordinated Assessment System. To date, 560 VI-SPADT'S have been completed (170 at the CRRC, 360 at CCSS, Pinto Ln office), document readiness will be handled by the housing provider, 24 matched for rapid rehousing, 83 matched for permanent supportive housing and 34 were housed (does NOT include VA data). The integration of emergency housing providers into the Coordinator Assessment System has been moved to the next phase of the initiative. Of the 560 VI-SPDAT's completed, it appears that on average, homeless individuals scored within the 5-10 range on a scale of 20, with 20 being the highest. The suggested housing options for the 5-10 range is rapid rehousing and transitional housing. Any score of 10 and above should be considered for permanent supportive housing.

Major breakthroughs include: multiple trainings for Coordinated Intake staff prior to the start of pilot (Homelessness 101, VI-SPDAT, Coordinated Intake Process, Trauma Informed Care and HMIS trainings), Bitfocus Webinars, identified most useful data points, realized the need for clear, concise definitions (i.e. matched, referrals, placed, accepted, etc...) and the time it takes for oversight, problem solving and development was not anticipated. Challenges to meet the set goals include: need to add more permanent supportive housing units to the Continuum, need to add more Rapid Rehousing Housing units to the Continuum, and seamlessly integrating the VA into the process (due to data sharing constraints). Planning for Coordinate Assessment system for youth, families and victims of domestic violence is currently underway.

Coordinated Intake Change Advisory Team continues to meet on a weekly basis for data oversight, assessments, to review referrals and placements, to improve data quality, to integrate VA data, to finalize integration of agency waitlists to community waitlist, to develop case conferencing, and develop policies and procedures.

Led by Merideth Spriggs, Downtown Rangers, the next 100/120 Day Goal starts on October 9th, 2014-February, 2015 to achieve the following goals: within 100 days, Southern Nevada will end homelessness for at least 45 high priority chronically homeless individuals and 200 homeless Veterans using out Coordinated Intake System. Sub-goals include: assess 750 homeless individuals with the VI-SPDAT, assign 90 high priority vulnerable homeless individuals to navigators and get them document ready in 100 days, and match 60 highly vulnerable non-veteran homeless individuals and 250 homeless Veterans in 100 days.

All five CCSS offices are open to the community to do housing assessments. Locations include: Pinto Lane Office (1600 pinto Ln), Cambridge Office (3885 S. Maryland Pkwy), Fertitta Office (1501 N. Las Vegas Blvd), Community Resource Center (2432 N. Martin Luther King Blvd), and Henderson Office (522 E. Lake Mead Pkwy, Suite 4). The Veteran's Administration- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC), 916 W. Owens Ave, is also open as the coordinated intake site for all Veterans seeking services. Community members currently doing outreach may contact Dr. Dodge or Merideth Spriggs to be involved in the coordinate assessment process.

Mr. Burch introduced the idea of utilizing Secretary of State's digital lockbox to be the repository of homeless individual's vital documents so in the event those documents are stolen or lost, copies can be made available without exhausting additional funds. Mr. Burch spoke with the incoming Secretary of State who is willing to have further conversations around the feasibility of the project.

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from St. Jude's Ranch for Children; for possible action.

Stacy Sutton-Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance gave the update. Project Homeless Connect is scheduled to take place on November 19th, 2014 at Cashman Center from 9am-4pm. Pre-registration for clients will be open through November 15th at Catholic Charities and Salvation Army anytime during business hours. We are still in need of community volunteers for the event. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up at www.volunteercentersn.org. The December Provider Meeting has been canceled and will resume on January 21, 2015.

Myesha Wilson, Regional Director of St. Jude's Ranch for Children, gave the presentation. St. Jude's Ranch for Children's mission reads as follows: to serve abused, abandoned, and neglected children and families, creating new chances, new choices, and new hope in a safe homelike environment with the vision of breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect by mending spirits and renewing hope.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children is a not-for-profit 501 © (3) organization that has been providing residential therapeutic foster care and treatment for abused, homeless and neglected children (ages infant to 21 years). Over the last 2 years, the agency has expanded the continuum to provide services to 635 youth to include transition-aged youth, ages 18-25, and their children. The agency's work is overseen and guided by the Board of Trustees and aligned with Help Hope Home, Southern Nevada's Plan to End Homelessness, the Continuum of Care's priority areas, as well as Ready for Life Southern Nevada and has been a successful addition to the provision of services in the community.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children stands for 1) developing and offering individualized, high-quality services for children, young adults and families; engaging, strength-based empowering and teaches how to be productive, wage-earning citizens in the community, 2) providing exceptional service to children, families, staff, donors, and community, 3) measuring clinical outcomes of our clients and programs through the ongoing collection and analysis of data, 4) everyday, operating with professionalism through discipline, accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibilities.

