

**SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION  
SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2015**

**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  
David Schofield, Las Vegas Metro Police Department  
Donna Jordan, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Heather DeSart, Workforce Connections  
Erin Kinard, WestCare, Inc.  
Vicki Chan-Padgett, Touro University Nevada  
Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets – Las Vegas  
Jesse Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada  
David Slattery, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue  
Geoff Spataro, United Way  
Joshua Brown, Veterans Administration  
Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, Wynn Resorts  
Mike Mullin, Nevada HAND  
John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority  
Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes  
Melissa Clary, Huntridge Neighborhood Association  
Pastor Henry Sneed, The Church LV  
Angela Marshall, Second Chance Christian Ministries  
Nancy Menzel, UNLV  
Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest  
Deacon Thomas Roberts, Catholic Charities  
Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth

**Absent:**

Terry Murphy, Fremont Street Experience  
Nick Spriggs, NEO3DO  
Corrine Valencia, U.S. Navy Veteran

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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 Committee on Homelessness was called to order at 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, January 8, 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.**

No public comment was given.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for January 8, 2015.**

A motion was made to approve the agenda for January 8, 2015. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the December 11, 2014 meeting.**

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, requested the following corrections be made to the meeting minutes. On page 2, agenda item #6, in the last sentence should read "Continuum Care" instead of continua. A motion was made to approve the Minutes with changes. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 5. Approval of amendments to the Governance Structure by the Board in relation to Board Membership; for possible action.**

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas, gave a little bit of background explaining where the ad hoc group was created, reviewed the board selection process and expanding the board. During that process it was determined that a few key elements that were excluded needed to be included in the expansion of the board. It is expanding the board by four seats and added regional partners and expanded for the advocates. A motion was made to approve. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 6. Approval of amendments to the Governance Structure by the Continuum of Care in relation to Board Membership; for possible action.**

Motion passes.

**Agenda Item 7. Community and Homeless Board approve of board membership terms, new co-chair, new vice co-chair for possible action.**

The Ad-Hoc working group who reviewed board applications presented the nominations.

- The first sector for University - the ad hoc group recommends Nancy Menzel with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to take the seat. This was approved unanimously. Nancy Menzel will serve a 2-year term.
- The second sector for the Public Housing Agency - the ad hoc group recommends John Hill with the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority. This was approved unanimously. John Hill will serve a 4-year term.
- The third sector, which is one of the new seats, for Workforce Investment - the ad hoc group recommends Heather DeSart with Workforce Connections. This was approved unanimously. Heather DeSart will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector is a new seat, the Federally Designated EFSP Board - the ad hoc group recommends Geoff Spataro with the United Way of Southern Nevada. This motion approved unanimously. Geoff Spataro will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector for Law Enforcement - the ad hoc group recommends David Schofield with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. This was approved unanimously. David Schofield will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector, which includes two seats, is for the Faith-Based Organizations - the first individual is Henry Sneed with The Church of South Las Vegas and the second individual is Angela Marshall with The Second Chance Christian Ministries. These were approved unanimously. Henry Sneed will serve a 2-year term and Angela Marshall will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector seats, which includes three seats, is for Businesses. For the ad hoc group recommends Terry Murphy with Fremont Street Experience; Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher with Wynn Resorts; and Nick Spriggs with NEO3DO. These were approved unanimously. Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher and Terry Murphy will each serve a 2-year term, and Nick Spriggs will serve a 4-year term.

