

**SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2015**

In attendance:

Julie Calloway, Co-Chair, City of Boulder City
Nick Spriggs, Co-Chair, Briggs & Spriggs
Tim Burch, Vice Co-Chair, Clark County
Arash Ghafoori, Vice Co-Chair, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Mary Ellen Donner, City of North Las Vegas
Kathi Thomas-Gibson, alternate, City of Las Vegas
Paula Zier, Clark County School District
David Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan 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 (VA)
John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
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 of Southern Nevada
Terry Murphy, Fremont Street Experience
Pastor Rand Marshall, alternate, Veteran

Absent:

Jocelyn Bluit-Fisher, Wynn Resorts
Mike Mullin, Nevada HAND
Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes
Corrine Valencia, Veteran

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 2:16 p.m., on Thursday, February 12, 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 February 12, 2015; for possible action.

A motion was made to move item 5 after item 9. A motion was made to approve the agenda for February 12, 2015 with this modification. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 8, 2015 meeting; for possible action.

Erin Kinard, WestCare, Inc., requested noted that on page 4, agenda item 11, the correct the phone number for WestCare CTC program to 702-383-4044 in the last sentence. Stacy Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, noted a correction on agenda item 10 that Provider meetings resuming this month are held from 8:30-9:30 a.m. A motion was made to approve the Minutes with changes. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an introduction to orientation and a Homelessness 101 presentation from the Regional Initiatives Office; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, introduced herself to the board and welcomed the board members. Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Regional Initiatives Office, presented for current and new incoming Southern Nevada Homeless Continuum of Care (SNHCoC) board members details of the Continuum of Care (CoC) structure. She explained that the SNHCoC is open to all community members interested in the process of ending homelessness as directed by the HEARTH act. The responsibility of the SNHCoC is to assist and direct the development and implementation of the communities plan to end homelessness. The planning process is directed by five established working groups; evaluation, planning, HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), monitoring, and community engagement. The activities of the CoC are driven by the following federal goals: end veteran homelessness by 2015; end chronic homelessness by 2016; end family and youth homelessness by 2020; and to chart the course toward ending all homelessness by 2020. The HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act of 2009 mandates that CoCs participate in the following activities to support planning and service directives. Each community is to conduct a yearly point-in-time count and shelter count. These counts are accomplished by conducting an organized overnight street count of both urban and rural areas. The street count effort includes specialty teams for the tunnels and a youth count, which includes collaboration with Clark County School District providing a report on number of homeless children. Also, agency and local volunteers assist in the completion of a comprehensive street and shelter survey component. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer provided a brief overview of 2014 homeless census data, presented the Federal definition of homelessness, described the models of housing in Southern Nevada, and provided a list of state and federal funding resources.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer defined HMIS, and that our local system operates on the Clarity Software system. Clarity is a proprietary system developed, owned and operated by Bitfocus. She explained that HMIS is programmed to determine program eligibility based on individualized agency program standards. Homeless demographics are collected and reported annually to Housing and Urban Development. Service availability, bed placements, referrals, services provided by each agency, SOAR (Social Security Outreach Access and Recovery) application progress, and community housing assessment tools are available in Clarity. Service providers are welcome and encouraged to participate in the HMIS. Agencies interested in implementing HMIS within their agency can request to become a participant by completing an online request for HMIS implementation and support at www.miner-hmis.com.

Questions from the board started with if a veteran with less than honorable discharge status is eligible for any services. Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets, reported that there are some select services that less than honorable vets can be eligible for. Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest, asked if other cities have reached functional zero. Mrs. Fuller-Hallauer responded that Salt Lake City for veterans has been identified as a functional zero city. Nancy Menzel, UNLV, asked what services does this community currently have for individuals with active substance

