

**SOUTHERN NEVADA HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2022**

In attendance: Aaron Krolikowski, EFSP Board, United Way of Southern Nevada
Albert Chavez, Social Service Provider, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada
Annie Wilson, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Catrina Grigsby-Thedford, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Dawn Christensen, Business, Gaming, Aristocrat Gaming
Donica Martinez, Lived Experience, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Jason Lilly, Government, City of North Las Vegas
Julie Calloway, Co-Chair Government, City of Boulder City
Kena Adams, Co-Chair, Advocate, Indian Voices
Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County
Lourdes Yapjoco, Healthcare Provider, Southern Nevada Health District
Meg Pike, Education, Clark County School District
Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas
Stacy DiNicola, Government, City of Henderson
Stephany Coaley, Government, City of Las Vegas
Troy Oglesbee, Faith-Based, Destiny Church

Absent: Arash Ghafoori, Social Service Provider, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth
Audra Hamernik, Affordable Housing, Nevada HAND
Christy Shannon, Social Service Provider, S.A.F.E Nest
Emily Paulsen, Business, Anthem Healthcare
Hassan Chaudry, Co-Chair, Business, Foresight Housing Partners
Jennifer Huse, Mental Health Provider, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Katherine Marcal, University, University of Nevada Las Vegas
Lewis Jordan, Public Housing Authority, Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority
Liz Jarman, Veteran Service Provider, Veterans Administration
Phil Washington, Faith-Based, Promise Land Community Church
Rebecca Edgeworth, Healthcare Provider, Touro University Nevada
Irene Bustamante-Adams, Workforce Investment, Workforce Connections
Robert Nolan, Emergency Medical Services, Las Vegas Fire and Rescue
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, November 10th, 2022, via WebEx.

Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.

No comment was presented to the Board.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Agenda for November 10, 2022; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 4. Approval of the Minutes from the October 13, 2022, meeting; for possible action.

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

Agenda Item 5. Update by the Collaborative Applicant on relevant business of the Continuum of Care (CoC), for possible action.

Mary Duff, Clark County Social Service, provided an update on the relevant business of the Continuum of Care. The team submitted the consolidated application by the deadline of October 20th. The final facilitated debrief with applicants was completed earlier today. On October 24th, the team was notified that the Southern Nevada community was not selected for the Youth Demonstration Program (YHDP). The Technical Assistance Collaborative known as TAC has recommended Matt Aaronson, a technical assistance provider to assist with next year's YHDP application. Matt Aaronson has supported four YHDP-funded communities. The team will meet with Mr. Aaronson to discuss system improvements for youth homelessness services. The team will also be meeting with Nevada Partners to discuss the restart of the Youth Action Board (YAB).

Agenda Item 6. Approval of the Unsheltered Point-In-Time Count methodology for the Southern Nevada Homeless Census as presented by the Data and Systems Improvement Working Group; for possible action.

Mary Duff, Clark County Social Service, shared a presentation of the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count methodology. The Census Sub Working Group began meeting monthly in July on the third Monday of the month from 8:30 to 10 AM. The Point-In-Time (PIT) count is a requirement by HUD and is reported to Congress. The information collected during the count is used by HUD to determine funding for services. HUD has 14 minimum standards that must be met for the Point and Time Count (PIT) and include the following. CoCs are responsible for planning and conducting, at least biennially, a PIT Count of homeless persons within the geographic area that meets HUD's requirements. The sheltered and unsheltered PIT counts must be conducted during the last 10 days in January and represent all homeless persons who were sheltered and unsheltered on a single night during that period. The final PIT count methodology must be approved by the CoC in accordance with the CoC's governance charter. All CoCs should consult and collaborate with all Con Plan jurisdictions in the geographical boundary of the CoC, including those that do not have ESG funding, to assist the jurisdictions in submitting PIT count data that is relevant to completing their Consolidated Plans. CoCs must provide PIT count data to the entity responsible for the Con Plan jurisdiction(s) associated with the CoC. CoCs must account for and report on all unsheltered homeless people residing in the CoC's geography through a census (complete coverage) or one or more sampling and extrapolation methods that are consistent with HUD standards and guidance. HUD will evaluate the nature and basis for estimation and extrapolation of CoCs' unsheltered count in the annual CoC Program Competition. CoCs may exclude geographic areas where the CoC has determined that there are no unsheltered homeless people, including uninhabitable areas. CoCs must document the criteria and decision-making process used to identify and exclude specific geographic areas. CoCs must be able to verify that the unsheltered homeless people identified in the count are unsheltered on the night designated for the count, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 the Homeless Definition Final Rule. CoCs must ensure that during the PIT count homeless persons are only counted once. It is critical that the counting methods be coordinated to ensure that there is no double-counting. Therefore, CoCs must also collect sufficient information to be able to reliably deduplicate the PIT count. Surveys of people for the sheltered or unsheltered count must be administered in a manner that protects the participant's privacy and safety, as well as the safety of the person completing the survey. CoCs are required to ensure that people conducting the PIT count, including project staff and community volunteers, are appropriately trained about count standards, data collection procedures, and protocols for privacy, security, and personal safety. The 2023 PIT count will be a coordinated effort across CoCs on the night of January 25th and will include a volunteer led-effort, a full-coverage approach, and live surveying. The team has also worked to eliminate zero tracts which include past zero tracts, gated communities, and large desert areas. Outreach teams will conduct a full canvas of the tunnels and washes. There are over 500 miles of tunnels/wash. Between 100 and 150 miles are occupied. Volunteers will not be included in the tunnels. The team will continue to use the online survey tools as recommended by HUD. The methodology was presented to the Board for approval. The Board approved the methodology with the flexibility to adjust as HUD's guidance is produced.