- The next sector is for Affordable Housing Developer - ad hoc group recommends Mike Mullin with Nevada HAND. This motion was approved unanimously. Michael Mullin will serve a 2-year term.
- The next sector, which includes three seats, is Social Services Providers. The ad hoc group recommends Deacon Thomas Roberts of Catholic Charities, Amber Bachelor of S.A.F.E. Nest, and Arash Ghafoori with Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. These were approved unanimously. Arash Ghafoori and Amber Bachelor will serve a 4-year term, and Thomas Roberts will serve a 2-year term.
- The next sector is for Mental Health Agencies - the ad hoc group recommends Donna Jordan with Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. This was approved unanimously. Donna Jordan will serve a 2-year term.
- The next sector, which has two seats, is Homelessness or Formally Homeless Individuals. The recommendations are Corrine Valencia with U.S. Navy Veterans and Jesse Robinson with HELP of Southern Nevada. These were approved unanimously. Corrine Valencia will serve a 4-year term and Jesse Robinson will serve a 2-year term.
- The next sector, which has two seats, is Organizations that Serve Homeless and Formally Homeless Veterans. The recommendations are Shalimar Cabrera of U.S. Vets-Las Vegas and Joshua Brown of the Veterans Administration. These were approved unanimously. Shalimar Cabrera will serve a 2-year term and Joshua Brown will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector, which includes two seats, is Health Care Providers. The recommendations Vicki Chan-Padgett of Touro University Nevada and Erin Kinard with WestCare. These were approved unanimously. Vicki Chan-Padgett will serve a 2-year term and Erin Kinard will serve a 4-year term.
- The next sector, which includes three seats, is Advocates, and the recommendations are Melissa Clary of Huntridge Neighborhood Association, the Stacy Sutton Pollard of Nevada Homeless Alliance, and Kena Adams of Moapa Band of Paiutes. These were approved unanimously. Melissa Clary will serve a 4-year term, Stacy Sutton Pollard and Kena Adams will each serve a 2-year term.
- The last category is for Emergency Medical Services, and the recommendation is David Slattery with the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. This was approved unanimously. David Slattery will serve a 4-year term.

Julie Calloway, City of Boulder City, is the present co-chair by jurisdiction. The motion to ratify Julie Calloway as the 2015 Jurisdictional Co-Chair was approved unanimously. Tim Burch was nominated as Jurisdictional Vice Co-Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Donner turned the meeting over to Ms. Calloway.

**Agenda Item 8. Nominate and elect co-chair and vice co-chair; for possible action.**

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas, nominated Nick Spriggs, NEO3DO, as the second co-chair. Tim Burch, Clark County, nominated Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, as the second vice co-chair. These were approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 9. Receive an update from the Regional Initiatives Office; for possible action.**

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, reported on the inclement weather shelter. This includes the ongoing winter night shelter, which began on November 17 and continues through March 29. Services include Catholic Charities for men, Salvation Army for adults, The Shade Tree for single women and women with children, as well as HopeLink of Southern Nevada for motel vouchering for other populations or families. The 2015 Southern Nevada Homeless Census will take place this month. The various components are a point-in-time count street and shelter count with a survey component. The urban street count takes place on January 28<sup>th</sup>, while the rural count takes place on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Training will be provided on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., and 5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. A question was posed as to the number of persons signed up and the number of volunteers that are needed. It was also asked as to how volunteers are assigned to the various deployment stations. Ms. Huang Hara answered that up to 500 volunteers and staff would be optimal, and volunteers are self-selecting deployment stations through the online registration.

Paula Zier, Clark County School District, also mentioned that the Youth Point-In-Time count occurs during the day of January 28<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed for that, too. Questions were posed as to the security of the volunteers during the early morning hours of the street count and bright colored signs to be put into car windows that had been provided in the past to alert metro that the driving teams are involved in the census. The question of pairing volunteers together based on gender was asked with regards to the safety of the teams.

**Agenda Item 10. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from Women's Development Center; for possible action.**

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance reminded everyone that the provider meetings resume this month on January 21<sup>st</sup>. The January – June meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at HELP of Southern Nevada, 1640 E Flamingo, Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV, from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. The full Project Homeless Connect Report is expected to be given at either the February or March SNH CoC meeting, depending on space in the agenda.

Bridgett Claridy of Women's Development Center (WDC) presented a slide presentation, which provided some agency history; and services provided by WDC, including transitional housing, housing stability, affordable rental program; senior apartments, and homeownership services. The emphasis of the services is placed on domestic violence and veterans. However, they do not have emergency shelter services. Questions were asked about the referral system, the food pantry, requirement to qualify for the disability program, where the funding for WDC comes from.

**Agenda Item 11. Receive an update from WestCare on the Community Triage Center; for possible action.**

Erin Kinard, WestCare, provided an overview of services provided by WestCare, which includes a full continuum of behavioral health services for adults and adolescence, those struggling with substance abuse, mental health disorders as well as those in need of crisis intervention or shelter. At the Community Triage Center, they mostly deal with diversion efforts from the hospital and jail so that any individual in crisis for substance abuse or mental health disorders can be brought to WestCare rather than to the hospitals or jails. The Community Triage Center (CTC) recently expanded beds to 50. WestCare is still working on contracts with MCO's including Amerigroup. There is presently an executable contract in place with HPN so that services can now be billed. The MOHR (Mobile Outreach Homeless Recovery) partnership has now kicked off and includes the following 4 non-profit entities: LSSN, New Genesis, Volunteers in Medicine, and WestCare. It is funded by a grant from Dignity Health Grant Opportunities to deal with those clients who frequent the St. Rose hospital emergency rooms. The Maryland Parkway Facility, located at 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, Las Vegas is progressing well with expectations of opening in late February to sometime in March.

