

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 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
Chad Williams, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
Christiana Houck, Business, Gaming, Aristocrat Gaming
David Perez, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada
Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Hassan Chandry, Business, Foresight Housing Partners
Jennifer Huse, Mental Health Provider, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
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
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
Robbie DeBluff, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson
Theresa Butler, Advocate, Young Adults in Charge

Absent: Albert Chavez, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Genese Jones-Torrence, S.A.F.E. Nest
Jennifer Harris, Homeless or Formerly Homeless
JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District
Kena Adams, Advocate, Indian Voices
Phil Washington, Faith-Based, Promise Land Community Church
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Save a Life
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 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 13, 2020, via WebEx.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

No comments were posed to the Board.

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

A motion was made to approve the Agenda. The motion was approved with modifications suggested by Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Government, Clark County Social Service (CCSS).

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the August July 9th, 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.

Rick Damian, Government, City of North Las Vegas, shared that the Steering committee has been meeting regularly to discuss Operation HOME! The committee also discussed the status of the City of Las Vegas Rental Assistance Program.

Agenda Item 6. Update by the Data and Systems Improvement Working Group on the 2020 Southern Nevada Homeless Census; for possible action.

Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson shared a draft of the one-sheeter that was submitted to HUD. The one-sheeter contains a breakdown of the Point-In-Time (PIT) count numbers from the 2020 Homeless Census. The total number of people experiencing homelessness is 5,283. The breakdown of that number included the following: 66% are unsheltered; 34% are sheltered. Of the total households, 94% are adult without children, 5% percent are families with children; 9% are unaccompanied youth, and

14% are veterans. There was a 4% decrease in the number of individuals counted during the census between 2019 and 2020. The data from the survey showed that 96% of people experiencing homelessness for the first time used to live in a house/ residential building. Of that group, 47% lost their home because they could no longer afford it. The other 4% came from institutions like prisons/jails, hospitals, or mental facility. The top four barriers to job loss and/or housing stability are limited affordable housing; illness or medical or behavioral health facilities.

Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas asked if there was a comparison available of last year's unsheltered PIT count with this year's unsheltered PIT count. Michele Fuller Hallauer, Clark County Social Service (CCSS), responded that last year's number was 2,213 unsheltered. Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance, asked if the data surrounding the utilization of shelter beds on the night of the PIT count was comparable to the year-long bed utilization rate. Catherine Huang Hara, CCSS, responded that data outside of the PIT count had not been analyzed. Kelly Robson, HELP of Southern Nevada, asked when would this data be available on the Help Hope Home website. Ms. Huang Hara responded that the data should be available on the Help Hope Home website by Monday, August 17th. Melissa Jacobowitz, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth asked how many survey responses were received, and did it compare to the number of survey responses received last year. Matt Manlangit, CCSS, responded that there were 626 respondents this year, and 352 respondents in the 2019 survey. Arash Ghafoori, Social Service provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth asked if there was any way to edit the data that has been submitted to HUD. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer responded that corrections and adjustments can still be made to the data if an error is found. The Data and Systems Improvement Working Group will take another look at the PIT count numbers to ensure accuracy of the data. Feedback, comments, or questions can be submitted through the Help Hope Home email address.

Agenda Item 7. Presentation by HomeBase on the debrief of the scoring for the 2019 Continuum of Care Competition; for possible action.

Max Discher, HomeBase, shared a PowerPoint presentation on the scoring results of the 2019 Continuum of Care Competition (CoC). HUD's CoC application debrief is divided into 3 sections: overall scores for all CoCs; high priority CoC application questions; and CoC scoring summary. Total score for Clark County was 153 out the maximum score of 200. Clark County scored strongly with the High Priority CoC questions, which include: reduced first-time homelessness; increased successful permanent housing placement and retention; submitted system and performance measures in the HUD Data Exchange (HDX) on time; prioritized households with children based on need; provided low barriers to project entry and prioritized rapid replacement in housing; and provided coverage for regular street outreach targeted at hard to reach individuals. High priority CoC areas for improvement for Clark County include: demonstrate objective criteria of project ranking and section process; demonstrate at least 85% HMIS bed coverage for all project types; demonstrate a 5% reduction in length-of-time of homelessness and a clear strategy to reduce it; and demonstrate 5% reductions in returns to homelessness at six and twelve months from permanent housing exit and a clear strategy to reduce these rates. There is room for improvement in project capacity, review, and ranking. Newer monitoring process and updated policies and procedures should greatly support this. Clark County's scoring for PIT count and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) was very strong. All six scored sections received roughly 70% or more of available points. Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas asked if there was information in the debrief that shows how Clark County can improve in scoring. Mr. Discher responded that Clark County can improve in the following areas: system performance; project capacity, and ranking.

Agenda Item 8. Presentation introducing Young Adults in Charge; for possible action.

