

**SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2016**

In attendance: Bobby Gordon, alternate, Co-Chair, Clark County Social Service
Arash Ghafoori, Co-Chair, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Dawn Davis, alternate, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Barbara Geach, City of Henderson
Lorena Candelario, alternate, City of North Las Vegas
Jesse Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada
Bret Ficklin, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Donna Jordan, alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Phyllis Cobb, Veterans Administration
Nancy Menzel, UNLV
Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Erin Kinard, Vice Co-Chair, WestCare, Inc.
Geoff Spataro, United Way of Southern Nevada
Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest
Taylor Hough, Touro University Nevada
Ardell Galbreth, Workforce Connections
Vesela Zehirev, MGM Resorts International
Monica Gresser, Brazen Architecture
Nick Spriggs, Briggs and Spriggs
Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes
Michelle Johnston, U.S. Vets – Las Vegas
Melissa Clary, Huntridge Neighborhood Association

Absent: Julie Calloway, City of Boulder City
Stephen Harsin, City of Las Vegas
Kelly-Jo Shebeck, Vice Co-Chair, Clark County School District
Jackie Bañales-Garcia, Nevada HAND
David Slattery, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Angela Marshall, Second Chance Christian Ministries
Henry Sneed, The Church LV
John Hill, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
Corrine Valencia, U.S. Navy 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 2:15 p.m., on Thursday, February 11, 2016, 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.

Prior to moving to Agenda Item 2, Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, introduced Monica Gresser, Brazen Architecture; and Vesela Zehirev, MGM Resorts International, to the board as the two new board members who were voted onto the board at the January 14 meeting.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

No Public Comment was given.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for February 11, 2016; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 5. Receive an update from each board member regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.

Nick Spriggs, Briggs and Spriggs, reported that at the Monitoring Working Group meeting was held Wednesday, February 10th. The update report for the Las Vegas Southern Nevada Continuum of Care Recipient self-monitoring report has been divided among the ten members of the group to handle updating the Community Planning and Redevelopment Monitoring Handbook. This should be completed within two months and a progress report will be given at that time. Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, stated the Governance Structure has been updated and will be given out at the March 10 meeting and possibly made available online. The HMIS Working Group meeting will be held Thursday, February 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Women's Development Center. Michelle Johnston, U.S. Vets, announced that work is being done for the planning of the Las Vegas Stand Down for Veterans which is to be held March 16th-17th. Provider and volunteer information is being accepted and information can be found at www.usvetsinc.org/lasvegas. Stacy Sutton Pollard, Nevada Homeless Alliance, announced Family Connect will be held on Saturday, May 7th, at Valley High School from 3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Pre-registration is available at www.nevadahomelessalliance.org. Bobby Gordon, Clark County Social Service, deferred to Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer announced a bridge housing opportunity which has been developed by Clark County Social Service to assist the medically fragile awaiting a move into permanent supportive housing. After being assessed for housing, they would be placed in a temporary housing placement with case management to ensure they are safe and their medical needs are being met while awaiting placement in permanent supportive housing. Ms. Pollard announced the Community Engagement Working Group meeting for February will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month, February 23rd, at Clark County Social Service, 1600 Pinto Lane at 10:00 a.m. However, beginning March, the meetings will be moved to the 3rd Monday of the month. Those meetings will be held at Clark County Social Service, 1600 Pinto Lane, at 10:00 a.m. Bret Ficklin, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, mentioned the Monthly Giving Project will be held on Saturday, February 13th, at Rancho High School at the west parking lot from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This project is to connect those who wish to give with those who wish to receive. Those wishing to receive also get a hot meal. Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes, stated there will be an open house on the Moapa Paiute Indian Reservation on Thursday, March 3rd, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For those not aware, this is an opportunity to see the services being offered.

Agenda Item 6. Convene a homeless system simulation workshop with interested members of the audience; for possible action.

Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, reminded the board that according to the updated Governance Structure, workshops would be included in some of the monthly CoC Board Meetings and February is one of the months a workshop is to be conducted. He then turned the meeting over to Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service Manager and Continuum of Care Coordinator, to conduct the homeless system simulation workshop, which also provides definitions to homelessness and different housing types, as well as providing an overview to where the community is housing coordination of the systems and coordinated intake. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer noted that the seating in the meeting room had been arranged differently to allow participation in the workshop in a team setting. She explained that the workshop is a walkthrough of a Homeless System Simulation Exercise based on how a homeless assistance systems work. It was designed according to actual data outcomes and programs from different Continuums of Care throughout the country, including Clark County. The goal of the game is to encourage thought and discussion about the local homeless assistance system and the impacts of the decisions made, as well as the strategies to end homelessness in order to meet the HEARTH Act objectives of ending homelessness. She explained the rules of the exercise and noted there would be a discussion and debrief after the game. She then walked the teams through the 1st round of the 5 round-game. At the end of the workshop, each team listed on a chart, the number of homeless “clients” they started with, the number that were housed, and their total score, which was derived from total homeless – number housed. Team 6 was declared the winner since low score wins the game. A discussion about the results followed. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked if the simulation was realistic. Bobby Gordon, Clark County Social Service, said she felt it was realistic because at first the rules were confusing, as are the rules when new programs are administered. Mr. Ghafoori stated he could see tangible realities associated with difficult decisions vs. numbers and charts that are usually presented at the meeting. He also saw how important coordination in handling the programs is, as well as how lacking the community is in some areas. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked if the decisions made as a team were easy or difficult, and how the process compared to decisions made in the community. Amber Batchelor, S.A.F.E. Nest, stated they felt the decision process was easier as a team at the table, compared to making decisions in the community. Leonora Candelario, City of North Las Vegas, felt the decision making process at the table showed a common interest to be most beneficial to the unsheltered “clients.” Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked the entire group whether the community, those in a position to make the decisions, has a common interest and how it translates to the community. Nick Spriggs, Briggs and Spriggs, stated his team's goal was to get the most “clients” into market housing. Noel Brunelle added to Mr. Spriggs' comment by stating that most of her team's “clients” went to market housing, but she noticed that “folks” kept bouncing back and forth, and noted how frustrating it must be to actual clients. This had the team wondering if it would be better to put less people in market housing but have fewer steps to get to that goal. Ms. Gordon stated her team didn't initially understand how

to expand the program in order to get “people” into market housing. Once the issue was tackled, they changed how they were moving “people” by understanding they could always move from rapid rehousing to market housing. Steve Silverman, HELP USA, stated that his team had a plan and stayed with the plan, but it is more difficult in the community because there are always has issues. Mr. Silverman questioned moving “people” immediately into market housing, as they may not be ready. Mr. Ghafoori stated once his team figured out the system, they could then prioritize the services to “clients” and possibly foresee options available later on. He could appreciate the difficulty in ranking and placement after participating in this exercise. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked which of the programs exited “clients” to market housing. The consensus of the entire group was rapid rehousing. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then asked if any of the simulated programs became backlogged and if so, where did it occur and how was the backlog was addressed? Jessie Robinson, HELP of Southern Nevada, stated that for his team, the transitional and outreach programs became backlogged. Barbara Geach, City of Henderson, stated her team’s permanent supportive housing was always full causing intake to become backlogged. Meredith Spriggs stated her team’s transitional housing program became backlogged, so they converted it to permanent supportive housing. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked if once the teams noticed a backlog, were they able convert the programs in order to address the backlog? She brought to the group’s attention that the teams with the lowest scores were able to recognize and convert the backlog programs to address the needs. Ms. Gordon requested that Team 6 explain to the group their process to accomplish the goal to house the most “clients”. Tauri Royce, BitFocus, stated when the option came available to add or convert a program, her group added a rapid rehousing program. Later, the option became available to convert a program, and since transitional housing was becoming bogged down, they converted it to permanent housing. Therefore, with the additional rapid rehousing beds and permanent housing, they were able to house more. Erin Kinard, WestCare, commented that her team did not convert any programs, and therefore, had the highest score. Mr. Ghafoori’s asked if all teams were given the same number of “homeless clients”, to which Ms. Fuller-Hallauer commented positively. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then asked for feedback on the successfulness of the various programs available. With regards to the rapid rehousing program, Ms. Gordon noticed that it allowed more clients to be moved into market housing through rapid rehousing when it opened up. Donna Jordan, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, noticed that the rapid rehousing and transitional housing kept dumping back into the shelter. Ms. Brunelle stated that the rapid rehousing was awash for her team. For the permanent supportive housing program, Ms. Jordan stated that she noticed there was very little movement for the “clients” since they could only move one at a time. Regarding the transitional housing program, Phyllis Cobb, Veterans Administration, noticed there was a lot of movement. Ms. Geach stated that for her team, the movement was about 50/50 between unsheltered and market housing, so she felt it was awash. Mr. Silverman did not agree with those numbers based on his team’s results. Ms. Kinard mentioned that it had to do with strategy in housing the “people”. In regards to emergency housing, Bob Vickery noticed a high turnover, and Ms. Batchelor noticed the “clients” frequently recycled through the emergency shelter program. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked how many “clients” moved from emergency shelter to permanent housing. Emily Lewis stated a large number of “clients” were moved every time, but an equal number returned to unsheltered. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then commented that there were not as many blue beads as there were clear beads. Ms. Gordon and Mr. Ghafoori each stated that the blue beads had more restrictions, couldn’t move as much, or exit the system. Ms. Brunelle commented that the ratio of blue beads to white beads was 1 to 8 or 1 to 9. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer asked the group who the blue beads represented in the community. Someone stated the blue beads could represent sex-offenders and arsonists. Mr. Spriggs felt the blue beads represented women and families, while Kena Adams, Moapa Band of Paiutes, felt it represented the disabled. As many individuals in the group expressed who they felt the blue beads represented, Ms. Fuller-Hallauer wrapped up the question by commenting that the blue beads represent all sub-populations that are harder to serve because of their restrictions. She then asked if more blue beads were in market housing or other housing programs. Ms. Kinard stated most of her team’s blue beads were in market housing. Mr. Spriggs stated that once his team realized the blue beads had restrictions, an extra effort was made to move them into market housing. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer noted that while listening to the discussion she realized teams were noticing the various restrictions from round to round, and course corrections were made. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then asked how the game relates to the community? Mr. Spriggs noted that the community needs to be aware of the data and look for backup programs in order to make course corrections. Ms. Geach stated that there was a common goal for each team, but the community needs to get on the same page to work towards the same goal. Ms. Gordon stated once her team understood the goal, they were able to get on the same page. Ms. Royce voiced she felt it was a good simulation. However, while it was easy to make decisions in a team setting, in the real world, partners are more tentative to make the same decisions one might make in the game. Mr. Silverman agreed and stated the simulation assumes an infinite amount of resources, which allowed the team to do whatever was necessary to reduce the number of homeless in a program, regardless of the quantity. However, in reality, resources are needed to accomplish these goals. Ms. Brunelle, stated she noticed a constant influx of clients, regardless of the capacity available. She stated she works in the aviation community, and mentioned that if the amount of resources that were dedicated to preventing aviation accidents after 9/11 were made available with the same urgency to end homelessness, the goal would be easier to accomplish. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then asked for individuals to think about what the community can do make the course corrections. Allie Dralee stated there should be a way to find out the barriers and the needs of the clients, what prior job experience they have, and how to meet those needs. Ms.

