

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2021**

**In attendance:** Aaron Krolkowski, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada  
Albert Chavez, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth  
David Slattery, Alternate, Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue  
Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Jennifer Huse, Mental Health Provider, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District  
Jocelyn Acevedo, Alternate, Affordable Housing, Nevada HAND  
Julie Calloway, Co-Chair, Government, City of Boulder City  
Katherine Marcal, University, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Kristin Cooper, Vice Co-Chair, Government, Clark County  
Kyle O'Connell-Mock, Business, Gaming, Aristocrat Gaming  
Liz Jarman, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration  
Maurice Cloutier, Government, City of Las Vegas  
Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District  
Phil Washington, Faith-Based, Promise Land Community Church  
Rick Damian, Government, City of North Las Vegas  
Robbie DeBuff, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections  
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas  
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson  
Taisacan Hall, Homeless or Formerly Homeless, Young Adults in Charge  
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Destiny Church

**Absent:** Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Chad Williams, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority  
Genese Jones-Torrence, Social Service Provider, S.A.F.E Nest  
Hassan Chandry, Co-Chair, Business, Foresight Housing Partners  
Jennifer Harris, Homeless or Formerly Homeless  
Kena Adams, Vice Co-Chair, Advocate, Indian Voices  
Rebecca Edgeworth, Healthcare Provider, Touro University 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 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via WebEx.

**Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.**

No comments were posed to the Board.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021; for possible action.**

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

**Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District, shared that at the committee discussed the HUD 2021 CoC Competition, and Operation HOME updates. There was also a discussion about aligning the community dashboard data with the HMIS rapid rehousing data. The Committee also continued the discussion regarding member stipends for Young Adults in Charge.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service, provided an update on the relevant business of the Continuum of Care. The team is still awaiting the arrival of grant agreements from the 2020 awards that were mentioned back in January. The team is also waiting for the extension of the mega waivers. Many of the mega waivers expire at the end of March, so the team is awaiting further guidance from HUD. The team is working on the 2021 competition and information will be posted for technical assistance for any new agencies that

may be interested in participating in CoC funding. Technical Assistance is being offered so that agencies can be prepared for when the application opens locally and nationally.

**Agenda Item 7. Presentation by the Guinn Center on NV95 and their efforts related to youth engagement, for possible action.**

Andrea Martinez, youth program director, and Felipe Silva, youth project coordinator, The Guinn Center shared a PowerPoint presentation on Nevada95. The mission of Nevada95 (NV95) is to bring people together to solve problems, build networks, and contribute to health policy decisions. The target group for this program is youth ages 14-24. NV95 has four objectives: Connect existing youth in Nevada by establishing a formal network of youth leaders/advocates across the state; Build stronger connections between service providers and youth end-users to improve specific health outcomes; Build youth leadership and civic engagement capacity with a focus on health/social determinants of health; and strengthen youth representation on existing public/private boards and projects, especially those that are related to health/social determinants of health. The program components will be youth-led and youth-informed. The next steps of the NV95 program will include expanding the youth-led steering committee; collaborating with technical advisors; designing the youth engagement strategy sessions/training; and increasing youth representations on existing boards. Current NV95 projects include an art contest with a civic engagement theme; Nevada95 Network Statewide Call; Discussion with Nevada Legislators on their proposed bills that affect Nevada youth; Increased social media presence; and engagement with various youth organizations. More information is available on [www.NV95NETWORK.ORG](http://www.NV95NETWORK.ORG).

**Agenda Item 8. Update on the local response to and recovery from Coronavirus Disease-19, for possible action.**

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County Social Service, provided an update on Clark County's response to COVID-19. Clark County social service is close to rolling out the new CARES Housing Assistance Program. The 1.9 trillion-dollar recovery bill has additional rental assistance money that will be coming down to the state, the County, and the other local jurisdictions. The CARES team is still processing applications from December and January. The newly updated application portal will go live on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. A temporary staffing company has been hired to aid in the processing of applications. The County is also continuing with the non-congregate shelter housing response.

Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance shared information related to COVID-19 vaccine distribution. A working group is dedicated to ensuring that there is increased access to the COVID-19 vaccine for people experiencing homelessness. There are two major strategies that this group is focused, with the first being strike team events made possible through the Southern Nevada Health District and Touro University. The first event was held at Catholic Charities last week, with 90 vaccinations provided to people experiencing homelessness, agency staff, and clients of other programs of Catholic Charities including their refugee and immigration program. The other major strategy is providing tools and resources to homeless service agencies so they can assist those they are serving with access to the vaccine through existing vaccination sites. The next vaccine event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at Health Connect, a Project Homeless Connect event that will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Lutheran Social Services of Nevada at 4323 Boulder Highway. Touro University will be there providing the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to people experiencing homelessness.

