

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

February 12, 2009

In attendance:

Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas
Maryann Ustick, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Jodie Gerson, Alternate, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Adrienne Cox Consulting
Nancy McLane, Alternate, Clark County
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

Absent:

Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Darryl Martin, Clark County
Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance

Agenda Item 1. Call to order, notice of agenda compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.

The meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Committee on Homelessness was called to order by Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas, at 2:01 p.m., on Thursday, February 12, 2009, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the February 12, 2009, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for February 12, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the February 12, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, and Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District, had not arrived yet although quorum was met without them.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on January 8, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the January 8, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, and Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 4. Receive an update from the Regional Homeless Services Coordinator. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave a progress update; and she reported that Vince Alberta with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority (LVCVA) was unable to commit anyone to

the Committee on Homelessness at this time.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, recommended that if the LVCVA was unable to sit on this Committee then a liaison from the Committee on Homelessness should be sent to sit on their Board.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of the 2009-2010 Regional Homeless Budget. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, presented the 2009-2010 Regional Homeless Budget; and she stated that the only change compared to last year's budget was shifting money from Travel & Training to Emergency Shelter.

There was discussion by the Committee about the mobile shower unit; future Homeless Counts; and potential stimulus package funds.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, asked whether the mobile shower unit contract was with the Salvation Army; and Ms. West replied that it was not.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2009-2010 Regional Homeless Budget and forward it to the SNRPC Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update and approval of participation in the national homeless management information system (HMIS) research project. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an update on possible participation in the national homeless management information system (HMIS) research project titled the "Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Spatial Analysis Study" hosted by HUD via Abt Associates.

There was discussion by the Committee about the duration of the project and anticipated costs associated with it; and other states participating.

A motion was made and seconded to approve further research and discussion with Abt Associates regarding pursuing potential participation in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) Spatial Analysis Study. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the 2009 Southern Nevada Homeless Census. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an update on the 2009 Homeless Census; and she reported that the street and phone surveys are ongoing. Ms. West stated that a final report is expected at April's meeting.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and no motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program; and she stated that overflow beds had been consistently and steadily used. Ms. West reported that

the Regional Homeless Budget continues to support funding to keep the overflow beds open and running.

There was discussion by the Committee about overall comparisons to last year; numbers of people turned away; capacity increases compared to last year; increased numbers of people seen by Clark County Social Service; larger numbers of families with children being seen at Catholic Charities and at all times during the night and early in the morning; and implications with ongoing challenges due to state funding cuts.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.

Joe Maviglia, private citizen, stated that he had been working on a cost effective proposal to retrofit mobile homes for use by homeless citizens, ex-felons, dropouts and veterans, and he had submitted his proposal to HUD. Mr. Maviglia commented on job creation for low and entry level individuals being developed by the President that would benefit Southern Nevada, and he also commented on the importance of people learning basic trades.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, submitted a letter dated February 12, 2009, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee, as follows:

“My reason for attending public meetings and making comment is to raise awareness for veterans and the homeless and hopefully to influence public policy. During wartime I feel it is my duty as a volunteer veteran’s representative in “Southern Nevada Advocates for Homeless People”, a 501c3.

But I have to admit that some persons in authority for instance, this Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and the homeless coordinator have, at times, ignored my phone calls and public comments. I am certain that other activists and citizens have had their concerns ignored, also.

What progress is being made on adding a member representing the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority to this Committee? The local veterans administration must be more proactive in involving relatives and friends of veterans patients in their healthcare and disability compensation visits because many suffer physical and mental disabilities and are unable to protect their interests. Why is there resistance to having public service announcements, by the V.A., on channels 2-4 and Cox Cable? I was informed that the veterans administration must approve these public service announcements and my offer to volunteer was refused.

Our military, active and retirees, and veterans are often given credit for protecting our freedoms, especially the first amendment. Please exercise your free speech rights and call the local V.A., 636-3010, and government on all levels to ensure that we not only have meetings but that there is action taken on all public comment and concerns. Protest the fact that Iraq Afghanistan veterans are in our homeless shelters, along with 3500 of their brothers and sisters on the streets. If your phone calls and writings are ignored follow up and demand your concerns are answered. In a republic we can’t vote directly and must appeal to our representatives and elected officials to act on our behalf. Political activism is good citizenship!”

Larry Lovelett, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, submitted a flyer on a wine and cheese launch event of the public awareness campaign for the Protection for Sexually Exploited Children Nevada Foundation to

be held on February 19 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. He also announced that a training seminar to help first responders deal with youth and prostitution would be held on March 3 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, stated that not one eligible client had been turned away during the month of January; and less than 1 percent of clients with drug and/or alcohol eligibility issues had been referred to WestCare.

Roslynn Brooks, private citizen, volunteered to sit on the Committee on Homelessness as a representative of the local business community.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.