Agency programs include: residential therapeutic foster homes for children and youth ages 0-21 years, pregnant and parenting teen program for young mothers and their babies 0-18 years, Child Focus- serves siblings separated in foster care, Workforce Investment- employment and education services for youth in Boulder City and Laughlin 17-21 years of age, Early Head Start- serves ages 6 weeks – 3years and Crossing and New Crossings- housing and supportive services for homeless young adults, ages 18-25 years and their children.

The Crossing program has 15 efficiency (studio style) apartments (one person per unit). The expected stay is from 9-13 months, max is 24 months. The agency has a community clubhouse area to encourage and foster healthy relationships and a sense of community. They serve: 18-25 year olds who are homeless, young people who are in need of supportive housing, single female, male, LGBTQ, individuals with mental illness, drug, and alcohol history, and individuals with criminal backgrounds. Services include: housing, case management, education services, employment assistance, alcohol/drug assistance, mental health services, food, clothing, hygiene assistance, bus passes and transportation assistance. Residents are required to sign a lease, pay 30% of income towards rent to be saved in success back program saving account, create a monthly budget and participate in life skills training.

The New Crossings Program includes 19 scattered site apartments throughout Southern Nevada area (studio 1BR, 2BR, and 2 BR). The expected stay is 3-12 months. They serve: 18-25 year olds who are homeless, young people who are in need of supportive housing, single female, male, LGBTQ, individuals with mental illness, drug, and alcohol history, and individuals with criminal backgrounds. Services include: case management, child care assistance, employment assistance, food, clothing, and hygiene assistance. Residents are required to sign a lease, pay 30% of income towards rent to be saved in success back program saving account, create a monthly budget and participate in life skills training.

Supportive Services include: intake assessments and review, 24-hour individual case management, food bank referrals, health care/mental health and referrals, transportation assistance, clothing assistance, discharge planning, educational counseling, child care assistance, job readiness instruction, employment assistance, job counseling, remedial education services, therapy, medication monitoring, career planning, life skills classes, community service linkages, alcohol and drug abuse and HIV/AIDS resources. Program goals for residents include: achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, obtain greater self-determination (i.e. more influence over decisions that affect their lives), and graduate the program and exit to permanent housing.

During the program year 2013, 100 youth ages 0-18 were served in the Residential Foster Care and Pregnant and Parenting Teens program, 378 youth ages 0-18 were served in Child Focus, 50 youth ages 18-24 were served in the Crossings. New Crossings began providing services on 7/1/2014. There are currently 26 families (50 total individuals) in the program. Contact Myesha Wilson with questions, comments or concerns.

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson asked how the New Crossings Program is funded. Does the agency own the apartments the clients are placed in? Do clients have to come into the program without any substance abuse issues?

Ms. Wilson stated that the program is funded through the Continuum of Care. The client directly enters into a lease agreement with the apartment complex so that the agency is not liable for any damages and it also teaches the young adults ownership and responsibility. Clients with substance abuse issues are also accepted into the program.

Mr. Burch thanked Ms. Wilson for her leadership, especially in regards to the foster care programs. CCSS staff has been pleased with the working relationship. Looking forward to more partnerships.

Agenda Item 10. Receive and update from HomeBase regional technical assistance projects; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, gave the update on behalf of HomeBase, the HUD technical assistance provider based in San Francisco. HomeBase is currently involved with national and local initiatives such as the initiative to upstream and identifying opportunities for interventions. A kick-off meeting was held about a month ago at CCSS to emphasize usage of data to drive housing and service intervention across systems of care. Leaders from across the state convened to brainstorm on strategies to identify frequent users of systems. HomeBase will be working with our community to launch a pilot program that will hopefully break the cycle of homelessness for frequent users and better connect them with appropriate housing and supportive services. Another TA initiative launching in December focuses on strategies to leverage the Affordable Care Act for health and housing outcomes for homeless individuals by integrating off-site housing and health care services on system level. This initiative requires a two-day planning session that will be scheduled for December 10th and 11th, 2014, with focus on three areas: 1) Medicaid plan, 2) role of managed care organizations and 3) to create an effective respite care program. For more information, please contact Jeff Ugai at jeff@homebaseccc.org.

HomeBase is also working with the Regional Initiatives Office to implement a training institute on how to use harm reduction and critical time intervention that will take place on December 8th and 9th, 2014. Invitations to agency directors were sent out on November 12, 2014. For more information, please contact Catherine Huang Hara at c3h@clarkcountynv.gov or at 702-455-5623.