Johnston asked the impact that would have been made to the end results had the diversion program choice been made, since those “clients” would go straight into market housing? Marlene Richter, The Shade Tree, stated her group chose the diversion program, and then after round 2 they were able to take the full column of blue beads and put them into market housing. She also stated that although her team did have a higher score due to other errors made, the diversion program was the most powerful for putting people into market housing. Melissa Clary, Huntridge Neighborhood Association, felt the community should look at the decision process and have a deeper assessment of where the backlog exists to be able to make those adjustments. Mr. Ghafoori wrapped up the workshop presentation by mentioning that the board meetings are going to start changing by having workshops and reports from the working groups in advance, which leads to more dialogue in meetings. He then asked the board if there was a consensus on the success of having a workshop vs. straight board meetings with reports and presentations. There was a unanimous approval of the changes being made.

Agenda Item 7. Public Comment.

Phillip Hollon, The Salvation Army, reported that on February 2nd, Safari Club International Foundation provided a community meal to kick off their Sportsmen Against Hunger Campaign. The meal featured wild game meatloaf, seasoned oven roasted red potatoes, sautéed whole green beans, garden salad with seasoned croutons, fresh baked dinner rolls with butter, marble cake drizzled with chocolate ganache, tea, coffee, and milk. The meal was served to 576 homeless and low income men, women, and children. Rainbows Brothers Circus and The Salvation Army have partnered together during their performances from February 10th –March 2nd. Each circus goer is asked to donate a bag of non-perishable food items which is to be donated to The Salvation Army food pantry. The Salvation Army has teamed with the UNLV School of Nursing every Thursday from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. for the next 10 weeks. Student nurses will be working through the clinical experience and are providing informational health topics on a variety of items. Mr. Hollon thanked Nancy Menzel of UNLV, as well as a CoC board member, for working towards making the program happen. Barclay cards donated 1200 goody bags of which each included 2 cereal bars, a fruit snack and a bottle of water. Jeanette & Art Bond, of the community, have also partnered with The Salvation Army and are coordinating through the Clark County School District to provide the 2 For Tuesday Program. The 2nd Tuesday of each month, elementary school children who are bringing a sack lunch to school are asked to bring a 2nd sack lunch to be distributed to the homeless community. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, over 700 sack lunches were received at The Salvation Army to be distributed during the community meal to the homeless population. United Airlines has received grant money to provide paint supplies for the makeover of the employee offices, the computer lab, and classrooms. The work will be done by the United Airlines staff. United Airlines and McCarran Airport wrote a grant to support a quarterly community meal. On April 15, the community meal will consist of spaghetti, bolognese sauce covered with Parmesan cheese, seasoned green beans, garlic bread, dinner rolls, garden salad, cookies, iced tea and water.

Bobby Gordon, Clark County Social Service, thanked the Steering Committee for the idea of bringing the workshop to the board members, and also thanked Michele Fuller-Hallauer and her helpers for the workshop provided. Arash Ghafoori, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, also thanked Ms. Fuller-Hallauer. He stated the workshop presentation, which was requested on short notice, shows Ms. Fuller-Hallauer’s dedication to the process. Ms. Gordon also announced that Tim Burch, formerly the Director of Social Service, has moved to the Department of Family Services and suggested that board members send their well wishes to him. Clark County Social Service has merged with Community Resource Management Division and is now headed by Michael Pawlak. She stated she felt this was a positive move as it could provide more access to more supportive services.

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.