

MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
August 14, 2014

In attendance:

Kathi Thomas-Gibson, 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
Susan Kingsbury, alternate, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Captain Shawn Anderson, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Dr. Cynthia Dodge, Veterans Administration
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 Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:01 p.m., on Thursday, August 14, 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.

Arash Ghafoori, Executive Director, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth commended the committee on progress with implementation of the Governance Structure under interim HEARTH Act regulations. As a committee and as a community, substantial progress has been made. For instance, the new Governance Structure allows for expanded membership, more voices to be heard, better community integration, and embodies a more cohesive structure for the community regarding issues related to homelessness. However, as an advocate for homeless and transition age youth and a representative of Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, Mr. Ghafoori would like to bring an issue with the new proposed structure to the committee's attention. He would like to strongly request the committee to codify Youth Working Group into the new Structure. Per Mr. Ghafoori, other community stakeholders echoed his sentiments at various Governance Structure feedback meetings. However, the Youth Working Group was not codified for the following two reasons: 1. Why formalize the homeless Youth Working Group when it may not be an issue in the near future given the group is trying to create a lasting Governance Structure, 2. Other sub-populations such as Families and Veterans are not being represented in the form of a working group under the Governance Structure so why would the youth subpopulation be any different. Mr. Ghafoori disagrees with the aforementioned reasons because: 1. Youth are vulnerable population who overlap with many other systems such as foster care, school district, higher education, law enforcement, domestic violence, sex trafficking, etc. All these issues and more feed into the general system and create increased demands from all other types of adult providers. Southern Nevada has amongst the largest populations of youth homelessness in the country. According to HUD's most recent report to Congress,

we are leading the nation with the largest population of youth without shelter. Youth homelessness feeds into the adult homeless system in a very negative way. Many federal entities, including HUD agree that 12-24 year age youth is an increasingly vulnerable population that is feeding into other systems such as family homelessness, adult homeless system, VA system, mental health system, law enforcement, etc. and have issues related to disability, and increased likelihood of mental health problems, substance abuse issues, criminal activity, unsafe sexual practices and getting victimized. Youth become homeless for substantially different reasons than do adults and for this reason the federal government has identified youth as needing a specialized system to mitigate issues at a young age in hopes of preventing entrance into adult homelessness. Even neuroscience agrees that youth are not fully developed until the age of 25. According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), youth benefit from focused attention by system adapting to their needs. In Southern Nevada, the community has already decided that youth up to the age of 24 need their own coordinated intake process, highlighting the special need of the population and backed by the consultants hired by the community. Youth agencies such as NPHY and others are working closely with Paula Zier and Clark County School District, Department of Family Services on the Youth At-Risk of Homelessness (YARH) foster care grant, other family service agencies to bridge the gap with this vulnerable population. Youth providers are teaming together to implement a youth coordinate intake model, as well as having candid conversations with national leaders to further highlight the needs of this subpopulation at a regional level.

Mr. Ghafoori would like the CoH or the new SNH CoC Board to formally recognize special needs of the youth subpopulation by codifying Youth Working Group under this new proposed Governance Structure to continue to better serve homeless youth in our community as well as to prevent further strain on other public systems. Youth Working Group may also be codified by adding an amendment to the proposed Governance Structure. He would like to know if the CoC Board considers this change/amendment. If the board decides to move forward with the proposed structural changes, what is the timeline for implementation?

Terry Lindemann, Executive Director of Family Promise, stated that both nationally and regionally, her agency has seen a large percentage of families being served have experienced previous trauma dating far back to their youth. Family Promise has come to recognize the young parents as the population of unrecognized victims of neglect, abuse and abandonment that is unique to any other age category. Historically, during their most vulnerable years (18-24 year), many of the families have disclosed to agency representatives their choices that determined their future path. Due to lack of early interventions, the young families became involved in criminal activity, sought love or affection from peers in the same situation they were in, and became parents themselves without any life skills to provide for their families. Across the nations and in Southern Nevada, Family Promise welcomes and partners with specific providers serving youth and young adults ages 18-24 because the agency believes saving these individuals during these vulnerable times will save our future generations of children from the trauma of homelessness and save our community many dollars that will be spent when they become adult clients. Recognizing that homeless youth ages 18-24 rarely possess the cognitive skills to function as an adult is very important to our community when planning efforts to end homelessness. Saving individuals in this age group is imperative before they fall into chronic homelessness. Ms. Lindemann believes services to 18-24 year old group is unique and requires specialized services to implement appropriate best practice models. There is an increased number of homeless young adults being served today. Family Promise recently assisted a 23 year-old female with 5 kids. She states, its times like this that makes her question how early intervention could have prevented the current family homelessness situation.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for August 14, 2014; for possible action.

