

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
September 11, 2014

In attendance:

Mary Ellen Donner, 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
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Maria Gatti, MGM Resorts International

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 Mary Ellen Donner, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:06 p.m., on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at United Way of Southern Nevada, 5830 W. Flamingo Road, Las 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 September 11, 2014; for possible action.

A request was made to combine Agenda Items 6 and 7. A motion was made by Barbara Geach to approve the agenda for September 11, 2014 with the stated changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the August 14, 2014 meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made by Barbara Geach to approve the Minutes from August 14, 2014. Mary Ellen Donner, Chair, City of North Las Vegas abstained from voting as she was not present. The motion was approved.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, presented the update. 2015 Homeless Census is scheduled for January 28th (urban area) and 29th (rural area). This includes a point-in-time count, shelter count, and a survey. Point-In-Time count is U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandated activity to enumerate our homeless population within the last ten days of January of each year. The first Homeless Census Executive Planning Team meeting will be held on September 18th at 9am at Clark County Social Service, 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, NV, 89106. Anyone interested in being part of the planning group is welcomed to attend the meeting. For more information, contact Catherine Huang Hara at 702-455-5623 or email c3h@clarkcountynv.gov. Inclement Weather Shelter Services will

continue with summer day shelter until September 30, 2014 with location at Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, The Shade Tree and HopeLink of Southern Nevada. Mainstream Programs Basic Training is scheduled for September 24th, 2014 from 1pm-4pm at The East Las Vegas Community Center, 250 North Eastern Ave, Las Vegas, NV, 89101. It's a training and resource opportunity for case managers, social workers and other front-line staff serving the homeless population. Topic this month is Senior Services.

Tim Burch, Clark County Social Service asked if the Point-In-Time count includes a hidden homeless survey. Ms. Huang Hara stated that the hidden homeless survey is no longer required by HUD. Mr. Burch inquired about how the exclusion of hidden homeless survey will affect data comparisons with past years census counts. Ms. Huang Hara stated HUD just released new guidance for the 2015 Point-In-Time count just before the CoH meeting started. Our community may have to do side-by-side comparisons with previous years' census data with the removal of hidden homeless numbers.

Agenda Item 6 and 7. Receive an update on the 25 Cities Initiative; for possible action and receive an update on implementation of coordinated intake; for possible action.

Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration (VA) and Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office gave the update. Ms. Huang Hara stated that 25 Cities is a national initiative to end veteran and chronic homelessness by 2015 in 25 cities across the nation. The initiative is sponsored by HUD, VA, and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to identify, assess and match housing with homeless persons in our community in conjunction with the Coordinated Intake process. The initiative helps communities across the nation measure outcomes of Coordinated Intake implementation. Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) was already in a charrette process with Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) prior to 25 Cities approaching our community in February of 2014. Pre-charrette process was held at Cambridge Recreation Center on April 8th and 9th and a charrette process was held on May 13-14th, 2014, both facilitated by CSH. Key community stakeholders and partners were encouraged to begin having conversations around planning and implementation of the Coordinated Intake process. Facilitated by 25 Cities, the 100-Day Planning Session was held on June 9th, 2014 to map out goals for the next 100-day period during implementation of the Coordinate Intake process. A soft pilot of Coordinated Intake process was open to the public with the focus on single adults at Clark County Social Service, Pinto Lane office as well as the VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) for Veterans. Participants of the Charrette Process collectively set the following goals to be accomplished in the next 100-days for Southern Nevada: 1) end homelessness for at least 100 high-priority individuals using permanent supportive housing, 2) end homelessness for 100 individuals using rapid re-housing, 3) assess 2000 homelessness individuals (Veterans and non-Veterans) using the vulnerability index, 4) have at least 400 clients document ready in the first 100-days but this goal is looking to be modified because housing providers will be assisting clients after they are housed with documentations; 5) the system will make 225 matches with housing. To date, 422 assessments have been completed using the vulnerability index tool and 421 referrals have been provided so far. Moving forward, emergency housing will be incorporated into the Coordinated Intake process with-in the next 100-days.

Dr. Dodge listed key accomplishments with the process to date. The pilot site at Clark County Social Service is currently open and operational and VA CRRC has been using the VI SPDAT as an assessment tool for referrals since July 1, 2014. The two Coordinated Intake sites have a system in place to route any homeless individuals identified as Veteran to be transported to the VA CRRC. About 80 CCSS and VA staff members attended mandatory training on the following topics: Homelessness 101, Coordinated Intake Process, VI SPDAT, HMIS, Trauma Informed Care and staff will also attend Motivational Interviewing that will be held in late September. Various webinars were also offered to the community to assist providers with understanding the process. The Change Management Team meets weekly to address and fine-tune issues with the new system of care. In late September, our community will begin

conversations around Coordinated Intake model for families and youth. Following are some challenges noted by the Change Management Team: not as many assessments were completed with Coordinated Intake process as anticipated, partly due to the system being new to the community and the lack of awareness; combining existing wait-lists into one centralized community wait-list and determining access point for Transition Age Youth (18-24).

