

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2021**

**In attendance:** Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Albert Chavez, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada  
Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth  
Emily Paulsen, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Hassan Chandry, Co-Chair, Business, Foresight Housing Partners  
Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas  
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  
Julia Gardiner, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada  
Julie Calloway, Co-Chair Government, City of Boulder City  
Kristin Cooper, 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  
Robbie DeBuff, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections  
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson  
Tasican Hall, Advocate, Young Adults in Charge  
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Destiny Church  
Vera Moore, Advocate, True Beginnings

**Absent:** TBD, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority  
Genese Jones-Torrence, Social Service Provider, S.A.F.E Nest  
Jennifer Harris, Homeless or Formerly Homeless  
Jon Stevenson, Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue  
Katherine Marcal, University, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
Kena Adams, Advocate, Indian Voices  
Rebecca Edgeworth, Healthcare Provider, Touro University Nevada  
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas

**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 April 8<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 March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 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.**

Julie Calloway, Government, City of Boulder City, and Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson provided an update on the recent activities of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee met on March 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed the agenda for the April CoC Board meeting. The Committee also discussed the scoring and ranking policies and procedures and scoring tools for the CoC local competition.

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

Catherine Huang Hara, Government, Clark County Social Service provided an update on the relevant business of the Continuum of Care. HUD issued an extension for the waivers that were considered the mega waivers, but are now formally called the Waivers of Community Planning and Development Grant Program and Consolidated Plans to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 and Mitigate Economic Impacts Waivers. These waivers are meant to be able to provide some flexibility in implementing aspects of the CDBG, ESG, CoC and HOPWA funded programs. Some of these waivers were set to expire at the end of March, but have now been extended through

the end of June. These include: permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, monthly case management requirements, fair market rent for individual units and leasing cost requirements, disability documentation for permanent supportive housing, limits on eligible housing search and counseling services, HQS physical inspection of units and HQS re-inspections of units, and one-year lease requirements as well as limitations on permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing to 24 months of rental assistance. Also, the waiver for the coordinated entry annual evaluation and the waiver for the homeless definition, which is changing the temporary stays in institutions to 90 days or less, is allowing a change to the requirement to extend the 90-day rule. Request to participate in any of these waivers can be done by emailing HUD. The housing inventory count (HIC) and the Point in Time (PIT) count reports will be due to HUD within the next month. Also, the team anticipates that there will be a 2021 competition locally through the Evaluation Working Group. The team is working to finalize documents for the local competition and anticipates opening the local competition sometime in May for renewal projects and will continue to hold off on opening the competition for new projects. Information will be sent out to agencies that may be new to the Continuum of Care (CoC) or interested in applying for the Consumer Care funding. The CoC 101 training course will be offered to those agencies as well.

**Agenda Item 7. Presentation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Environment and Energy on Environmental reviews, for possible action.**

Elizabeth McDargh, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Environment and Energy shared a PowerPoint presentation on Environmental Reviews (ERs). For the CoC, the goal is to make environmental reviews fast. Generally, ERs for the CoC program projects require a lower level of review. Reviews are low risk, trigger few laws, and can be performed quickly. ERs are performed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) laws and authority and HUD regulations. All CoC program projects are required to perform an environmental review. Environmental reviews are good for 5 years and the templates for ERs can be found on the HUD Exchange website.

**Agenda Item 8. Update by the Leadership Team on the activities of Operation HOME, for possible action.**

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Government, Clark County Social Service provided an update on the Leadership Team and Operation HOME!. The goal for Operation HOME! initiative, which is a community-wide initiative to permanently house 2022 of our high-risk unhoused individuals in the community by the end of 2022. The goal of this initiative will be achieved through a myriad of ways in the system. One of those ways is through the rapid rehousing program. All the jurisdictions have pulled together coronavirus relief dollars through ESG and CDBG dollars to contract with 13 of the rapid rehousing providers in the community. Some of the providers are new to the system in providing rapid rehousing and are currently in the contracting phase. With the 21 million available, 813 people will be housed through the rapid rehousing program. Unfortunately, that means that additional resources are needed for another 1200 individuals for permanent housing. The team is also considering ways to increase the rapid rehousing exit efforts in our community so that more people are exiting the homeless service system into permanent housing. The Data and Systems Improvement working group has been working on the Operation HOME! data dashboard report. The dashboard will help the team to track the efforts through this initiative. The teams anticipate that the data dashboard report will go live sometime next month, and an external or public-facing dashboard will be available on the Help Hope Home website. The dashboard data will also aid in the fundraising efforts of the United Way of Southern Nevada's move-in team. A webinar regarding the landlord engagement overview for service providers was held earlier this week. For those of you that were unable to attend, the webinar was recorded and will be archived on Help Hope Home. The team is also in the process of hiring a landlord engagement specialist and thanks to Anthem Blue Cross Blue shield and their generous sponsorship the team was able to hire A landlord engagement specialist to help with the efforts of Operation HOME! Social Service is also in the process of recruiting for part-time hourly housing navigators and two full-time housing navigators so if you're interested in that information reach out to Linda Godoy at Clark County Social Service for more information. Also, if you are one of the Operation HOME! rapid rehousing program providers, the Coordinated Entry System working group will be meeting on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, and they will be discussing and making final decisions about the prioritization process for the referrals that will be going into the operation home rapid rehousing programs and how they will be prioritized for referrals into those programs.

