

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

April 19, 2007

In attendance:

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Marc Joseph, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance (formerly the Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition)
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

Absent:

Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City

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 Darryl Martin, Chair, Clark County, at 2:05 p.m., on Thursday, April 19, 2007, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the April 19, 2007, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for April 19, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the April 19, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on March 15, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, and Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, presented Gary Cox, KVEG Hot 97.5, with a certificate of achievement and appreciation.

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

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, gave a progress update including: the 10-Point Plan kick-off meeting was held on April 10 and the finished document is expected by late June so it can be presented to the SNRPC Board in July or August; the Law Enforcement Summit is scheduled immediately after this meeting; and a Food Stamp Conference is scheduled for May 2.

There was discussion on participation in the 10-Point Plan sessions so far; and Darryl Martin, Clark County, recommended creating a Housing Subcommittee or Working Group.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Mr. Martin recommended moving on to Agenda Item #9 at this time.

Agenda Item 9. Receive a report on jurisdictional homeless expenditures from the Nevada Homeless Alliance. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, presented and discussed two spreadsheets titled "Homeless Expenditures Compared to Total Expenditures in Clark County, NV, FY2005-2006" and "FY 2005-2006 Regional Homeless Expenditures."

There was discussion on how these figures compared with other cities (such as Denver, CO); how medical costs for the homeless compared to indigent individuals; the difficulty in comparing "apples to apples"; and the importance of including state and federal contributions.

Further action was recommended including comparisons between other large, metropolitan cities and working with each jurisdiction to develop common definitions relating to homeless expenditures.

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson, recommended convening a working group with representatives from each jurisdiction to assist with those analyses. Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, added that state partners should also be included.

No formal motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on the medical costs/debts at UMC not including illegal immigrant numbers.

Agenda Item 5. Approval of the 2007-2008 Regional Homeless Budget. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, presented the final 2007/2008 Regional Homeless Budget in the amount of \$1,470,924. She stated it was an approximate increase of five percent over last year's budget and included money for continuing regional coordination; HMIS administration and system maintenance; the Inclement Weather Shelter Program; and the Evaluation/Census Count for the summer of 2007. She also stated that next year's budget would include the breakdown based on updated population percentages by jurisdiction.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to approve the final 2007/2008 Regional Homeless Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, asked to move to Agenda Item #7 at this time.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a report on and funding recommendations for the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, discussed two RFP's that had been released, one relating to the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. She stated that contract renewals had been granted to last year's providers, and HACA was a proposed new provider. She also stated that funding for these would still provide a surplus reserve of \$86,000 to be used as needed throughout the year (i.e. for extreme temperature emergency shelters, etc.).

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to approve these recommendations and forward them on to the SNRPC Board for their approval of contract negotiations. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive funding recommendations for HMIS Administration. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, discussed that Bit Focus, Inc. was the sole respondent to the RFP that was released on HMIS Administration.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to approve Bitfocus, Inc. as the contractor for HMIS Administration and forward the recommendation to the SNRPC Board for their approval of contract negotiation. The motion was approved unanimously except for Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, who abstained.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a report on the 2007 Winter Point in Time Count. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Peter Connery, Applied Survey Research, presented a report on the 2007 Winter Point in Time Count via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Southern Nevada Homeless Census Survey and Panhandling Study." He stated that the total number of sheltered, unsheltered and hidden homeless was 11,369.

There was discussion on specifics within the report (i.e. density/concentration levels, race/ethnicity breakdowns, etc.) as well as comments on the future summer count.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, asked to move to Agenda Item #11 at this time.

Agenda Item 11. Receive a report on the Continuum of Care. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst/Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator, gave a report on HUD's feedback on the 2006 CoC scoring via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Continuum of Care Competition-2006 Continuum of Care Score."

She also gave a report on the 2007 CoC process timeline via a PowerPoint presentation titled "2007 Continuum of Care Competitive Process."

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

Darryl Martin, Clark County, asked to move to Agenda Item #10 at this time.

Agenda Item 10. Receive a report on the status of the AB580 funded “Transition from Homelessness” Programs. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Catherine Huang Hara, Senior Management Analyst, discussed two RFP’s (one for Intensive Case Management Services for Chronically Homeless Individuals and one for Mobile Crisis Intervention Services for Homeless Youth and Young Adults), and she stated that the mobile shower unit had been received.

Monique Harris, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), presented a summary report for NPHY for March, 2007.

Pat Lau, OUTREACH Evaluator, presented the monthly OUTREACH report for March, 2007, the quarterly OUTREACH summary report, an OUTREACH comprehensive program report for November (2005) through March 31 (2007) and an update on the evaluation survey feedback.

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

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment.

Dennis Larson, KEY Foundation, presented a newspaper article titled “Surge of homeless veterans expected- Not enough beds to meet demand, advocates say.” He stated that the national census conducted every 10 years has questions regarding veterans, but HMIS doesn’t include any questions in the homeless population.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, commended Amanda Haymond with *Forgotten Voice*. He stated that the second issue is available, but funding is needed.

Morely Gordon, private citizen, commented on veterans needing more care and compassion from the younger generations. He also commented on the care center on the corner of MLK/Vegas that had been wrongfully shut down in 2003 and the lack of local services for veterans, especially how there is no support from any regional politicians regarding this. He concluded by speaking on a new veterans facility scheduled to be built in North Las Vegas that won’t be complete until 2012 or 2013, and how this compares to the speed in which casinos are built.

Frank Marbey, private citizen, agreed with Mr. Gordon’s remarks and commented on benefits he’s received as well as how there will be many more veterans soon requiring care.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, presented an article from the April 19 issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled “Veterans care center’s builder wins judgment.” He also read a letter he submitted as follows:

“There are many positive governmental efforts to serve the homeless. Finally after 5 ½ years there may be housing to serve the homeless at 30% of the median income. Housing has been built for homeless veterans, but not enough to serve our 4,000 homeless and our returning Iraq-Afghanistan veterans.

The proposal to build a veterans memorial in Huntridge Circle Park is not taking into account the symbolism of governmental punitive action, harassment and unconstitutional ordinances created to criminalize homelessness, including 4,000+ homeless veterans.

The most appropriate location is at 215 and Pecos where the V.A. Health Complex will be built in 2011-2012. Given the crisis with our Iraq-Afghanistan troops and our growing

homeless and veteran population this completion date must be accelerated and domiciliaries built to serve them properly.

Support our troops is lip service if we don't serve our homeless veterans and returning troops suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) one in six and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) one in ten.”

David Shakespeare, private citizen, is soliciting rental room donations as tax write-offs for whoever donates them.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.