

**SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION  
SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 10, 2015**

**In attendance:** Julie Calloway, Co-Chair, City of Boulder City  
Nick Spriggs, Co-Chair, Briggs & Spriggs  
Melissa Jacobowitz, alternate, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth  
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson  
Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas  
Cass Palmer, City of North Las Vegas  
Terri Thompson, alternate, Clark County School District  
Terry Murphy, Fremont Street Experience  
Melissa Clary, Huntridge Neighborhood Association  
Jesse Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada  
Vicki Chan-Padgett, Touro University Nevada  
Joshua Brown, Veterans Administration  
Nancy Menzel, UNLV  
Donna Jordan, alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Erin Kinard, WestCare, Inc.  
Henry Sneed, The Church LV  
John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority  
Jackie Bañales-Garcia, alternate, Nevada HAND  
Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets – Las Vegas

**Absent:**

Tim Burch, Vice Co-Chair, Clark County  
Deacon Tom Roberts, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
David Slattery, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue  
Bret Ficklin, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest  
Angela Marshall, Second Chance Christian Ministries  
Geoff Spataro, United Way of Southern Nevada  
Corrine Valencia, U.S. Navy Veteran  
Vacant, Workforce Connections

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**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 Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board was called to order at 2:09 p.m., on Thursday, September 10, 2015, 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.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, announced that Clean the World has donated 20,000 – 30,000 hygiene kits. Each box contains 50 hygiene kits and they will be disbursed by the number of boxes needed. The sign-up sheet for agencies to receive the kits is by the entryway to the meeting.

Marilee Hansen, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, introduced the Acting Field Office Director, Tony Ramirez. Mr. Ramirez stated that until the position is filled for the Southern Nevada Field Office he is the Acting Field Office Director and will be the point of contact for HUD issues.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for September 10, 2015.**

A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the August 13, 2015 meeting.**

