

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 11, 2020**

**In attendance:** Arash Ghafoori, Co-Chair, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth  
Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Christiana Houck, Business, Gaming, Aristocrat Gaming  
David Slattery, Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue  
Hassan Chandry, Business, Foresight Housing Partners  
Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas  
JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District  
Julie Calloway, Government, City of Boulder City  
Katherine Marçal, Alternate, University, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County  
Meg Pike, School District, Clark County School District  
Peter McCoy, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration  
Ralph Murphy, Alternate, Affordable Housing, Nevada HAND  
Rebecca Edgeworth, Alternate, Healthcare Provider, Touro University Nevada  
Robert Dawson, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas  
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson  
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Save A Life  
Taisacan Hall, Advocate, Young Adults in Charge

**Absent:**

Alletha Muzorewa, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections  
Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Chad Williams, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority  
Genese Jones-Torrence, S.A.F.E. Nest  
Janet Quintero, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada  
Jennifer Harris, Homeless or Formerly Homeless  
Kelly Swan, Business, Renew Therapeutic Enhancement Services  
Kena Adams, Advocate, Indian Voices  
Jocelyn Bluitt-Fisher, Government, City of Las Vegas  
Lavonne Atkins, Mental Health Provider, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Phil Washington, Faith-Based, Promise Land Community Church  
Robert Dawson, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
Vera Moore, Advocate, True Beginnings

**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 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, June 11, 2020, via WebEx.

**Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.**

No comments were posed to the Board

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for June 11, 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 May 14, 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.**

Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, shared that the Steering committee has been meeting regularly to discuss the Housing Trust Fund as well as other agenda matters.

**Agenda Item 6. Update by the Collaborative Applicant on relevant business of the Continuum of Care; for possible action.**

Catherine Huang Hara, Collaborative Applicant for Clark County Social Service, shared that an email was sent out regarding the second round of the mega waivers that have been presented by HUD. The next couple of waivers are related to rapid rehousing. Agencies are allowed to send notification to use a waiver if they need to keep people housed. The cap for a CoC-funded housing program is 24 months. If providers need more than 24 months due to COVID-19 they may send notification that they'd like to use the

waiver. Please email Catherine Huang Hara regarding waiver request and the request will be forwarded to HUD. There is also another waiver for Housing Case Management that allows for the continuation of the waiver that ended June 1<sup>st</sup> and allows for an additional 3-month extension. Regarding the CoC competition, the Local Competition is currently on hold. Still waiting to hear from HUD if there will be a competition on the federal level. Monitoring scores have been posted on the Help Hope Home website.

**Agenda Item 7. Presentation by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) of Southern Nevada on the Coordinated Transportation Plan; for possible action.**

Deborah Reardon, Principle Transportation Planner for the Regional Transportation Commission, shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Coordinated Transportation Plan. The Coordinated Transportation Plan focuses on improving mobility for the most vulnerable populations, such as people with disabilities and low-income individuals. Federal Transit Law requires the development of this plan every 4 or 5 years in order to access certain funds. Over the last year, a consulting team has been working with the RTC as well as a stakeholder advisory committee to update the last plan that was developed in 2015.

This plan helps to bring together public, private, and non-profit transportation and human service providers to help leverage resources within the community. The effort began with an extensive existing conditions analysis to assess inventory and existing conditions to identify any services area gaps and duplicated services, identify opportunities for improved coordination, and also provide an inventory of existing providers. The current draft plan included over 100 providers, including urban and rural parts of Clark County. The providers together with the stakeholder advisory committee have developed goals and strategies to improve coordination and services. The coordinated transportation goals are to: expand mobility options; increase awareness of resources; leverage technology; improve connections to transit through things like land use; and expand regional collaboration. From the five goals, five strategies have been developed. Strategy 1 is the Fare Policy for Transit Affordability and Access. Strategy 2 is Neighborhood Social Services. Strategy 3 is Micro transit for Low-Income Communities. Strategy 4 is Sidewalk and Bus Reporting. Strategy 5 is Sustained and Expanded Funding. These strategies will be implemented by agency partners through ongoing collaboration. The draft plan was posted for public comment in May of 2020. Currently, the plan is in the final draft stages. The plan will be brought before the RTC Committee review in the month of July followed by a RTC Board review by August. The detailed Coordinated Plan document can be found at [RTCSNV.com](http://RTCSNV.com).

**Agenda Item 8. Presentation on recent study of affordable housing in Nevada by the Guinn Center and the Nevada Housing Coalition; for possible action.**

Christine Hess, Executive Director of the Nevada Housing Coalition, shared a powerpoint presentation on affordable housing in Nevada. Housing security relevant to COVID-19 is a huge concern. One billion dollars in rental assistance is projected as the need for Nevada. That projection came from data collected during the last recession. Changes in income due to COVID-19 have deeply impacted housing security. Individuals with occupations in food prep and servicing, retail sales, accommodation and gaming were the most impacted during the COVID-19 shutdowns in Nevada. Which left people in those industries heavily rent burden. The average monthly affordable rent for a 2 bedroom apartment is \$1,656 while the fair market rent for a 2 bedroom is \$966. Paying more than 30 percent of income puts individuals at risk for homelessness. The next statewide webinar will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12 pm and will focus on Nevada's re-opening as it pertains to housing.