Agenda Item 11. Discuss the Southern Nevada Homeless Trust Fund; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office provided information around the Southern Nevada Homeless Trust Fund. As a follow up to the discussion from the September CoH meeting, included in the agenda packet is the MOU signed between Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition and United Way of Southern Nevada, dated January 2005. The agreement established a committee to administer the funds and United Way of Southern Nevada assumes the role of trustee. To date, the balance of the trust fund is \$85,618.28. The first and leading donor to the trust fund is the Las Vegas Walk of Stars who donate 5% of every star that is installed to the trust fund, which is roughly \$750 per star. They have been contributing since February of 2005.

Mr. Burch asked which of the existing CoH working groups is responsible for increasing donor participation and distribution of the funds. Mr. Harsin stated that the United Funding Agency (UFA) Working Group is responsible to carry out those activities. It appears that any action around spending the funds will have to be approved by the SNRPC. He requested the UFA Working Group develop strategies to spend the existing monies and propose any changes to the MOU. Anyone interested in sitting on the sub-group to develop strategies on how to increase donor participation and ways to exhaust the funds, can contact Tim Burch for additional information. Paula Zier, Clark County School District asked if CCSD can somehow apply for funds through the SNRPC CoH to utilize some of the monies in the Trust Fund for emergency housing options for families and youth.

Agenda Item 12. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.

Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, stated that a job fair for the homeless was recently held where 16 of the 49 attendees were hired. Service connection information is available for input into HMIS. LVMPD is looking to coordinate another job fair in mid-December.

Donna Jordan, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) thanked the committee for welcoming her to her new position on the CoH.

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas stated that the CoC Membership and Board Interest Forms are still available at www.helphopehome.org. The Ad-Hoc committee responsible for reviewing the applications will be meeting during the week of November 17th, 2014. City of Las Vegas City Council identifies three or four keys areas of focus, one of which is homelessness. Mr. Harsin has been tasked to form a separate committee to develop strategies to end homelessness, particularly in the downtown area. CoH will be continually updated on the progress of the new committee and their efforts.

Leone Lettsome, City of North Las Vegas stated the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) AND Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) will be made available next week. Applications are open from November 18th, 2014 through December 18th, 2014

Tim Burch, Clark County, stated that the Affordable Care Act training from HomeBase is also open to community members working in the mental health and/or housing system is welcome to attend the training to be a part of conversations around how to utilize the ACA for supportive services in the homeless services system of care. Mr. Burch recently returned from his trip to D.C. where he was part of discussions around developing policy to drive social impact. Any agencies or businesses with philanthropic branch may be able to participate in innovative ideas to immediately fund these projects.

Paula Zier, CCSD, Title I Hope Office, stated that Youth Working Group is continuing to meet to plan the youth homeless census. The group has been working on developing a youth questionnaire to capture youth specific information and final draft will be completed by December. Youth providers have been actively involved in the planning phases to ensure successful outcomes.

Cynthia Dodge, VA, stated that the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada has partnered with the VA to offer their 'Ask a Lawyer' program on site at the CRRC on a monthly basis.

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, thanked The Crossing Church for renovating the agency's apartment complex. Salvation Army is looking to reopen the property in early 2015 as 72 bridge housing units. On November 14th, 2014, Salvation Army will be distributing about 1500 coats collected through the Coats for Kids drive. The Circus Circus Thanksgiving Extravaganza Meal will be held on Wednesday, November 26th, 2014 at 3pm. Circus Circus staff and their families have been partnering with community agencies to provide the Thanksgiving meal for the 26th year. Menu consists of a house salad with dressing of your choice, roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, corn bread stuffing, turkey giblet gravy, candied yams, green beans almandine, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls, pumpkin pie, and beverages of your choice will be provided during the meal. On Thursday, November 27th, 2014, The Salvation Army will have a thanksgiving meal at the Owens Campus. Salvation Army is partnering with Three Square and Zappos for the 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Feast to provide frozen Thanksgiving turkey and fixings at Zappos campus on Wednesday, November 19th, 2014. About 600 tickets for the frozen Thanksgiving turkey are available for the community. On Wednesday, November 21, 2014, Zappos, Three Square and the Salvation Army will be hosting an event called Heart to Sole with Dr. Watson who will be providing free shoes and socks to our homeless community and low-income individuals. Mr. Hollon invited the committee and community members to attend any of the above mentioned events. In 2013, Subway enjoyed providing food for an event Salvation Army that they would like to expand and continue their partnership to provide food to the homeless clients on 7 different occasions.

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office stated that there has been a great loss to our community with the passing of Linda Randel El from Straight from the Streets on October 24th, 2014. Her husband will continue to run the day to day operations to ensure continuity of services within the homeless services community. RIO will be working with Straight from the Streets and HELP of Southern Nevada to convene the annual Homeless Vigil.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.