use/abuse. A member answered that currently detox through WestCare Community Triage and Safe Haven is available. Terry Murphy, Fremont Street Experience, asked how many affordable housing units are currently available for occupancy. Mrs. Fuller-Hallauer reported that the exact count is unclear. Tim Burch, Clark County, reported approximately 3,300 units are needed to house the current homeless identified. John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, discussed identifying veterans and assisting the Veterans Administration regarding access to VASH (Veterans Administration Supportive Housing. Julie Calloway, City of Boulder City, asked how many providers are currently reporting to HMIS. Robert Herdzik, Bitfocus, reported that 60 providers are actively involved. Nick Spriggs, Briggs & Spriggs, asked what percentage of providers are participating in HMIS. Mrs. Fuller-Hallauer reported that it is about 99% participation of the housing providers known to her. Angela Marshall, Second Chance Christian Ministries, asked about the time lapse between a veteran accessing rapid rehousing or transitional housing from the time they access the CRRC (VA Community Resource Referral Center). Mrs. Fuller-Hallauer replied that that is a question for the VA, but she is aware that the VA currently has emergency housing available for veterans immediately.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a presentation on the governance structure; for possible action.

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Orientation. The presentation outlines the governance structure and charter for board members and provided the following: history and background of the CoC responsibilities; the current governance structure; purpose and responsibilities of the acting CoC board and its members; the board structure with working groups; and membership, term lengths with board expectations. Attendance is required at 75% of Board meetings to remain in active status. Donna Jordan, SNAMHS, asked that if an alternate attends, will it be counted towards attendance. Ms. Geach replied yes, and reminded the board to send information for their alternate designee to Catherine Huang Hara to be added to the roster. Ms. Geach also reminded the group to review Robert Rules of Order and identifying conflict of interests prior to voting. Resignations from the board must be provided in writing. She also said that newer board member should feel welcome to ask questions and refer to seasoned board members. She thanked members for their commitment to serve.

Tim Burch, Clark County, pointed out that the UFA (United Funding Agency) working group was chartered at a previous meeting to take an item to the SNRPC Board regarding control of the homeless trust fund go to the Committee on Homelessness. The SNRPC also has legislation pending to return to its original focus of planning. Clark County Commissioner Giunchigliani will be sponsoring an agenda item at the March SNRPC meeting to request that the SNHCoC board to spin-off as its own entity as long as required per HUD funding and can manage the trust fund. There are several references to regional coordination in Section 8 of the governance charter that he requests a motion to have the governance charter ad-hoc working group review and strike references to before the March SNRPC meeting, since there is no longer a regional coordinator due to a change of direction among jurisdictional partners. Clark County would like to manage the expectations of the board as the collaborative applicant for the CoC. Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas, seconds the motion and agreed that the City of Las Vegas will convene the ad-hoc working group. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a presentation of the 2013-2014 Committee on Homelessness Strategic Plan; for possible action.

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas, reviewed the current strategic plan and explained that this document represents the activities of the last two years. Although mostly completed, it may have a few more updates that need to be done. The document has key objectives with a board member as a champion that ran point to pull together a working group and do necessary research as required and provide the information to the working group, deliberate on the actions needed to be taken and the report back to the board with the completed document. Now there are specific duties delegated to this body that are required by HUD due to the HEARTH Act. She introduced the idea that this document needs close review and possible revision before moving forward. Each goal has defined objectives, identified working group members, agency specific drivers and a proposed completion date. It was brought to the group's attention that the draft in the binders may not be the most current, and that a number of the action items have been completed or are still ongoing. In addition to the specific