**Agenda Item 9. Presentation by HUD Technical Assistance Staff on progressive engagement and Operation HOME!, for possible action.**

Ashley Barker Tolman, Julie McFarland, and Ed Boyte, HUD Technical Assistance Team, shared a presentation on Progressive Engagement. Progressive engagement gives space to participants to demonstrate how they can be successful without system support, instead of making assumptions and offers more time for relationship building and partnership in decision making. The approach is individualized, based on the person in front of the matcher, and therefore more equitable and may result in more people being housed with current resources. In serving people experiencing homelessness, progressive engagement is an approach where we help with the least amount of support at first, then add on more support when it's needed. The goals of progressive engagement are to maintain a person-centered, strengths-based approach by right-sizing support instead of us as providers trying to assess for or predict what each household needs to stabilize and also, to house as many people as possible with the resources available. Progressive Engagement in RRH would work by assessing what the participant needs to be successful in exiting the program. For example, instead of the initial

approval of 18 months of support, 3 months of support would be approved. If the household stabilizes after 3 months, they exit the program. If additional support is needed, additional support is provided. This is also a way to ensure people who don't need permanent support are not placed into permanent programs if they would be successful with shorter terms of support. There are challenges to Progressive Engagement such as identifying permanent support for people who need it; the administrative burden which, makes accounting more challenging, for example, projecting average costs, the number of households served, etc. Also, supportive services coordination and consistency with talking points across providers. For Progressive Engagement to be successful, providers should be hiring effectively and understanding concepts such as Progressive Engagement, and how it applies to rapid rehousing and housing problem-solving. The Progressive Engagement approach requires system-wide support. Core values need to be articulated, embraced, shared and supported throughout each level.

**Agenda Item 10. Presentation by Padmission on its landlord engagement and housing search software, for possible action.**

Michael Shore, Padmission, introduced Padmission as a new technology startup that is dedicated to helping communities end homelessness. Having a robust landlord engagement housing search assistance mechanism is a critical element of achieving high performance in the services delivery system. Access to affordable and available units in the community are beginning to disappear before our eyes with the low vacancy rates, escalating rents, and some narrow screening criteria of course and we're seeing a lot of multifamily properties sell to investors and owners, and institutions who don't always share the same mission for providing housing for everyone. HUD has recognized the need for COC's to evolve their landlord engagement efforts up from kind of a siloed approach, where provider agencies and programs are competing with one another often operating their programs in the same community and they're encouraging all of us to go to a proactive, very centralized, and systematic approach. This is going to help avoid duplicated and redundant engagement efforts and ensure that we're not competing with one another for limited resources in communities and more importantly communicating a clear and coherent strategy to the community members and landlords. The landlord engagement committee has been an early leader in developing that coordinated response and it started to develop and employ strategy and tactics that will coordinate strategy engagement on behalf of the system. Systems-level working groups and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nevada provided support both for the Padmission subscription and for a dedicated landlord engagement specialist to work on engagement recruitment and retention activities. In addition to centralizing efforts, the committee has selected Padmission as their systems-level database to collect and maintain property and unit availability information, which will hopefully facilitate and expedite that housing search process for housing program participants, their case managers, and the housing navigators that are assisting them to become housed in the community.

Mr. Shore described Padmission as a web-based housing search platform that is built specifically for the homeless service's systems to coordinate and enhance that effort and facilitate some collaboration, coordination, and information sharing among multiple stakeholders in the community. [SNV.patterson.com](http://SNV.patterson.com) is the link where the application is ready to go. Registration is not open for stakeholders just yet. The Operation HOME! Leadership and the LINK team already working with landlords will be entering the landlords that have existing relationships within the community into the database and then inviting them in to manage their availability alongside the LINK team. The application will allow a participant to be able to search for properties, sort by cities, and housing program interventions that they are participants in or are assisting the participant with, and unit size. There are also advanced search filters that will allow the participant to look at properties that either do or don't have utilities included, pets being allowed, Accessibility features, etc. Also available on the application will be map information about the property and then of course their floor plans that are offered, rental prices, deposits and fees, utility information in terms of utility providers, and the responsible parties for payments will be able to access tenant selection criteria and tenancy applications through the app and will be able to communicate directly with landlords through the application. Landlords will be able to log in to the application and manage their availability for their floor plans or individual units. this is not just for apartment communities this can be for any type of residential rental unit in the community.

Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas, asked how landlords are driven to the site. Mr. Shore replied through mailings and webinars. There will be a robust launch initially to get the word out.

**Agenda Item 11. Update on the local response to and recovery from Coronavirus Disease-19, for possible action.**

Julie Calloway, Government, City of Boulder City, provided an update that the City of Boulder City is still offering community-wide testing on Tuesdays and the need for that has slowed down. Boulder City also has two vaccination clinics. One is at the Boulder City Hospital and the second one is at the Elaine K Smith building in Boulder City, and likewise, both of those have slowed down. Demand has decreased quite a bit since this final lane has opened. The City is continuing to offer vaccinations and get people signed up in a very timely manner.

Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson, provided an update that the City of Henderson was offering vaccinations at the Henderson Senior Facility, and they are just wrapping up with the second dose. The Senior Facility is no longer offering the first dose.

The vaccination site will be moved over to Sun City Anthem Community Center and appointments can be made on the website [cityofhenderson.com](http://cityofhenderson.com) and then find COVID resources.

Jaini Christison, Government, City of North Las Vegas, provided an update that the City of North Las Vegas has partnered with Lyft in North Las Vegas, for anyone who needs a ride to a vaccination site in North Las Vegas. If they can show that they have an appointment made, they can get a free ride through Lyft to a vaccination site to receive the vaccination shot.

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County Social Service, provided an update that the County is continuing to operate the non-congregate shelters and they are full of participants who are 65 years and older and many of whom also have underlying conditions but also have people under 65 who have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk for outcomes from COVID-19. Some participants at both locations are vaccinated and some are not. The team is working to get as many people vaccinated as possible, and then of course as the operation home ramps up the team will start rehousing those individuals in the community in permanent situations. The County completed the basic needs assistance programs. There are still a few programs running through the end of June, primarily for food and childcare assistance. The County Housing Assistance Program, which is now funded through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). ERAP is under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, and there is \$161 million of that funding coming to Southern Nevada. The County is currently working on getting applications processed. The state, the Cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, and North Las Vegas all pooled their money with Clark County Social Service to get the funds out to the community for rental assistance, and utility assistance. Unfortunately, the second part of this funding, as opposed to the CARES Act funding, does not allow for mortgage assistance. However, the American Rescue Plan has \$10 billion that was set aside at the national level for mortgage assistance programs that will go directly to the state. The County is also working with the eviction courts on providing CHAP assistance to people who are in process of eviction.

**Agenda Item 12. 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 13. Receive an update from Board members regarding relevant activities within their respective organizations relating to homelessness.**

Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Destiny Church shared that the Church has currently just secured a triplex in downtown Las Vegas and is currently working on securing a 12 two-story unit at the corner of boulder highway in Charleston. Wrap-around services will be included for clients that are housed. Pets are accepted.

Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District provided an update on the recent activities of Young Adults in Charge (YAC) and the Clark County School District. YAC has been working on collaborating with other youth advocacy groups in the community on efforts related to youth homelessness and they're also looking to expand membership to elevate youth voice in Southern Nevada. YAC also started discussing the development of a recruitment plan to support the future opportunity to apply for YHDP, they were also able to participate in the housing and homeless awareness day, where they met public officials and talked about the bills that YAC is supporting which included AB 197. The YAC team is working on creating educational materials related to COVID vaccinations for youth. Clark County School District now has kids, Pre-K through grade 5 attending classes 5 days a week this week. Some middle and high school grades are back for the hybrid model and are attending classes two days a week and when you go depends on what cohort you are in. There was an interesting article in the Nevada Current today about how older youth seem to have chosen to continue online classes more than younger kids. Older students have taken opportunities to get jobs. A large portion according to the article has decided to continue with their online studies and keep their jobs. It's also being discussed at the top levels of the district that the online model might continue to be offered next year.

Genevieve De Lynch, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA) shared that NHA is working with various community partners to have a vaccine clinic available and open to all the homeless community members. There is no appointment needed. NHA is also having a pop-up project homeless connect and vaccine clinic event happening next Wednesday on the 21<sup>st</sup>. They're going to be at the HELP of Nevada campus. Also, no appointment is needed. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine will be available for the homeless community to access.

**Agenda Item 14. Public comment**

No comments were posed to the Board

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.