Chris Nelson, WestCare reviewed the fiscal year information July 2013 – June 2014, and the current fiscal year information from July 2014 – present. This information included the number of clients served, the average length of stay, the average frequency of admissions, the age and household income data, veteran status, family structure of the clients, referral sources, discharge reasons, and discharge placement. Mr. Nelson responded to a question regarding how it is determined which zip codes to place the client for data purposes stating that it is determined by asking the client where resided in last 30 days. The question of being discharged to the streets/unknown and being more in control of monitoring those clients was also asked. The present system is to have the case workers start discussing with the clients after about 18 hours what the clients plans/options are, so that the numbers of those being discharge to the streets or unknown can decrease. A question was posed with regards to hospital references and assisting those identified as veterans and how to transport them to the Veterans' Hospital. The question was posed as to how adolescents could access the services of WestCare. Ms. Kinard stated that the facility that serves women and children is located at Rancho and Gowen and provides shelter services, respite, detox and social detox, outpatient, residential program for young men. The two front doors to access services is by calling 702-385-2020 for crisis intervention, and the second front door for long term intake and assessment located at Martin Luther King Boulevard and Alta is 702-385-3330. For adults, they would call CTC at 702-3834040 for crisis intervention, and the second front door for adults would be the 702-385-3330. A question was

raised as to whether drop-ins were eligible or if they have to have a referral. It was clarified that if an agency is notifying the client of the services at the CTC, that would be considered a referral. Clarification regarding the difference between legal holds and referrals to mental health facilities was requested and provided. Thomas Roberts, Catholic Charities, offered to partner with WestCare on the case management side to continue to find solutions and better pathways for those clients with the population being discharged back to the 89101 zip code. A question was also posed regarding the number of veterans serviced. It was explained that WestCare averages 7% - 9% of the population serviced is veterans.

**Agenda Item 12. Receive an update on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) from Bitfocus; for possible action.**

Rob Herdzik, Bitfocus, presented data showing the growth in community participation and the consistent growth of clients that are being managed in the HMIS system. He also discussed the Integrated Coordinated Intake System, the programs that are connected with the system and how the automatic scoring/prioritization assists in automatic program matching for the client. Also discussed was the various reports that have been submitted and that can be run based on different analysis data requested by agencies. The mobile census survey is now available which enables real time data and quicker reporting results. Bitfocus is trying to expand the Clarity Passport which makes the process of entering client information into the system much easier. Technical support that is also provided by Bitfocus was also discussed. A question regarding the cost of the program was brought up. However, Rob explained that the program is funded by HUD. It was also brought up that although the data collected is only for the state of Nevada, the usefulness of the data if the system could connect with other western states. Rob stated that the last residential zip code of the client is collected at the intake point. Discussion of the geocode for the survey was also discussed. Clarification was made on the funding, stating that Clark County manages the contract with Bitfocus, but Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City and Clark County all contribute towards the data.

**Agenda Item 13. Discuss scheduling of orientation of board membership; for possible action.**

Mary Ellen Donner, North Las Vegas, explained the binder and its contents that have been provided for each new board member. After much discussion, a motion was made that the orientation of new board members begin at 2:00 p.m. with the regular business meeting immediately afterward. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 14. Receive an update from each board member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.**

Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth invited everyone on January 31<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. to the Grand Opening of their drop-in center.

Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest, reported receiving confirmation of upgraded computer equipment needed to come on board with HMIS.

Henry Sneed, The Church LV, is involved with the Mayor's Faith Initiative on Homelessness and reported that January 21<sup>st</sup> that American Winter, an HBO documentary that highlights poverty and homelessness in America, is scheduled for a free showing at the East Las Vegas Community Center. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., the show starts at 6:00 p.m., with a panel discussion to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Melissa Clary, Huntridge Neighborhood Association, is working on ramping up the stagnant Neighborhood Watch program. Huntridge Neighborhood Association has also applied for a grant through the county to form a Speakers Corner.