working groups required by the HEARTH Act, the board decided to include Community Engagement, in order to ensure they keep the pulse on the needs of the homeless population and to be able have the provider community as part of the deliberation. Ms. Thomas-Gibson reviewed the strategic plan and explained the information, i.e. the objective is still being updated and what may still be needed, or the objective has been completed. Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, noted that the status of some items on the plan has changed, but the most up to date plan is available for review with the agenda on the www.helpohome.org website. Ms. Thomas-Gibson then stated that it has been the expectations that the entire community and the board would work collaboratively in deploying our resources to address the issue of homelessness. Ms. Thomas-Gibson suggested making an ad hoc group work on the framework for creating the current working document for the strategic plan. Tim Burch, Clark County, asked if there would be a strategic planning session or would the ad hoc group bring back a plan. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated she felt it would be up to the body to make that determination based upon the HEARTH Act. John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, asked about the measurable objectives and activities listed in the strategic plan. Ms. Thomas-Gibson explained the organization of these items in the strategic plan document, and that documents relative to its completion are archived on the website with previous agenda items when it was presented to the committee. Julie Calloway, Boulder City, clarified Ms. Thomas-Gibson's suggestion to set up an ad hoc group to set up the process and its key objectives. Ms. Thomas-Gibson reiterated that the ad hoc group would take on the task. Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, asked when the ad hoc update would be needed. In order to begin planning in spring possibly April, Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated that it should be as soon as possible. Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, requested clarification of whether an ad hoc group was going to do the strategic plan and if the ad hoc group would come back and report and request that members join the larger group. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated she is suggesting the ad hoc group set the framework for the process, but not necessarily the full plan. Paul Zier, Clark County School District, suggested that once an objective has been completed perhaps a column could be added to show what documents were submitted to complete the objective. Ms. Huang Hara stated she will work with Ms. Thomas-Gibson to include that information and the progress of items. Ms. Huang Hara also requested clarification that governance structure included Youth. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated it was put in under Planning. Ms. Sutton Pollard added that it was stated the Youth work could also be included in an ad hoc group.

Agenda Item 9. Discuss working groups as designated in the governance structure and assign group champions; for possible action.

Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, continued the working groups discussion. During the strategic planning discussion of item 8 it was determined that perhaps the best approach to continuing the strategic plan updating process was to identify champions for each working group. Ms. Geach suggested each working group meet and develops future objective ideas to present at the March or April board meeting. Several new members expressed concern that they need more time to familiarize themselves with the mission of each of the five groups before feeling comfortable accepting membership on a particular group or agreeing to champion a working group. Ms. Geach directed discussion in regards to the need for a new board member presentation specific to the goals/responsibilities of each subgroup. It was noted that each member can review the work group descriptions and group responsibilities in the board member orientation notebook. The logistics of working group function was discussed and it was determined that each group needs to have identified a champion and alternate champion or co-chair. Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, informed that the activities under the HMIS group, which includes designation of statewide lead and administrator, has already occurred and that Clark County was designated the statewide lead by the other two continuums of care in the state. The Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness will also be convening an HMIS governance group. Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Regional Initiatives Office, mentioned that the Nevada Interagency Council is drafting a statewide plan to include HMIS, and will bring that back. Also, the Evaluation Working Group is currently evaluating their current membership and reiterated that the local process will be starting.

By discussion it was determined that the following volunteers will champion each of these respective working groups: Tim Burch, Clark County, volunteered for Evaluation; Kathi Thomas-Gibson, City of Las Vegas,

volunteered Stephen Harsin for Planning; Ms. Geach volunteered for HMIS; Nick Spriggs, Briggs & Spriggs, volunteered for Monitoring; and Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance continued to volunteer for Community Engagement. After discussion it was determined that a motion was not necessary to accept the identified champions as each is serving in a volunteer capacity. A request was made that each working group provide a group presentation at the next CoC meeting to inform the group prior to the Strategic Planning process and to inform new members so they are better equipped to decide membership in a specific group.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, reported that inclement weather winter night shelter began on November 17th and will continue through March 29, 2015. Locations include Catholic Charities for men, the Salvation Army for adults, the Shade Tree for single women and women with children, and HopeLink of Southern Nevada for motel vouchers. The 2015 Homeless Census street count has been completed. On January 28th the shelter, urban, and youth street counts took place with 200 community volunteers participating. January 29th was the rural street count. The street and shelter survey collection component is still underway and will be wrapping up shortly. Ms. Huang Hara introduced Ambrosia Crump, Nevada Statewide SOAR Coordinator. The scope of Ms. Crump's responsibilities will be to track SOAR case referrals and determination progress, relationship building with Social Security Offices, provide statewide reporting, and provide community training to certify agency staff in the process of SOAR disability resource referral and case coordination. She will also be available to provide technical assistance in the area of referral coordination. The 2014 CoC grant awards have been announced. Nevada applied for \$13,099,033 in grant funds and was awarded \$12,551,109. The reduction in funding has been determined to be equal to this regions drop in fair market rent values. The 2015 CoC grant application process is estimated to begin shortly. The grant inventory worksheet is in progress for submission to HUD. 25 Cities is convening a design workshop scheduled on February 23rd from 9:00 am-5:00 pm and February 24th from 8:30 am-12:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the VA Community Resource and Referral Center at 916 West Owens. The scope of the next 25 Cities planning phase is to address the areas of emergency shelter, street outreach teams, and coordinated intake refinement. The sponsors of the 25 Cities Initiative are United States Veterans Affairs, HUD, and the Interagency Council on Homelessness

