

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2020**

In attendance: Arash Ghafoori, Co-Chair, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Rick Damian, Co-Chair, Government, City of North Las Vegas
Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Arshawn Turner, Current or Formerly Homeless, Young Adults in Charge
Audra Hamernik, Affordable Housing, Nevada HAND
Christiana Houck, Business, Gaming, Aristocrat Gaming
Genese Jones-Torrence, S.A.F.E. Nest
Janet Quintero, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada
Jennifer Huse, Alternate, Mental Health Provider, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District
Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, Government, City of Las Vegas
Jon Stevenson, Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue
Julie Calloway, Government, City of Boulder City
Katherine Marçal, Alternate, University, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Kelly Swan, Business, Renew Therapeutic Enhancement Services
Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Government, Clark County
Peter McCoy, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration
Phil Washington, Faith-Based, Promise Land Community Church
Robbie DeBuff, Alternate, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections
Robert Dawson, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Save A Life
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson
Vera Moore, Advocate, True Beginnings

Absent: Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Amie Duford, Healthcare Provider, Touro University Nevada
Chad Williams, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
Hassan Chandry, Business, Foresight Housing Partners
Jennifer Harris, Homeless or Formerly Homeless
Kena Adams, Advocate, Indian Voices
Meg Pike, School District, Clark County School District

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order, Notice of Agenda compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board was called to order at 2:04 p.m., on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at United Way of Southern Nevada, 5830 W. Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

Franklin Morris, Social Worker, expressed his concern about the lack of affordable housing for clients, and would like to know actions that are being taken to ensure the availability of housing for those facing homelessness.

Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, introduced Arshawn Turner from Young Adults in Charge to the Board.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for February 13, 2020; for possible action.

A motion was made to approve the Agenda. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 5. Update by co-chairs on recent activities of the Steering Committee; for possible action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Government, attended the meeting and mentioned that the Steering Committee had a brief discussion on policies and procedures and to be included with the Governance structure.

Agenda Item 6. Update from the collaborative applicant on the outcomes of the 2019 Continuum of Care competition; for possible action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service, stated that HUD posted the initial Tier 1 awards from the 2019 competition on January 14th. The CoC received all that was requested for Tier 1, and slight increases were provided for fair market rent adjustments to projects that include rental assistance. Part of Tier 1 include the new Healthy Living Expansion project, which is a permanent supportive housing project expansion to increase services for those who are medically fragile. The CoC Planning Project, which was

not required to be ranked, was also awarded \$415,200. The team is still awaiting the announcement of the awards for Tier 2, which includes the Domestic Violence Bonus projects.

Agenda Item 7. Update by Clark County Social Service on the 2020 Southern Nevada Homeless Census; for possible action.

Danita Osborne-Morris, Clark County Social Service, presented a Vyond video update regarding the 2020 Homeless Census on behalf of the Census Planning Working Group. The team would like to thank all of the volunteers, agencies, non-profit organizations, jurisdictions and rural communities that took part to make the 2020 Homeless Census possible. Understanding how vital this effort is to the community and making efforts to be innovative and advance the process was the first step towards working together to end homelessness in Southern Nevada.

The volunteer recruitment registration launched in December, and had 325 community volunteers, 76 Peer Navigators, 115 Agency Staff, 40 Clark County Social Service Team members and Deployment Captains and 12 rural volunteers were willing to assist us in this effort. During this year's process, the count and survey were conducted simultaneously. For those participants that were willing to complete a survey with one of the volunteers, incentive items were provided. Some agencies passed out hygiene kits, other teams incentivized with bus passes, and through the partnership of Clark County's A-Team, Red Rock Rotary, a generous donation from Brazen Architecture's Monica Gresser and the American Institute of Architecture, the community was able to collect over 5,000 pairs of socks to provide to those individuals experiencing homelessness.

As previously presented toward the end of 2019, the community was previously utilizing methodology that was over 12 years old. It was time to revisit how that process was done and determine with the use of modern technology where efficiencies in our process could be made. As of 2020, the methodology has been revised to include an overnight count and survey of sheltered individuals. While there has always been a count conducted of those staying overnight in an Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing or Safe Haven program, historically, this information was pulled from the HMIS (homeless management information system). The survey ensures that the HMIS information and data is not only accurate, but that the survey information obtained truly allows comparison between the sheltered and unsheltered populations.