Agenda Item 7. Presentation by TAC (Technical Assistance Collaborative) on the Youth Needs Assessment; for possible action.

Teo Ortega and Ellen Fitzpatrick, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), shared a presentation on the Youth Needs Assessment. TAC was hired in the spring of 2022 to complete the youth needs assessment as an update to the Southern Nevada Plan to End Youth Homelessness. TAC began working with leadership and assembled the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) team to meet biweekly. The CQI team will meet to establish a data collection plan. TAC conducted 10+ interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders and community partners. TAC came on-site in early September to meet with the CQI in person and conduct focus groups with the youth. While the Point-In-Time (PIT) count has gone down significantly since 2017, the number of unaccompanied youth enrollments in transitional housing, emergency, shelter, and street outreach has increased according to HMIS data. Clark County School District reported an average of 296 unaccompanied homeless youth each school year from SY2018-2019 to present, the overwhelming majority of whom are doubled up/couch surfing. Between 100-135 youth aged out of foster care, each year from 2018-2021 and approximately 7-12% of those youth exited as unknown destination/runaway and 78% of youth who exited Step-Up's programming in 2021 exited to permanent destinations. Homelessness and housing instability are not currently collected or tracked in any standard way. Therefore, it is not possible to determine the total number of youths with juvenile justice involvement who are experiencing homelessness. When reporting reasons for "lack of stable housing" during the SN Youth Assessment, between 17-20% of responses reported violence at home between family members as a reason each year from 2018-2021. Similarly, between 28-30% of responses indicated unhealthy or abusive relationships, either at home or elsewhere as a reason. The Embracing Project serves upward of 300 youth each year who are involved in sex work or commercial sexual exploitation. Anecdotally, they know that most of these youth are also struggling with housing stability. Only youth who are enrolled in RHY-funded programming are asked about involvement with sexual exploitation or labor trafficking-leading to what is likely a significant undercount. In 2021, 60% of enrollments into SO, ES, or TH reported having no health insurance. From 2018 to 2021, there is a 130% increase in the number of youths who reported a learning disability, developmental disability, or other impairment as the reason they had trouble maintaining housing. Similarly, there is an 87% increase for youth who reported a past head injury and a 24% increase for youth who reported mental health as a factor contributing to their housing instability from 2018 to 2021. Provider agencies reported higher numbers of youth with significant mental health and substance use challenges, but it is not reflected in the HMIS data collected. Overall key findings suggest that despite the decreasing PIT count, thousands of youths continue to experience various forms of homelessness and housing instability and interact with the homeless response system

each year. Black youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness in Clark County. The majority of youth are not accessing housing assistance through coordinated entry. Based on the SNH CoC coordinated entry assessment approach, most youths are scoring in a range that does not qualify them as households with the highest level of need. This often creates a swell of people in the "middle" range of a coordinated entry system's prioritization list who do not have access to a housing resource because they do not meet prioritization criteria. Poverty (including generational poverty) and a difficult housing market significantly impact the issue of youth homelessness in Clark County. Youth and the systems that serve them will benefit the many systems and partners that interact with youth experiencing and at risk of homelessness.

Agenda Item 8. Update from the Trust Fund Committee on the Homeless Trust Fund; for possible action.