Catherine Huang Hara, Clark County Social Service, provided an update. Clark County has posted that the Southern Nevada Health District, effective immediately is beginning to vaccinate food service and hospitality workers, which includes frontline hospitality workers like casino and resort employees that have prolonged sustained customer interaction, restaurant, and quick-serve food operations such as dark kitchen and food prep centers, beverage service employees, carry out and delivery food workers as well as cafeteria workers. For all those that are interested, appointments can be scheduled at [www.covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org](http://www.covid.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org). Proof of employment is required, such as a badge, pay stub, or photo identification. No appointment times are available immediately. The Southern Nevada Health District recommends those eligible to check the appointment calendar often as cancellations can result in appointment spots opening throughout the day.

Liz Jarman, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration, updated that the VA as a whole system has now lifted all eligibility requirements for the vaccine. Previous eligibility requirements were based on age but now any enrolled veteran will have access to the vaccine. The vaccine will be administered at the VA Medical Center from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Walk-ins will be accepted also; veterans can schedule an appointment with their primary care doctor. The VA is slowly rolling out vaccines to be administered at some of the clinics over the weekends. The Johnson and Johnson vaccines will be administered this Saturday to those experiencing homelessness by appointment, at the northeast primary care clinic.

Rick Damian, Government, City of North Las Vegas, updated that with the availability of round one CDBG and ESG funding, the city of North Las Vegas has formed a street outreach program for the City of North Las Vegas to be able to address homelessness and address the COVID-19 crisis within their border. North Las Vegas is also continuing the food distribution program and the small business loan program for impacted small businesses.

**Agenda Item 9. Update by the Leadership Team on the activities of Operation HOME!, for possible action.**

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County Social Service, updated that Operation HOME! is in progress and the team has identified several providers. There are still some things to work out with the providers. Currently, the team is working on identifying furniture and move-in kits. The team is working with several community partners on setting that system up and contracts will be going out over the next month to get the operation home funding out to the providers so they can start placing people in units.

**Agenda Item 10. 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 11. Receive an update from Board members regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.**

Taisacan Hall, Young Adults in Charge (YAC), provided an update. YAC is currently working on getting compensation for YAC members and the team has been presenting correspondence with the collaborative applicant. The team has also been reviewing the handbook and working on collaborating with other youth advocacy groups in the community on efforts related to youth homelessness. YAC is looking to expand membership as well to elevate the youth voice in the community. YAC is still meeting biweekly on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm via Google Meet. If anyone knows any youth that might be interested in joining, please don't hesitate to email [youngadultsincharge@gmail.com](mailto:youngadultsincharge@gmail.com).

Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA) shared that there will also be several healthcare and social service providers at Pop-Up Project Homeless Connect, which will take place on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. On Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> NHA in partnership with the Nevada Housing Coalition and Faith in Action Nevada will be hosting Homelessness and Housing Awareness Day at the Nevada Legislature. All the activities this year are virtual, including a rally in the morning on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> followed by office visits to be scheduled with advocates who are interested in educating legislators about the issues facing the homeless community and the various policy solutions and bills related to these issues in the legislature.

Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District, shared that Pre-K through grade three has now been back in school on hybrid schedule for a week and a half. Title I HOPE has been working closely with schools to make sure that students are identified. Requests for clothing and other items have been made through Operation School Bell. The Team is currently working with Operation School Bell to ensure that students have access to school supplies and hygiene items before the coming weeks. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, grades 7, 9 and 12 will return to school on the hybrid schedule in cohorts, and then April 6<sup>th</sup> is the next target date for more grades to return to school.

Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance, shared that NHA will be hosting a fundraiser on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. It's a virtual paint at home event where we have an artist to provide an instructional painting course. Please join NHA for this event and help raise much-needed funding.

Liz Jarman, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration, shared that the VA has a GPD Special Needs NOFA. The grant is for \$15 million for 3 years for special needs grants to eligible entities to help facilitate housing stabilization for veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and who are in one of the special needs populations for example, chronically mentally ill, frail, elderly individuals who care for minor dependents, terminally ill or women. The funding award period is October 1, 2021, through September 2024 and the applications are due by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Agenda Item 12. Public comment**

JoAnn Rupiper, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District, shared that SNHD in partnership with Clark County is continuing to provide the vaccine throughout the County. SNHD is also working with Touro University to provide the vaccine to homeless individuals. Touro University will be at Pop-Up Project Homeless Connect to provide the vaccine to those in the Homeless Community

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.