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

Heather DeSart, Workforce Connections, announced that RFP's will be being accepted from February 27th and into March. Those interested can go to www.nevadaworkforce.org for details.

Vicki Chan-Padgett, Touro University Nevada, recently joined with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department to provide community training to Centennial Hills and Mountain View Hospitals by special request. A number of homeless individuals appear to be relocating to these areas of the city in response to challenges with emergency transport and emergency room crowding at other hospitals.

Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets, announced that the Veteran Stand Down is five weeks away on March 18th and 19th at Cashman Center.

Jesse Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada, announced that the Healthy Living project is starting next month, and is happy to be sitting on the board.

Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, announced that the next Community Engagement working group meeting is February 17th at 10 a.m. at Clark County Social Service. Ms. Sutton Pollard also requested that future agenda items might include presentations for members on differences in population needs. Her point was that different homeless populations have different needs and those of a chronically homeless individual are quite different than a homeless family or single with children.

Tim Burch, Clark County, announced that for the first time in several years Clark County Social Services will not be experiencing a budget reduction. In previous years, a reduction has occurred due to decreased property tax revenues. This upswing of funding will allow for reevaluation and enhancement of bridge housing and discharge planning services

Paula Zier, Clark County School District, gave kudos to all that participated in the youth count deployment, including Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, and Southern Nevada Children First.

Donna Jordan, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, introduced Lourdes Wong as her alternate.

Joshua Brown, Veterans Administration, announced they are holding an open house on February 18th from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Nancy Menzel, UNLV, introduced the work to be completed on a concept paper on the ecology of homelessness.

Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest, announced that they are beginning to work on implementation of HMIS at S.A.F.E. Nest.

Agenda Item 11. Public Comment.

Leora Olivas, Silver State Voices, announced that the Let Nevada Vote Coalition will be conducting a survey. The purpose of the survey is to collect data and service provider stories that demonstrate how the proposed voter ID law will affect homeless client's ability to vote. The Coalition is also working on a "sign-on" letter for agencies, advocates and other interested parties to be included in the expression of concern with the Voter ID law. The Let Nevadans Vote Coalition currently has 30 signatures on the "sign-on" letter. Ms. Olivas has copies of survey's and the sign-on letter available and requests members contact her with questions.

Meredith Spriggs, Caridad, announced that the next Coordinated Outreach meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18th at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at HopeLink at 178 West Minister Way in Henderson. This meeting is posted on the HMIS announcement board. The HMIS system wide community announcement board is available for agencies to post up and coming meetings.

Phillip Hollon, the Salvation Army, announced four community involvement projects for Salvation Army. On Monday, January 19th a group of eighth-grade students called the Dreamers from the "I Have a Dream" Foundation shared goodie bags with Salvation Army residents. The goodie bags included a pair of socks, power bar, bottled water, chocolate bar, and McDonald's gift cards. A local girl, Kaya decided she wanted to celebrate her sixth birthday by sharing cake and birthday cards with Salvation Army residents. She and her family spent the afternoon serving cake and sharing a birthday celebration. Mr. Hollon also announced that 20 students from the Las Vegas High School Pal Club donated six hours of community service time to assist with community beautification on the Salvation Army Campus. Carrie Fielding from Mesquite, in honor of her 50th birthday on March 7th, requested Smiths grocery stores and Falcon Golf Course in Mesquite to donate 50 pounds of food to the Mesquite Food Bank. Mr. Hollon was also pleased to announce that as a continuation of commitment to serving our local homeless population Subway has committed to serving free sandwiches the first Tuesday of each month for all of 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.