Aaron Krolikowski, United Way of Southern Nevada, provided an update on the Homeless Trust Fund. Southern Nevada Regional Homeless Trust Fund was established in January 2005. Oversight of the Homeless Trust Fund is the responsibility of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Board (CoC Board). Currently, there is \$141,116 in revenue and \$31,675 in expenses. The Housing Flex Fund is an initiative of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care, funded by the Southern Nevada Regional Homeless Trust Fund. The program pays for expenses that are directly connected to a housing outcome. Housing flex funds aids non-lease holders in the form of rental payments, purchase of a bed (and/or bedding) that makes it possible for a person to stay in a host family's house, or utility assistance for a host family to house clients experiencing homelessness; Assistance for employment-related expenses that otherwise would result in the loss of housing until the client receives their next check; Assistance for fees required by landlords; Assistance for other items listed as long as the expense can be directly connected to a housing outcome. Eligible agencies (FY22-23) including any qualified CoC partner agencies participating in the Housing Problem-Solving (HPS) initiative are eligible for Housing Flex Funds. HPS agencies will be invited by November 15th to request up to \$5000 in Housing Flex Funds (FY22-23). Agencies receiving Housing Flex Funds from the Homeless Trust Fund will be responsible for monthly reporting on the use of Housing Flex Funds.

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

Carina Grigsby-Thedford, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA), shared that Project Homeless Connect will be held on November 22nd and will include a medical section where attendees can receive the vaccine. NHA will also resume hosting monthly vaccine events in the community to serve low-income and individuals experiencing homelessness. NHA has partnered with Toro university and the Southern Nevada health district to provide the COVID vaccine, flu shots, and T DAP.

Agenda Item 10. Update by the Leadership Team on the activities of Operation HOME!; for possible action

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Clark County Social Service, provided an update on the activities of Operation HOME! Operation HOME (OH) is a communitywide initiative to house 2022 of the community unhoused persons who are at high risk of negative impacts of COVID-19 by the end of 2022 through different pathways to permanent housing, utilizing a client-centered community collaborative approach, which includes progressive engagement and housing problem-solving. Based on recent data, The Operation HOME team has surpassed the goal of the initiative. As of November 2057 people have been housed. The Operation HOME data dashboard is live on the Help Hope Home website. The Operation HOME leadership team spent 2 1/2 days together with the technical assistance providers and discussed client-centered progressive engagement and affordable housing. The team identified four key goals that are needed to successfully practice progressive engagement. Set a culture of accountability; Establish funding alignment; Elevate the voices of people with lived experience in every space across the whole continuum, and set a standard of customer service excellence. The team also identified 4 goals for affordable housing that would prevent the loss of units in the community. Educate the community on affordable housing needs to make sure that there is access to affordable housing for everybody; individuals that are low income also have access to those units; investment in services; and participate in a discussion around potential actions that will help the team achieve these goals. The leadership team and TA providers will be meeting to engage in a more in-depth discussion regarding person-centered programs and how to shift the current system into a more person-centered focus. The team is still in need of landlords to assist in clearing the community queue. Interested landlords or property managers can email leaps@clarkcountynv.gov

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)

No update was provided.

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

Catrina Grigsby-Thedford, Advocate, Nevada Homeless Alliance (NHA), shared that Project Homeless Connect will be held on November 22nd at the silver nugget Event Center in North Las Vegas. There are 145 providers registered and NHA is still in need of

volunteers for multiple volunteer positions and shifts. Agencies that are interested in assisting with Coordinated Entry should contact NHA to register as a volunteer. NHA is also seeking donations of clothing, and water.

Kristin Cooper, Government, Clark County Social Service, shared information regarding the Welcome Home Program. Recently, The Clark County Administrative Services established the Welcome Home Program which is a community housing fund. The RFI (Request for Information) is determined interest in receiving informational proposals for the rehab and management of individual, single, and multifamily units. These are properties that may be available through the tax assessor in the office of the Treasurers. These properties are available due to tax delinquency. For more information contact Dagny Stapleton with Clark County Administrative Services.

Shalimar Cabrera, Veteran Service Provider, U.S. Vets-Las Vegas, shared information regarding the Veterans gala on November 16th at 5:30 pm at the Golden Nugget Casino.

Haley Exon, U.S. VETS-Las Vegas, shared an update regarding the BETterment program. U.S. VETS-Las Vegas has partnered with Clark County and community partners to provide 50 bridge housing beds to the community. The team is hoping to have these beds available before the holidays and is currently in the process of hiring staff. The team will keep the Board posted on an official opening date.

Agenda Item 13. Public Comment

No comment was presented to the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.