To accommodate committee members that need to leave prior to Agenda Item 10, Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Chair made a recommendation to switch the order of Agenda Item 10 and Agenda Item 6. A quorum is

needed to vote on the Agenda Item 10. A motion was made by Barbara Geach to approve the agenda for August 14, 2014 with the stated changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the July 10, 2014 meeting; for possible action.

A motion was made by Tim Burch to approve the Minutes from the July 10, 2014. The motion was approved. Stephen Harsin abstained from voting.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, presented the update. 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. Local Continuum of Care application is currently open. More information about the application is available on front page of www.HelpHopeHome.org. All agencies applying for new or renewal projects are required to submit a pre-application by August 21, 2014 with the final applications being due on August 22nd, 2014. Mainstream Programs Basic Training is scheduled for August 27th, 2014 from 1pm-4pm at The Center, 401 S. Maryland Pkwy, 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. Topics this month are LGBTQ and Domestic Violence which will include training on both topics as well as resources. 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. 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.

Agenda Item 10. Approval of the 2014-2015 budget for the Interlocal Agreement for Regional Homeless Coordination; for possible action.

Kathi Thomas-Gibson entertained comments or questions from the board. Barbara Geach made a motion to accept the 2014-2015 Interlocal budget.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Approval of the Governance Charter and Structure for the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board by the committee; for possible action.

Stephen Harsin, Champion of Governance Structure thanked Barbara Geach, Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Kathy Somers, Marilee Hansen, Michele Fuller-Hallauer, as well as Cheryl Ross and Lori Lopez (administrative staff support) for their time and commitment to work on the Governance Structure.

Background

1. The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) was established in 2000
2. In 2003, SNRPC created the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness (SNRPC CoH)
3. HEARTH Act was adopted in 2009. It codifies the Continuum of Care (CoC) planning process as a required local function to address homelessness. It also includes a provision to establish a "governance structure" to ensure that all stakeholders be included and participate in the Continuum of Care program.
4. In 2014, the SNRPC CoH and CoC were re-authorized into the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care (SNH CoC). Per the HEARTH Act, Governance Structure must be adopted by CoC's before August 30, 2014.

The Governance Structure recognizes three key factors: the initial regional framework authorized by the SNRPC in 2003- SNRPC CoH; The Continuum of Care as authorized under the original McKinney Vento Act and incorporating the rules and regulations enacted by the HEARTH Act in 2009; and re-authorization of SNRPC CoH and CoC into one cohesive structure.

The purpose, membership and responsibilities of Southern Nevada CoC as redefined under the HEARTH Act are as follows: to carry out the responsibilities of the HEARTH Act, CoC delegates to the SNH CoC Board various responsibilities that must be carried out per the HEARTH Act; and CoC membership is unlimited to include annual open invitation and meetings twice a year of the entire membership.

The purpose, membership and responsibilities of Southern Nevada CoC Board as redefined under the HEARTH Act are as follows: carry out operations of the CoC as delegated by the CoC in accordance with the process approved by the HEARTH Act and other responsibilities directed by the SNRPC; annually issue a public invitation for new members to officially join the CoC from within the service area; the SNH CoC Board meets monthly to conduct business.

An ad-hoc working group must be established to assist with reviewing and accepting new members to the SNH CoC Board to expand the current board membership from 13 seats to 27 seats. The following working groups have been identified by the HEARTH Act: evaluation, planning, HMIS, monitoring and community engagement. Should the CoC decide to add an ad-hoc or working group for youth and other sub-populations, it would reside under the 'Planning' work group.