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, requested a correction on page 5 that the company name be corrected to Skye Coaching. A motion was made to approve the Minutes with the correction. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on the progress of the 25 Cities Initiative; for possible action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, and Cynthia Dodge, Director of the CRRC, presented the update of the 25 Cities Initiatives. On September 23 and 24 the local team of the 25 Cities Initiatives will be meeting in Los Angeles, CA with the National 25 Cities. The purpose of the meeting is to generate and document key insights from communities that have successfully addressed key issues, i.e. creating and using by-name lists; to collectively find creative solutions to challenges identified by communities, to strengthen relationships among and between community teams, and to reflect on the collective leadership challenges. The 25 Cities U.S. Conference of Mayors has combined with the Mayors Challenge group and a combined face-to-face meeting will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the City of Las Vegas and a conference call is scheduled for the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. The conference call number is 702-229-4717 and everyone is welcome to join. Standing agenda items include fair housing, forums, national initiative, state domiciliary (which will be discussed in the future), supportive employment, and volunteerism. The City of Las Vegas has a public service announcement (PSA) on ending veteran homelessness, which is to be seen at the end of the update. The direct link for viewing the PSA is [https://youtu.be/\\_Zzens3OfGA](https://youtu.be/_Zzens3OfGA). The update on coordinated intake showed that presently there are 724 individuals in the community cue waiting for rapid rehousing opportunities or transitional housing opportunities, and 484 individuals waiting for permanent supportive housing. The current available vacancies as of Tuesday were 1 supportive housing, 0 rapid rehousing, 2 Safe Haven, and 51 transitional housing spots. However, for the transitional housing, the individual must have income in order to be placed. In the community, 724 rapid rehousing opportunities are needed, which includes rental assistance with case management attached. In reviewing data of individuals that were referred through coordinated intake, and those that have received or been denied in placements they've been referred to, it has been determined that 20% were not able to be located for notification of a housing opportunity. In order to mitigate the situation, the Public Alert option of the HMIS system is being used; outreach teams will receive a list on a weekly basis of those who are referred to housing; and as recently as this week, Metro will begin receiving the same list that is distributed to the outreach team. The Chronic Dashboard shows the number of individuals housed since January 2015. In the past, the numbers have exceeded the goals, but this month the number was well below the minimum housing placement goal, but this was due to the lack of permanent supportive housing available. If funding was available for case management and rental assistance, this issue would lessen. Dr. Dodge stated that in August 167 veterans were placed into permanent supportive housing, which is the highest monthly number to date. Upon presenting the Veteran Dashboard, Dr. Dodge stated that veteran homelessness should end by the end of October. To clarify the definition of a veteran in order to appropriately determine the goal of reaching functional zero, it was decided to adopt the NV definition which is: a person who has successfully completed training and served at least 1 day of active duty in 1 of the 5 main branches of the U.S. military, OR a person who has served for at least 6 consecutive years in the National Guard or Reserves, as indicated on the DD214. The VA took responsibility for the Veteran Master List, which, as of last week, is comprised of 518 veterans' names. Based on the Veteran Dashboard graph, there are still 438 veterans needing to be housed by the end of 2015 which is within the prediction of the 25 Cities by 80 veterans. The numbers were then broken down as follows: 345 veterans are living in VA funded housing, with case managers actively involved and a plan to exit into permanent housing within an average of 60-90 days; 37 veterans are not enrolled in VA, but vague data appears in one of the 3 VA systems (VIS, HINQ or VISTA) and a DD214 is still needed (It is estimated that 25% of these may be veterans); 10 are not eligible for any VA Housing Programs based on the definition of having served in the Guard or Reserves but not eligible for VA benefits, therefore, referred to CoC housing; 43 are eligible for some VA Housing Programs (Not VASH); and 83 are eligible for all VA Housing Programs. Two other lists available to the VA are of those not considered to be a veteran and those that are not a priority veteran for functional 0. The list for those Not Considered to be Veterans is comprised of 82 names. Basically those are individuals listed in HMIS as self-reported veterans, but they cannot be found in any of the 3 systems by either a CRRC staff member or by the VA Hospital Eligibility staff. However, because there is a possibility that 2-3% could be veterans, a DD-214 would be needed in order to move those individuals to the Veteran Master List. The Not a Priority Veteran for Functional 0 List is comprised of 48 names. These are individuals, based on the veteran definition being used, who did not serve enough time. These individuals would be referred to Clark County Social Services (CCSS) but would not receive any "Veteran's Preference" points. On August 24, 2015, a MOU was signed by the VA Director and Bitfocus. The Southern Nevada VA is the only VA in the country that has the MOU and is utilizing it. Effective September 9, 2015, the VA CRRC staff will be able to look at and input data into HMIS. Some of the benefits are: a fast and efficient VA verification of veteran status and VA housing options; immediate information for CRRC Intake Staff regarding veteran utilization of services; and immediate sharing of the VA Master List with ALL HMIS agencies in order to expedite finding and assessing veterans in our community. On September 15 or September 17, there are workshops scheduled and will be broken into 3 sessions. These are the same workshops, just repeated. The first 2 sessions are for VA staff and SSVF/GPD only. However, the third session is open to all community transitional housing and rapid rehousing housing providers. The goal is to learn and share common case management strategies and focus on challenging cases. The workshop will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the VA-Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC), 916 W. Owens. The facilitators will be Cynthia Nagendra from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, and Michele Fuller-Hallauer, the CoC Coordinator. Anyone planning to attend should RSVP [cynthia.dodge3@va.gov](mailto:cynthia.dodge3@va.gov).

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, referred to the 20% of clients not able to be located and what happens if they are never found. Michele Fuller-Hallauer stated that the parameters set by the Coordinated Intake Change Advisory Team limit the

referral to remain open to housing for 7 days. After the 7 days, the provider denies the client and the client is put back on the cue. Since the cue is a fluctuating list based on vulnerability and the appropriate match between the client and the housing opportunity, it won't necessarily be back to the bottom of the cue. Ms. Geach then referred to the Veterans Master List of 518 names vs. the 83 who are VA eligible for all VA housing programs and available vouchers, meaning the VA can pay for the housing. But earlier in the presentation, it was stated that there was only 1 permanent supportive housing available. Does that mean that the VA can pay but there is not a housing opportunity to place the veteran? Dr. Dodge stated that the VA funded housing is separate from the CoC funded housing data presented by Ms. Fuller-Hallauer. When the VA assessment is done and if the client is not VASH eligible, the client will then be sent to the community cue. Since no other questions were presented, Ms. Fuller-Hallauer shared the Ending Veterans' Homelessness website developed by Merideth Spriggs, Caridad, is <http://housevetnsnv.org/>, which links to HelpHopeHome.org, and has the public service announcement (PSA) produced by the City of Las Vegas. The PSA was then shown. After the PSA, John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority asked if the PSA could be shared for agencies to provide on their own websites, to which Ms. Fuller-Hallauer affirmed that it could be shared, as it is a public service announcement.

**Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and presentation on 2015 Family Connect; for possible action.**

Stacy Sutton Pollard reminded the board that Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for November 17 at Cashman Center. Jurisdictional representative were reminded to invite their city council members to the VIP reception at 9:00 a.m. the morning of November 17. All board members are also invited and will receive evites to the VIP reception within the next 6 weeks. The monthly service provider meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, September 16, at Lutheran Social Service from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Project Homeless Connect planning, as well as general provider business will be discussed. All information regarding Project Homeless Connect is located at [nevadahomelessalliance.org](http://nevadahomelessalliance.org). Ms. Sutton Pollard then presented on the fourth annual Family Connect event which was held on May 21. The section chairs and leaders will be recognized at the combined meeting for Project Homeless Connect. In the past, the event has always been held at East Las Vegas Community Center. This year, in partnership with Clark County School District Title One HOPE Office, the event was held at Rancho High School since it is known for having the highest homeless student populations. Because the event was held at a high school, the students helped in making signage. The preliminary results are that 85 agencies participated in the event, which was an increase from the 65 agencies in attendance last year. Approximately 200 families were served. Some of the challenges encountered in tracking the families were due to the event being held on a school day, the back doors were unlocked, and families were entering through the back door. Of the families that intakes were processed, nearly 50% responded they were either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Although the services provided were consistent with past services, the Department of Welfare did a pilot test of issuing EBT cards on site, which was a smaller event. Due to the success of the pilot, they will also provide this service at Project Homeless Connect this year. Outreach was done through the service providers, Title One HOPE, Clark County School District, Community Centers, Boys and Girls Clubs, the churches, the Mayor's Faith Initiative, and the news media, all in advance of the event. Highlights of the outcomes were: clients were connected with medical, dental, and enrollment services; onsite, Summerlin Lions Club provided 109 free vision screenings and glasses as needed. Nevada Health Centers strongly promoted the event with flyers and information at their clinics. Financial Guidance Center and Springboard Financial Planning were onsite to assist with financial planning. Onsite legal guidance was provided, with the largest assistance received from DA Family Support which checked case status updates on 22 families and provided 1 family with child support modification. The DA also brought in assistance from the Criminal Division and provided 11 clients with information on sealing criminal records. Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services provided onsite mobile crisis intervention team, as well as provide clients with information on behavioral services, addiction services, adult and child mental health outpatient, day treatment, PSR/BST, clinical, and therapy; WestCare provided 106 clients with information on substance abuse treatment; Alcoholics Anonymous provided meeting materials to 70 clients; and other referrals. The difference between Family Connect and Project Homeless Connect is that Family Connect is a resource fair, whereas, Project Homeless Connect provides onsite services. Job readiness was provided with DETR providing 55 clients with information on job assistance programming; The Salvation Army provided 80 clients with vocational services information; UCLV Jobs, out of City Impact Center, assisted 23 clients with job searches and 5 clients with resume services. Housing and foreclosure assistance was provided with resources given in regards to shelter programming, low income housing programming, permanent supportive housing, fair housing, and general information on HUD programs. Childcare/summer programming and teen resources, though not provided at Project Homeless Connect, is a vital need for the community, and therefore, provided at Family Connect in May, in order to help families before the afterschool programs are no longer available once the school year has ended. With regards to general resource, the City of Las Vegas provided 36 individuals with information on Greyhound tickets home; Project 150 promoted their in school closets and