Dr. Dodge is currently in contact with other VA's across the nation to inquire about how they have proceeded with using HMIS to communicate with the community providers. VA has to abide by HIPPA laws that serve as an obstacle for the VA from using HMIS data system.

The two existing sites will serve Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-24 to ensure they are being offered available transition housing options. The community recognizes special needs of TAY population and will be looking into incorporating this subset of youth into the Coordinated Intake model for Families and Youth.

In the next 30 days, two additional CCSS offices are to be opened by October as Coordinated Intake hubs that will also assess and refer homeless clients to appropriate housing options. The waitlist is mostly centralized but some more progress will still need to be made to ensure housing prioritization of the most vulnerable individuals. HMIS eligibility match will be automated in HMIS making referrals easier. Quarterly reporting on data will take place with the Data Dashboard.

Mr. Burch asked if staff could find out how far out HMIS expansion grant is projected to be allocated to communities by HUD. What year could our community potentially use HMIS expansion grant to fund HMIS and HIPPA compliance with the intention of moving towards a Community Management Information System (CMIS). Ms. Huang Hara stated that we are currently in process of applying for HMIS expansion monies through Continuum of Care (CoC) grant application process for 2014-2015.

Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health asked about how VA's in other communities are addressing the HIPPA concerns while using HMIS. No clear solution has been identified.

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas requested a list of other 24 cities that are participating in this 25 Cities initiative and why they were selected as pilot sites. He also inquired on what is the VI SPDAT and if individuals identified as Veterans are referred to the VA CRRC. VI SPDAT acronym stands for Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Assessment Tool. Dr. Dodge stated that VA CRRC serves as the community 'hub' for Veterans who will then be referred to outside agencies for services, when appropriate. Other hubs will serve non-veterans. Mr. Burch informed the committee that all 5 CCSS locations will be opened as Coordinated Intake sites by October, 2014.

A motion was made to accept the 25 Cities Initiative update. Motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept update on implementation of Coordinated Intake process. Motion was passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update from the Community Engagement Working Group; for possible action; for possible action.

Paula Zier, Title I HOPE-Outreach Program for Education, Clark County School District, gave the update. Community Engagement Working Group reached out to Dr. Jessica Word, Professor from UNLV to spearhead the Homeless Cost Project. This business case plan can be used when seeking donations and participation from community stakeholders. Two proposals were set forth by Dr. Word: 1) Graduate students in the MPA program at UNLV can work on this project as their final project. Final product will not be ready until May of 2015. This option requires no financial contribution; and 2) the second option will use students to work part-time under supervision and direction of Dr. Word. This proposal costs

approximately \$5000 for the homeless cost project to produce results by December of 2014. Dr. Word will contribute her time pro bono.

Ms. Zier requested feedback on which option to move forward with. CE group is also working diligently on updating the HelpHopeHome website and development of a quarterly newsletter to engage the community around taking action to end homelessness. The newsletter is looking to be released in October. American Winter film screening is scheduled for October 2, 2014 at the East Las Vegas Community Center at 5:50pm to bring awareness to poverty and homelessness in America, and more specifically in Southern Nevada through panel discussion. Development of Community Engagement Toolkit is still in progress but the group is looking for \$1000-\$1500 to produce folders and other materials.

Mr. Burch asked if there are any leads on funding. Ms. Zier would like to use existing funds from the Homeless Trust Fund for the homeless cost project. Mr. Burch stated that if Committee on Homelessness (CoH) considers using a portion of Homeless Trust Fund for homeless cost project, it will have to be formally discussed at the next CoH meeting. Stephen Harsin mentioned that Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) partnered with United Way of Southern Nevada to administer the Homeless Trust Fund. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) was signed between the two parties. CoH may have to submit a request to the SNRPC board for modification of the contract or to make any withdrawals from the trust funds in the future. Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, stated that the purpose of the Housing Trust Fund is to fund housing and supportive services for homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in Clark County Nevada. CoH will have to approach the SNRPC to use existing monies. Ms. Huang Hara stated that SNRPC board meets on a monthly basis but to agenize an item is a lengthy process. Proposed agenda items are reviewed by the SNRPC Technical Committee that meets the first Thursday of each month to set agenda items for SNRPC meetings on fourth Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Burch asked Dr. Jessica Word about the decision making timeline for the no-cost option to task her capstone class. Dr. Word stated classes began late August, 2014. CoH will have to make a decision at today's meeting if the committee wants to task the graduate capstone course with homeless cost project. Final product will be delivered in May, 2014. Mr. Burch and Ms. Geach commended UNLV for the quality of work produced by graduate level students in capstone courses.

Ms. Gerson made a motion to move forward with no-cost associated option to task Dr. Word's capstone course with the project. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Approval of United Funding Agency (UFA) readiness assessment tools and process provided by the United Funding Agency Working Group; for possible action.