Another change to this year's process was a switch to conducting a count and survey of our unsheltered population entirely during the day. All populations of unsheltered adults, youth, families, tunnels and rural areas were counted and surveyed simultaneously. On January 28th, the count and survey of those in shelter was conducted. On January 29th during the day, the unsheltered count and survey, including tunnels was conducted. On January 30th, the rural count was conducted. The goal was completion of 60% of those counted being surveyed, and the other 40% through observation. During this year's count 566 surveys on unsheltered individuals were conducted. Together with those surveyed for shelter and unsheltered, the team completed 941 surveys in 2 days. The census planning team is already working to understand how to increase this number even more in the coming years.

With the use of technology and a mobile app that the community incorporated in this year's process, the team was able to establish a "command center," that allowed the team to see numbers and some data in real time. This gave the team a chance to troubleshoot and solve problems as they were happening. Each count or survey would become a pin on a map; as density in those areas grew the heat map continued to change. Information can now be presented in a format that allows for better understanding of this population. In addition to the heat map, the team had access to a dashboard that showed a real time breakdown of how surveys were being conducted. There has been some discussion around the possibility of making this available at each of the deployment sites for captains to be able to watch and monitor this dashboard as their teams are deployed.

In the quest to understand the successes and challenges with this new process, the team conducted listening sessions with volunteers, staff and deployment captains to learn about this new methodology. The team received some positive feedback on the experience of this process. 375 surveys were completed; that's 17% of the total bed count. Please note this percentage is based on total available beds, not beds that were filled on the night of the count. While they were able to garner a good number of surveys, the team had some issues with app freezing while the survey was being conducted inside their facilities. Thank you to all of the shelters and homeless service providers that participated in this effort. When it came to the unsheltered count, generally staff and volunteers liked the move to the daytime. Many individuals felt they were able to see many more people and encampments. Many volunteers felt it offered them an opportunity to coordinate with their work schedules. Great feedback was provided on the usage of the Mobile App. With the increase in deployment sites, the team was able to cover more tracts more efficiently as each site had less tracts to cover. For the most part volunteers did not have to go very far to start or cover their tracts. This year maps continued to include information and data provided by the Regional Flood Control on current drainage through the city. This allowed outreach teams to more easily canvass their deployment areas, which was led by HELP of Southern Nevada. However, the data contained in the maps did not articulate tunnel access points or street labels, which made it considerably difficult to orient teams to the tracts. Collaboration with community partners regarding upcoming abatements would also assist outreach in preparation of the count.

Historically the team has relied on work and staffing hours by the outreach teams to cover Southern Nevada's rural areas. However, this year the team took an opportunity to engage rural partners and jurisdictions to canvass Bunkerville, Mesquite, Overton, Laughlin and Logandale). For next year, Census Planning Team will consider engaging these areas again to assist with the count and moving rural count to be completed the same day as the urban unsheltered count. From approval from the board to adopt this new methodology until final preparations, the Census Planning Team successfully accomplished so much in a short amount of time. Now that the count has been conducted and all data has been entered, the Data and Systems Improvement Working Group will be working diligently to push out the report and count information this spring.

Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, asked if the number of surveys increased. Ms. Osborne-Morris responded that they did. Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, asked if there was a notes version of the presentation, and Ms. Osborne-Morris said notes can be provided. Julee Calloway, Government, shared that she really liked the training videos, and that they were useful. Rick

Damian, Government, noticed no-shows of volunteers that had registered. Genese Jones-Torrence, Social Service Provider, expressed that the process improvements were seamless.

Agenda Item 8. Approval of policies and procedures for the following working groups: Community Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Data and Systems improvement, Evaluation, Monitoring, and Youth; for possible action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service, stated that in October 2019 the Board posted the policies and procedures for each of the main working groups. Each Champion was asked to take these documents back their working groups for public comment and to see if they can be incorporated into their governance documents; if not, the champion must be prepared to discuss them with the board before they are approved and added into the Governance. Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service, added that a document was not posted for the Planning Working Group. Mae Worthy-Thomas, Chair of the Community Engagement Working Group, shared that their group had no requested changes. Michele Fuller-Hallauer, champion of the Coordinated Entry Working System Group, stated that they did not receive any feedback and no requested changes to be made. Stacy DiNicola, champion for the Data and Systems Improvement Working Group, also shared that they did not receive any public feedback and no changes requested since being publicly posted. Rick Damian, champion of the Monitoring Working Group, shared that they had no public comment or feedback since being publicly posted. Arash Ghafoori, champion of the Youth Working Group, shared that they also had no public comment submitted. Mr. Ghafoori added that the Board needs to make sure that all groups are functioning with consistency. The Board should move this item to the Steering Committee for a possible agenda item and create a small group to align the documents for the working groups. Youth working group received no feedback or requested changes since being publicly posted. After further discussion, the board decided to postpone the vote until a later time.