The SNH CoC Board is inclusive of representation from the following sub-populations, as mandated by the HEARTH Act: families with children, unaccompanied youth, seniors, veterans, chronic homeless, substance abuse, victims of domestic violence, seriously mentally ill, transition age youth, HIV/AIDS, pregnant and parenting transition age youth or unaccompanied youth, homeless and human trafficking. In addition to the twenty-one seats for representatives of the aforementioned sub-populations, the SNH CoC Board also offers expanded membership to include six seats for jurisdictional stakeholders who represent the greater interest of their respective political subdivision who are financial contributors to regional efforts. The SNH CoC Board must represent all sub-populations within the CoC to the extent that someone is available and willing to represent that sub-population. One board member may represent the interest of more than one homeless sub-population. Board Interest Forms will be reviewed by a Board Selection ad-hoc Committee. Forms are available online at www.helphopehome.org

The SNH CoC Board includes the following representation: 5 seats for government, 1 seat for the School District, 1 seat for Public Housing Agency, 1 seat for Law Enforcement, 2 seats for Faith-Based organizations, 3 seats for Businesses, 1 seat for Affordable Housing Developer, 3 seats for Social Service Providers, 1 seat for Mental Health Agency, 2 seats for Organization serving the Homeless or formerly Homeless Veterans, 1 seat for Higher Education, 2 seats for Health Care Provider, 1 seat for Advocate At-Large Member, 2 seats for Homeless or formerly Homeless Person, and 1 seat for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for a total of 27 seats. The SNH CoC Board also offers 2 Co-Chairs (one Co-Chair representing the Jurisdictional Stakeholders and one Co-Chair representing the Community Stakeholders) and 2 vice Co-Chairs (one Vice Co-Chair representing the Jurisdictional Stakeholders and one Vice Co-Chair representing the Community Stakeholders) to have open and inclusive representation from all aspects of the community.

Per the HEARTH Act and to be nationally competitive for HUD funds, the Governance Structure has to be adopted by Southern Nevada before August 30, 2014. By January of 2015, the new SNH CoC Board with its new members will be established and be in place. The ad-hoc subcommittee group will review applications and select new members to the board. This review process is expected to be three to four months long. Both SNH CoC Board Interest and CoC Membership forms are available on www.helphopehome.org.

Tim Burch, Director of Clark County Social Service, addressed the public comment about a possible youth working group. Mr. Burch wanted clarification on how the sub-groups for specific subpopulations such as families, youth and young adults, chronic homeless, veterans, etc. would fit into the Governance Structure as the community continues to move forward with planning for coordinated intake process for the aforementioned subpopulations. Mr. Harsin stated the subgroups will be under the Planning Working Group. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated that the Governance Structure allows the committee to add additional

working groups or ad-hoc groups in the future. Mr. Burch suggested that the Planning Working Group be the primary driver of the work around coordinated intake for subpopulations. This, too, is mandated by the HEARTH Act. Paula Zier, Clark County School District thanked the individuals who made a public comment in support of the Youth Working Group. Ms. Zier strongly believes that addressing youth homelessness is the preventative piece for adult cycle of homelessness. She also commented on the proposed board expansion stating that the 27 seat membership may be too excessive unless various individuals are able to represent more than one sub-population. Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) stated she too is in support of the Youth Working Group to ensure youth and young adult specific needs are met and addressed. Ms. Thomas-Gibson stated that the 27 seat board is inclusive of requirements per the HEARTH Act as well as representation from additional sub-populations specific to our community. Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, stated that she, along with the other Governance Structure sub-committee members understand that there may need to be changes with the proposed structure as our community moves towards implementation phase. There is flexibility to change items within the Governance Structure to reflect community needs. The document will be revised on a yearly basis.

Jodie Gerson made a motion to approve the proposed Governance Structure with the following changes: add Coordinated Intake and Youth Working Group under 'Planning Working Group'. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Approval of the Governance Charter and Structure for the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board by members of the Continuum of Care; for possible action.

Members of the committee and agencies part of the Continuum of Care (CoC) were also given an opportunity to vote to ratify the Governance Structure. The following 23 agencies participated in the ratification process: Family Promise of Las Vegas, Help USA, U.S. Vets, Bitfocus, Women's Development Center, City of Henderson, City of Boulder City, Help of Southern Nevada, Veterans Administration, The Salvation Army, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Children First, Clark County Social Service, City of North Las Vegas, Building Hope Nevada, Clark County School District, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, City of Las Vegas, Lutheran Social Services of Nevada, Mojave Mental Health, WestCare, and Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services. Nine CoH members and 17 CoC members voted to approve the proposed Governance Structure with the above mentioned changes. The motion was approved.

Mr. Harsin will ensure necessary changes are made to the Governance Structure to draft a final copy of the document for distribution to SNH CoC Board members as well as making it publically available on www.helphopehome.org for community partners.

Agenda Item 9. Create an ad-hoc working group to select members for the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board; for possible action.