Mr. Burch, Clark County Social Service gave the update. United Funding Agency (UFA) Working Group presented the three assessment tools to CoH in July: Government Agency Assessment Tool, Non-Profit Agency Assessment Tool and CoC Readiness Assessment. Feedback was requested by none was received. HomeBase, HUD approved technical assistance provider assisted our community with development of the three readiness assessment tools. The Government and Non-Profit tools serve as checklist for interested agency to be consider as a UFA but the CoC Readiness Tool examines readiness of the continuum at larger to adopt and become an UFA. These assessment tools will help strengthen our HUD consolidated application for CoC funds by way of accumulating additional points if and when our community decides to adopt the UFA process. HUD will likely mandate UFA's for communities as we prepare for future funding cycles. CoH will have to develop a selection process to identify eligible agencies.

Mr. Harsin mentioned that the CoC Readiness Tool will be used to first assess the readiness of our community before utilizing the other tools to identify potential agency that can become an UFA. The

larger CoC body will have to vote at the next meeting in January of 2015 on the CoC Readiness Assessment tool. Mr. Burch stated that he would like our continuum to begin the self-assessment process working towards next year. Currently there is no funding for a community assessment. Agencies will have to utilize the assessment tools if they choose to go through an application process to become an UFA.

Ms. Ellen Donner inquired about when the next funding cycle is expected to commence. Mr. Burch stated that Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is expected to be released in late summer or fall. Ms. Huang-Hara stated that the last HUD CoC application was due end of January. NOFA is anticipated to be released end of September or beginning of October. The current CoH Strategic Plan will expire in December so as the committee moves forward with setting a plan for next year, UFA assessment can be incorporated in the yearly plan.

A motion was made to accept and approve the assessment tools. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.

Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department expressed her satisfaction with Coordinated Intake process and its expansion to all five CCSS offices throughout the valley.

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas, stated the helphopehome.org website has been updated with the adopted Governance Structure (with new changes from last CoH meeting). Anyone interested in applying to becoming a member of the board is encouraged to submit an interest form on www.helphopehome.org prior to end of November. Official cutoff date is yet to be determined.

Mary Ellen Donner introduced herself as the new CoH chair member representing City of North Las Vegas. She has been serving as the Director of Neighborhood and Leisure Services at City of North Las Vegas for about 5 month. Ms. Ellen Donner was previously employed with the City of Henderson for seven year.

Tim Burch, Clark County Social Service, stated that CCSS has been awarded a half a million dollar block grant from Department of Public and Behavioral Health. This grant is being subcontracted to WestCare to provide five clinical outreach workers who will follow-up on LVMPD CIT officers' responses. Wrap-around services and mobile mental health services will be provided in hopes of keeping these individuals out of emergency rooms and jails. Contract goes to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Tuesday, September 16th. In addition, CCSS will be expanding homeless street outreach staff to include mental health professionals, substance abuse professionals and peer navigators. CABHI supplemental part II grant has also been awarded to CCSS, which will add five more outreach workers to service all of Clark County and other areas on the valley with high need for coverage.

Sgt. David Schofield, LVMPD, made a public comment inquiring about how the Coordinated Intake process affect the way outreach workers and LVMPD officers in providing services to clients in the Corridor of Hope area. Mr. Burch restated that two additional CCSS locations in or near the Corridor of Hope area will be opened in the next few week. Outreach personnel can refer clients seeking permanent housing to those sites to be assessed through the Coordinated Intake process. Emergency shelter still continue to service homeless individuals in need of immediate night-time residence.

Dr. Dodge, Veterans Administration reiterated that emergency shelters will continue providing services as before without being affected by Coordinated Intake process. Moving forward, the goal is to train outreach workers on how to utilize VI SPDAT tool with homeless individuals encountered on the streets to screen them for housing.

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, provided information about Inclement Weather Shelter. During the month of August, 6317 men and women (duplicated number) and 1431 unduplicated number of clients were served via summer day shelter program. This is an average of 204 clients/day. Mr. Hollon thanked South West Medical Associates for collecting more than 200 cases of bottled water for the shelter facilities in Southern Nevada. Southwest Gas selected Salvation Army, along with other non-profit organizations, to receive donations from employees for the next two years through their Fuel for Life Program. Southwest Gas employees will be attending a breakfast meeting on September 11th, 12th, and 13th to learn more about the non-profit recipients of their donations. Approximately 300 members of The Crossings Church volunteered to do a complete makeover project at Salvation Army Lied Apartment Complex on October 18th, 2014. Mr. Hollon stated a quote by Ryunosuke Satoro: "Individually we are one drop, together we are an ocean."

Sgt. David Schofield, LVMPD, stated that the Giving Project is scheduled to take place on September 13, 2014 at Fraternal Order of Eagles, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

Merideth Spriggs, Downtown Rangers thanked everyone who attended and supported Homelessness 101 event on September 8th, 2014. Ms. Spriggs is currently working on action items for the attendees. She requested information/ direct link to the Homeless Trust Fund to route potential donors. She also thanked the ladies who attended Women in Leadership event. Lastly, the Giving Project partnered with First Friday to host a donation drive for socks.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.