Agenda Item 9. Presentation by St. Jude's Ranch for Children on the Healing Center, a project for child victims of sex trafficking; for possible action.

Christina Vela, Executive Director, St. Jude's Ranch for Children, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Healing Center. St. Jude's Ranch for Children's mission has been the same for 50 years: transforming the lives of abused and at-risk children, young adults and families by empowering them to create new choices and new hope in a caring community. The vision is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by mending spirits and renewing hope. They have received CoC funding since 2011. In 2019, 572 youth were served with 176 children, without funding. Programs include: therapeutic foster care for ages 0-18, homeless services for ages 18-24, clinical services, educational support and providing support for child sex trafficking victims through the development of The Healing Center. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (also known as child sex trafficking) involves the: recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, or advertising of a minor child for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Traffickers often prey upon a child's vulnerability and use psychological pressure, violence, and intimidation to control the child for financial. Child sex trafficking has devastating consequences for its victims, including long lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease, or even death. Children with adverse childhood experiences such as abuse and neglect, living in foster and/or in the juvenile justice system are at heightened risk.

Based on the 2019 Coalition Strategic Plan, Nevada is a major destination for child exploitation, ranking 10th in the nation for the number of human trafficking cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2017. At least 92% of the 199 cases involved sex trafficking, and 23% of the 199 involved minors. The FBI's Innocence Lost Initiative identified Las Vegas as one of 13 high intensity child prostitution areas. In 2017, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) identified 126 minor sex trafficking victims, with 122 being female and 4 being male. Of the 126, 80 were reported as prior runaways, and 79 were local youth. St. Jude's Ranch for Children is planning to create the first of its kind Healing Center, to provide specialized and holistic care for child victims of sex trafficking to break the cycle of abuse and neglect and transition these young people from victim to survivor and then thriving. The Healing Center Campus will include: an administration building with emergency shelter, multipurpose building, on-site school, computer lab, yoga and meditation room, physical fitness room, courtyard, large residential home, and smaller residential home. The Healing Center has an estimated cost of \$15 million dollars, with \$9 million dollars of funding secured.

Joann Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, asked if Boulder City Hospital can be a referring provider, and Ms. Vela stated that they currently are a partner. Arshawn Turner, Young Adults in Charge, if the funding was for services. Ms. Vela answered that the funding currently is being raised for capital costs, and that clinical services will be available for ages 18-24. Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Services Provider, asked of the timeline for development and Ms. Vela answered that it is a 14-month construction with LGA as the architect and a request for quotes for the general contractor. Rick Damian, Government, asked if street outreach is being provided, and Ms. Vela shared that that type of outreach is dangerous and that they will work with law enforcement to identify those in need.

Agenda Item 10. Questions and answers regarding reports from the Board working groups (Community Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Data & Systems Improvement, Evaluation, Monitoring, Planning, Youth).

No questions were posed to the Board.

Agenda Item 11. Receive an update from Board members regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.

Shalimar Cabrera, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas, announced that the Veterans Stand Down will be held on March 25th, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Registration is now open for sponsors, donors and volunteers.

Vera Moore, True Beginnings, announced that True Beginnings will be opening Divinity House on March 1st and will be sending an invitation for the open house.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service, announced that Kristin Cooper is the new Assistant Director of Clark County Social Service and will now serve a seat on the board.

Stacy DiNicola, City of Henderson, announced the CoC Orientation will be held on February 25th. The CoC Orientation is an excellent source of information for new Board members.

Arshawn Turner, Young Adults in Charge, would like to thank the board for providing a seat for Young Adults in Charge. It means a lot to the youth to have their voice heard and to be a part of the community

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment.

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service, announced Help Hope Home Orientation will be held on March 2nd at 3:00 pm at Clark County Social Service.

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.