Mr. Harsin made a motion to create an ad-hoc group to review CoC Membership forms.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Another motion was made by Mr. Harsin to have representation from City of Las Vegas, Clark County Social Service, North Las Vegas, City of Henderson and Clark County School District to sit on the ad-hoc group to review membership applications. City of Boulder City can sit as an alternate for other jurisdictions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update from the Nevada Homeless Alliance and a presentation from Lutheran Social Services of Nevada; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Regional Initiatives Office, gave the update on behalf of Nevada Homeless Alliance Executive Director, Stacy Sutton Pollard. Project Homeless Connect is scheduled for November 19th, 2014 at Cashman Center. Anyone interested in providing services may submit a booth application that can be found on www.nevadahomelessalliance.org. The Provider Meeting is next Wednesday, August 20th, 2014 at 8:30am at VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC), 916 West Owens Ave, Las Vegas, NV, 89106.

Derrick Felder, Marketing Development Director for Lutheran Social Services of Nevada, presented on various services the agency offers. LSSN is currently providing financial assistance for rapid Re-Housing through City of North Las Vegas. Mr. Felder stated that they are looking to open up an all-inclusive Empowerment Center to offer services such as assistance with job searches, resume building, food pantry services, rental and utility services, etc. Agency is looking to move towards a structured setting where clients will have to schedule appointments prior to coming to the agency if they wish to access any services. The Empowerment Center will be opened on Monday, August 18th, 2014 to serve clients with appointments. Walk-ins will be accepted for food pantry, birth certificates, and ID's. Follow-up appointments are available for individuals seeking other services within the agency.

Agenda Item 11. Receive an update from each committee member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.

Kathi Thomas-Gibson stated that she will be transitioning from City of North Las Vegas to City of Las Vegas, effective August 18th, 2014. A representative from City of North Las Vegas will continue to chair the SNH CoC Board for monthly meetings.

Susan Kingsbury, Veterans Administration, stated that the VA has been actively involved in Coordinated Intake Process and continuing to work with supportive housing and other housing programs.

Paula Zier, Title I HOPE-Clark County School District stated that school starts on August 25th, 2014. Immediate enrollment for homeless children is available. Community members having difficulty enrolling at CCSD can call Title I HOPE office at 702-855-6682.

Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas, welcomed Ms. Thomas-Gibson to the City of Las Vegas. Ms. Thomas-Gibson will be the Community Resource Manager and will serve as Mr. Harsin's alternate on SNH CoC Board.

Tim Burch, Clark County Social Service, requested an agenda item about United Funding Agency (UFA) as part of an upcoming SNH CoC Board meeting. The UFA working group submitted information about requirements to move towards selecting a UFA. Per CCSS activities, Brooke Reid, Grants Coordinator is working with Dignity Health and service providers in Henderson area to provide services for chronically homeless individuals who frequent hospital facility. This particular project should be open to the community in the next few month. In addition, Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) is a mental health response team that will be mobile in the community to follow-up with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's street interventions. This mobile mental health crisis response approach is new to Southern Nevada. Mr. Burch requested to have future presentations about the above mentioned projects at CCSS. Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, stated that the Corridor of Hope meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19th, 2014. Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator will be attending to provide an update on Coordinated Intake Process to community members as well as LVMPD officers.

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, stated that 6,062 duplicated/1014 unduplicated/ average of 196 clients per day are being served at the shelter through Inclement Weather Shelter funds. He thanked

Anthem College for donating 75 cases of bottled water and Las Vegas Justice Court for donating \$1500 for bottled water. Target employees are getting involved by helping out at the summer day shelter with serving community meals and distributed hygiene items for about 500 individuals. Mr. Hollon also thanked Findlay Acura, Sudden Impact Auto and Channel 13 News for doing a summer food drive. They were able to collect a pallet of water as well as 4 pallets of food. Cox Communication, Nevada Energy and Fox 5 Channel partnered with The Salvation Army to collect backpacks and school supplies. Over 1500 backpacks and \$6777 in donations were collected for children going back to school. Members of the community can sign up to receive a backpack at Family Services location on Main St. He thanked all of the above mentioned community partners for their contributions.

Terry Lindemann, Family Promise thanked the committee for their guidance and assistance with implementing various initiatives over the years and ensuring our community continues to be a high-performing community in the nation.

Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth also thanked the committee for their guidance, work being produced, and allowing community members to voice their opinions.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.