David Schofield, Las Vegas Metro Police Department, reported that they are having a Giving Project on Saturday, January 10, at The Attic on Washington and Main Streets. In February, Metro is hosting a "Take Back the City" Community Event held at Cashman Field. He will provide the dates at the next meeting.

Joshua Brown, Veterans Administration, 20 volunteers participating in the census. VA also has a Grand Opening scheduled for the Community Resource and Referral Center in February, date to be determined.

Paula Zier, Clark County School District, reported that 8000 students have been identified as homeless so far this school year. Pamphlets are available on the available programs and the qualifying criteria to help parents, who do not have their children in school, know their rights.

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, reiterated the information Henry Sneed mentioned regarding “The American Winter” film and also introduced herself and agency for the new board members. She invited them to join the email list service and informed them of the monthly service provider meetings held. Would like to have on the next meeting’s agenda discussion of the strategic plan and the work groups.

Geoff Spataro, United Way of Southern Nevada, reported that for Phase 32 of EFSP, Clark County was awarded a little over 1.2 million.

David Slattery, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, reported that they are now a part of the CMIS program and have also joined the Health Information Exchange of Nevada. Las Vegas Fire and Rescue is presently working on SIPS (Serial Inebriate Program) project with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department DTAC (Downtown Area Command), City of Las Vegas, Clark County Social Service, and WestCare, to address high frequency users of the system which is presently just focused in the downtown area. Also reported that there is presently movement in the works to give paramedics the ability to do screening in the field and if the patient does not have medical illness or injury, to take the patient to a mental triage facility.

Jesse Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada, stated they provide their clients with life skill classes. They are hoping to get doctors and dentists to come in to help the homeless that are currently in their program.

Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets–Las Vegas, reported that the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Stand Down is scheduled for March 18 – 19 at Cashman Center. Although there are a lot of needs, they are presently trying to bring dental services so that it can be provided on the spot. The next planning meeting for the Veterans Stand Down is January 21<sup>st</sup> at the U.S. Vets Dining Hall located at 525 E. Bonanza, Las Vegas, NV at 9:30 a.m. Information on how to register for the Veterans Stand Down, whether as a volunteer or a provider, was given. An invitation to attend Happy Hour at the Top of the Mandalay Bay - Foundation Room at 5:00 p.m. today. A portion of the proceeds for food and drink will go back to the programs provided for homeless veterans.

Vicki Chan-Padgett, Touro University Nevada, launched a mobile health care clinic in July 2014, which is the only one in the city and maybe in the state, and is run by the University’s students. The van is parked at Catholic Charities on Wednesday morning, and at Veteran’s Village on Thursday morning. They average 15-20 patients per half day. This is an outreach clinic that was started at The Shade Tree and they can do tests as well as prescribe some medications.

Heather DeSart, Workforce Connections, reported that her agency is a body for funds from the Department of Labor and provide employment training services. A yearly training class, RFP 101, is being held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at to help with 6330 W. Charleston, to learn how to submit proposals for the funding.

#### **Agenda Item 15. Public Comment**

Meredith Spriggs, Downtown Rangers, invited anyone involved in outreach to the next Coordinated Outreach meeting, on January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. at Clark County Social Service office, 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas. Presently the discussion is trying to get all parties on HMIS in order to be able to try and address issues to try and locate folks.

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, gave an update of relevant activities at the agency. The Salvation Army was able to team up with Zappos to have the First Annual Holiday Winter Wonderland on December 18, 2014, in the downtown Zappos courtyard. They were able to recruit 500 children, ages 6 and under, to have them come in and participate in the activities. Also told of a 9-year old who wanted to get involved with doing something for the homeless. Through the contributions she collected in her neighborhood and money she had saved, she donated \$91 to the Salvation Army on Christmas Day to help with the community. On January 22, the Salvation Army is partnering with the Sportsman’s Channel to serve a free community dinner from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. “Hunt,

Fish, Feed” is an outreach program that taps underutilized food sources, i.e. game and fish donated by sportsmen. The goal is to end hunger while promoting alternative solutions through national media outlets.

Nina Griffin, representing ophthalmologist Dr. Kenneth Westfield, offers free cataract and glaucoma screenings for those in need.

Monique Westfield, Dr. Westfield’s wife, founded an organization called Toni’s House which provides a safe living environment for men and women in need of rebuilding their lives. Services are provided on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.