assistance programs; domestic violence partners were on site; Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth taught about Safe Place programming and 24-hour crisis response for youth; Title One HOPE scheduled 7 appointments to connect families with school district assistance and resources; and Lutheran Social Services provided identification assistance. Also included in the General Resources Section were The Salvation Army and US Vets, which educated people on SSVF programming; disability services, Social Security, Baby First Services, and DWSS. Food Resources partners were there to connect people with food during the summer. This included Lutheran Social Services promoted their pantry; Three Square provided 26 food referrals; Dept. of Welfare and Supportive Services worked together with HELP of Southern Nevada to complete applications, conduct interviews for SNAP and 3 EBT cards were issued on-site. The Giveaway Section included donations from the following: For the Least of These, the agency that is the program coordinator; The Salvation Army donated toys, food, and water; Project 150 provided food; Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth provided 1000 hygiene kits and 400 food bags; Title One HOPE gave bus passes; Nevada homeless Alliance donated diapers; RTC provided bus passes for follow-up appointments, and various other donors gave an accumulated amount of 6 pallets of clothing. This year a children's activity center was created and The Church of LV provided all the games. The biggest challenge this year was the change of venue, not knowing the area to set up, holding the event on a school day after school, and the logistics issues of being able to track all the clients. One success story was of a woman who was brought to the event by her daughter after being released from the hospital. She had no resources when she entered and went to the Welfare booth to get SNAP but had no ID. Because Social Security was on hand, she was able to get proof of her identity so she could apply for food stamps. Not only did she leave with food stamps, but she found out she was eligible for SSI/SSDI benefits. The next step for the event in 2016 is to move it to a Saturday due to logistical issues of more people being able to attend. Thanks were given to Catherine Huang Hara who provided all the pictures in the slide presentation. And a special thanks was given to Title One HOPE Office, Communities in Schools, Rancho High School, Clark County School District, St. Jude's Women's Auxiliary, Clark County Social Service, For the Least of These, RTC, Project 150, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, The Salvation Army, Three-Square Food Bank, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Nevada HAND, Clark County IT Department, and Service Providers.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the Evaluation Working Group; for possible action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, reported that the Evaluation Working Group continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. at Clark County Social Service, 1600 Pinto Ln., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room and is open for anyone to attend and sit in the audience. The group is meeting this Monday, September 14, and will focus on setting parameters for the ranking of the CoC process. She stressed that the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Availability had not yet been release, but once it is release, she is confident that the group will be able to rank the projects and bring recommendations to the board. Under the auspices of the Evaluation Working Group, several meetings were held last week, including the CoC funded provider meeting at which environmental reviews were discussed and the things providers can do in eSNAPS, which is the current system the applications go through to be sent to HUD. Also discussed was the dashboard and score cards the Evaluation Working Group will be using to rank the projects. The methodology the Evaluation Working Group, Monitor Working Group, and HMIS have used to develop the dashboard and the scorecards was discussed. Each agency received their own dashboard and score card for their project so they are aware of their standing. Also, a CoC 101 training was given to approximately 20 persons. This 2 hour training sessions goes into what CoC is, how it intersects with the board, the working groups under the board, and the community. CoC 101 training is available for the board in the future as it becomes necessary to make sure everyone understands the purpose of the CoC and how it works with the broader community.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on board strategic planning; for possible action.**

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas, stated that a meeting was held with the chairs, vice-chairs, champions from the working groups, as well as, John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority and Erin Kinard, WestCare, to make up the action plan and identify the goals for the next 24 months. Ms. Thomas-Gibson introduced Stephanie Rosol, Skye Coaching, as the facilitator for the strategic planning session. Ms. Rosol stated the group met together in September for 4 hours to discuss the roles and responsibilities within the governance structures and the champions to return to their working groups to identify the priorities for each group for the next 12-24 months. The goal is to reconvene on September 30 to craft an action plan to be presented to the board at the October meeting. Stacey Sutton-Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, mentioned the community engagement working group will be looking at the strategic plan discussed at the September 22 meeting and encouraged the members to attend in order to get input and feedback about the plan. Ms. Thomas-Gibson mentioned that as a part of the larger planning working group, the ad-hoc governance structure met to address actions items that came from the board and out of the action planning group with the purpose of looking at the formation of executive committees, looking at specific elements of existing governance structure needing to be addressed, specifically at the language that identifies the regional initiatives coordinator position and how to address, as a community, the absence of that

funded position. The meetings are open to anyone wanting to participate, but the purpose is to keep from getting business meetings bogged down. Then the group would come back to the full board and the full CoC with actionable documents so that the board can accept accountability for implementation.

**Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from each board member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness; for possible action.**

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson and HMIS Working Group champion, informed the CoC that beginning September 17 the group meetings are changing to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Women's Development Center from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. At that meeting, input and feedback from members is requested on draft action plan that will be presented to the board at the October meeting.

John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, asked for an opinion about the success from the meetings held between the VA and Housing Authority to get vets through the bottleneck process of being referred to being housed. Michele Fuller-Hallauer clarified the time period from the first boot camps approximately 4 years ago to the present. Mr. Hill stated he was just talking about the past few months.