Theresa Butler, Young Adults in Charge (YAC), shared a PowerPoint presentation introducing YAC to the Board. YAC's mission is to eradicate youth homelessness by empowering youth voice via advocacy. The organization's vision is that youth experiencing homelessness have opportunities to become self-sufficient, be heard, and positively contribute to society. On any given night in Southern Nevada, there are approximately 979 unsheltered unaccompanied youth and children. Between emergency shelter and permanent housing, there are only 218 beds available satisfying only about 22% of the need (2019 Annual Homeless Assessment and Housing Inventory Count Report). For every 10 youth experiencing homelessness, less than three (3) would receive a bed. YAC was created on the principles of youth advocacy from a youth standpoint. The principles of youth advocacy include empowering youth voices, gaining valuable youth insight, informing policy, educating community, and breaking down stereotypes. YAC was part of the first to plan to end youth homelessness in Southern Nevada. Other notable accomplishments of YAC included the following: community outreach (Feel Good Friday); participation in the Help Hope Home interviews and newsletter; meeting with public officials; participations in the 2018 and 2019 Nevada Youth Homelessness Summits; participation in the AB363 group; participation in the Youth Working Group; CoC Board Membership with voting seat; 2019 and 2020 Point-in-Time count participation; and assisted in drafting a letter of opposition regarding the Las Vegas City Council Ordinance. YAC meetings are held every other Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. remotely via Google Hangouts. For more information contact YAC at youngadultsincharge@gmail.com.

Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District asked how can youth agencies help to get youth involved in YAC. Ms. Butler responded that it would be great for youth agencies to invite YAC over to share information on YAC.

Rick Damian, Government, City of Las Vegas, asked what Feel Good Friday is. Ms. Butler responded Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY) every Friday goes out to low-income neighborhoods and hands out food and toiletries to youth. The event has been on hold due to COVID-19.

Agenda Item 9. Update on local response to and recovery from Coronavirus Disease 19 (C0VID-19); for possible action.

Stacy DiNicola, Government City of Henderson provided an update on the response to COVID-19, The City of Henderson was awarded CBDG dollars. Those funds have already been allocated. The team is working on amending the action plan to get those items approved by HUD.

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County, provided an update on the County's response to COVID-19. Clark County just introduced the CARES Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), which is providing rental assistance to low-income individuals. The County is still offering non-congregate shelter for high-risk individuals. There is currently 160 high-risk homeless in non-congregate shelter. Well Care and Crossroads have been assisting with COVID positive individuals that are homeless and need to be quarantined. The County has a basic needs program that will be closing tomorrow, August 14th with another basic needs program to follow shortly after.

Rick Damian, Government, North Las Vegas, shared that the City of North Las Vegas was awarded CBDG and ESG funds which have been used for homeless prevention services by way of rental and utility assistance. The City has also provided 1 million dollars in small business loans.

Dr. Courtland Lohff, Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), provided an update on the SNHD's response to COVID-19. At the end of July, there were 83 cases among those who self-identify as homeless. SNHD is currently working on the opening of a 29-bed, non-congregate shelter facility for individuals that are COVID-19 positive. The new facility is having fire safety issues, and the team hopes to have these issues resolved within the next couple of weeks. SNHD suspended outreach testing so that the team could focus on return to school vaccinations. New Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines related to discontinuation of isolation and transmission-based precautions have been released. People who tested positive for COVID-19 do not have to have a follow-up with a negative test to be released from quarantine. As of today, there are 50,569 cases of COVID -19 infection in Southern Nevada, 3,400 people have been hospitalized due to COVID-19, and there have been 869 COVID-19 related deaths.

Catherine Huang Hara, CCSS, asked about the notification process for individuals that have tested positive or negative for COVID-19. Dr. Lohff responded that will depend on where that person was tested if the person was tested through a private provider it is up to the private provider to notify the individual. If that person was tested at any of the SNHD testing sites or events, they can log on to the online portal for the results. There is currently a backlog on results and the turnaround time is 5-6 days.

Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance, asked what can be done towards making a regional strategy that aligns with the CDC's recommendation regarding encampments. Mr. Damian responds that North Las Vegas is working with City Council members to ensure that CDC guidelines are being followed as it pertains to any future abatements.

Agenda Item 10. Discussion on focusing working group efforts towards COVID-19 response efforts, for possible action.

Michele Fuller Hallauer, Clark County Social Service, shared information regarding Operation HOME! The Un-Housed Sub-Working group has been actively working on a housing surge know as Operation HOME. The goal of Operation HOME is to house 3,500 homeless individuals in 100 weeks starting August 2020, through June 30, 2022. The Housing Surge Sub-Working group has listed several project teams needed to make the goal of Operation HOME a success. The project teams include a Leadership Team, Project Coordinator, Communications, Landlord Engagement/Unit Acquisition, Field Operations, Performance and Data, Grantee Support, Client Engagement, and Assessment and Matching. These working groups will aid in the flow of Operation HOME.

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.

Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District, shared an update that with this school year starting 100% virtual, a taskforce has been formed to ensure that all students have access to the internet. A call center to assist in student connectivity issues has been developed. All schools in the district have access to connectingkidsnv.org. Christiana Houck, Business, Gaming Industry, asked if there is an idea of amount of funding available to continue this program. Ms. Pike responded that she did not have any information regarding funding, however, if the student signs up through the call center the service is completely paid.

Agenda Item 13. Public Comment

Tiffany Husband, Nevada Division of Supportive Services, shared that the Nevada Interagency Council will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, September 5th at 9:30 am.

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service share that cooling stations will be activated through Wednesday, August 20th. If any agency is interested in becoming a cooling site, please contact HelpHopeHome@clarkcountynv.gov.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.