**Agenda Item 9. Public Comment. Presentation by the Guinn Center on the Community Voices for Health grant; for possible action.**

Nancy Brune from the Guinn Center and Brenda Herbstman from Clark County Social Service shared a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Voices for Health grant. The purpose of the Community Voices for Health grant is to bring people together to solve problems, build networks, and contribute to health policy decisions. This grant has been awarded to six (6) communities nationwide. Our community is the only one of the six (6) that is focused on youth outcomes.

In 2017 the Youth Advisory Council was created in response to the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP), which is a HUD-funded program. In 2018 and 2019 the advisory council was rebranded as the Youth Action Board aka Young Adults in Charge (YAC). During this time, YAC started strong advocacy work and strengthening their voice and impact. YAC now has a designated spot on the SNHCoC Board and remains a small group of youth making a big impact without compensation. Nevada as a whole is not aware of the powerful presence YAC is making in the community. In evaluating what it would take to enhance YAC's presence in the community three (3) things were missing; stipends for youth, statewide infrastructure and social media presence. It is important that the youth feel like equals when sitting on the board, by providing compensation it allows youth to feel equal to other Board members. A statewide infrastructure would allow Youth to have a voice statewide, not just in southern Nevada. Social media presence brings awareness to the presence of the youth voice to community partners. Our Nevada multi sector, multi-organizational team seeks to collaborate with youth to build a statewide youth engagement infrastructure and expand capacity that will result in better health outcomes for youth and greater youth voice in the decision-making processes that effect youth. This project, Building Blocks, leverages existing efforts among youth, social service agencies, nonprofits, and service providers in Nevada to build youth boards and improve social service systems (social determinants of health) that address the needs of youth (e.g., child welfare and juvenile justice). The Building Blocks project has four objectives. First objective is to connect existing youth (engagement programs and service providers) in Nevada by establishing a formal network of youth leaders/advocates. The second is to build stronger connections between service providers and youth end-users to improve specific health outcomes such as: decrease in teen homelessness, decrease in teen suicide rate, increased access to mental health services, and decrease in rate of uninsured youth. Third objection is to build youth leadership and advocacy capacity with a focus on health/social determinants of health. Fourth objection is to strengthen youth representation on existing public/private boards and projects, especially those that are related to health/social determinants of health.

Through the Community Voices for Health grant the community has received \$660,000 over the course of 30 months, 39 percent for personnel, 26 percent for youth stipends, 16 percent for youth conferences, 11 percent for youth travel and 8 percent for social media and surveys. Next Steps include collaborating with our technical advisors to form a public agenda and alterum, convening steering committee and other groups, recruiting a program manager and lastly, inviting youth to participate.

**Agenda Item 10. Update on local response to Coronavirus Disease 19 (COVID-19), for possible action.**

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County Social Service, provided an update on the County's response to COVID-19. Clark County is working towards providing rental and utility assistance using Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). Approximately 30 million dollars in CRF funds need to be expended by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, development of the Recovery Support Function Four (4) (RSF4), which is part of the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MAC). The program parameters have been developed and currently Looking at nine (9) months of assistance. CRF funds only go for 6 months of assistance but program allows for arrears funding. Would like to develop an information, communication campaign to get the word out to the community.

JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District, provided an update on SNHD's response to COVID-19. SNHD is still continuing to perform testing. The Health District is currently working with shelters, visiting encampments, nursing homes and jails. A non-congregate shelter will be opening around July 1<sup>st</sup> for individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 and need to be quarantined. The site will have 29 beds available. The Health District will also be providing crisis counseling for those that have been impacted by the pandemic. Permanent testing sites are currently being developed.

**Agenda Item 11. Questions and answers regarding reports from the Board working Groups (Community Engagement, Coordinated Entry, Data and Systems Improvement, Evaluation, Monitoring, Planning, Youth); for possible action.**

No questions were posed to the Board.

**Agenda Item 12. Receive an update from Board members regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness; for possible action.**

Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance, provided an update that due to the uncertainty of the ongoing pandemic, the decision has been made to cancel Project Homeless Connect. Small pop-up events will be held starting in July. Nevada Homeless Alliance has a job opening for the position of policy coordinator. Anyone interested can email Emily Paulsen with Nevada Homeless Alliance, with resume and cover letter. Training program is starting for Permanent Supporting Housing, Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing for Homeless service providers. Classes start June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 13. Public Comment**

Tiffany Husband, Housing Manager from the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, shared information regarding the Governor's Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness that was developed under AB74. The first meeting will be held on June 23 at 9:30 am.

Arash Ghafoori, Social Service provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, shared his request to the CoC Board members to look for ways to uplift, encourage and give a voice to those that may feel like they do not have one during this time of great divisiveness in our country.

**The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**