Josh Brown, Veterans Administration, responded that the VA has been working with many community partners and have worked through the process, as some veterans are using shelters and contract beds as bridge housing until permanent housing is available. By working with the public housing authority, the bottlenecks have been worked down, but there is room for growth. The challenge comes from not being able to go to the community to say that veteran homelessness has been eliminated when in fact there are still veterans utilizing the Salvation Army, WestCare, and U.S. Vets.

Mr. Hill stated about 2 years ago, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority had an MOU with Clark County Social Service involving approximately 200 units that made permanent housing available. In the 2 years, the Housing Authority has housed over 275 previously homeless family members. The availability of an additional 150 permanent housing units was recently approved.

Mr. Brown announced the Veteran's Service Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 7 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the East Las Vegas Community Senior Center, 250 N. Eastern Ave.

Stacy Sutton Pollard, announced that on October 16 and 17, Nevada Homeless Alliance is partnering with The Salvation Army and Catholic Charities to sponsor the play "Stand", about a chronically homeless man. There will be an evening performance on Friday and Saturday as well as a Saturday matinee performance. Tickets are \$12.50 and 100 percent of the proceeds will be divided between the three organizations. Since the play raises awareness about chronically homeless clients' experiences, challenges, obstacles to housing, it can serve as a community effort and awareness campaign. Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets, stated that in order improve social media presence, U.S. Vets can now be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. She also made an announcement about the annual Veteran's Day fundraiser.

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas, stated a Homelessness Advisory Committee was formed specific to the urban downtown core. The next meeting will be held at Las Vegas City Hall, Training Room 3, on September 21 at 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public. The meeting is a cross collaboration between government, non-profits, the business community, and large institutions, i.e. hospitals, universities, etc. to specifically address the urban core. Ms. Thomas-Gibson also announced that the next Planning Working Group meeting is September 22 at 1:00 p.m. at Las Vegas City Hall, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor. The Planning Working Group is charged with tangible outcomes, i.e. Homeless Census/Point-in-Time count, Youth Census, PSAs regarding Responsible Giving/Feeding and Veterans.

Terry Murphy, Fremont Street Experience, questioned whether the information about the play was available online in order to be able to email it to others, and the possibility to give a short presentation to community leaders, prior to the performance of the play, to provide them with information regarding the number of homeless and the cost to the community, as well as ways to get involved. Ms. Sutton-Pollard stated that information would be going out through press releases, social media, signage, handouts and volunteered to email the information to Ms. Murphy. Ms. Sutton-Pollard also referred to the Nevada Homeless Alliance website, The Salvation Army website, and Catholic Charities website as having the information available. Terri Thompson, Clark County School District Title One HOPE, reported that for the 2014-2015 school year, 11,253 students in the Clark County School District have been identified as homeless according to the McKinney-Vento homeless definition, which includes unsheltered individuals and those living in a shelter, transitional housing program, awaiting foster care, hotels/motels, and doubled up with other family members or friends.

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County, announced that the youth working group's next meeting is scheduled for September 29 at 9:00 a.m. at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Parkway, and is open to all youth providers. She also mentioned that tours have been arranged for some of the youth provider agencies for the morning of September 17, and also for mid-morning/afternoon of September 21. Anyone interested in attending should contact Ms. Huang Hara.

**Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.**

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, announced that on August 22 The Salvation Army distributed 2507 backpacks to children grades K-12, with the help of their partner, Fox5 and their Take 5 to Care partners. Because of the overwhelming response for school supply donations, over 50 schools have been the recipient of these supplies. Skytop Vending donated a pool table and a bowling arcade game for The Lied Bridge Units, which is an apartment complex that The Salvation Army

has. This temporary program based allows case managed residents to stay for up to one year. This transitional housing complex has 51 of 59 units available. From August 24 through August 28 The Salvation Army provided one week of free dental services to over 100 homeless clients in the community. This service was provided through Nevada Health Centers' Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Unit. During the month of October, The Salvation Army will begin an outdoor media campaign which focuses on a 3-mile radius around The Salvation Army. This will target getting messages out about services provided by The Salvation Army. The information will be going out on transit benches, to shelters, on bus lines, on trash cans, and on billboards. Street teams will campus the area and talk to individuals as well as invite them to The Salvation Army for the free community meal provided from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.