

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

June 11, 2009

**In attendance:**

Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas  
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Adrienne Cox, Adrienne Cox Consulting  
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Tim Burch, Alternate, Clark County  
Kenny Young, Alternate, City of North Las Vegas  
Gina Gavan, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration

**Absent:**

Nancy McLane, Clark County  
Maryann Ustick, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas  
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

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**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 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, June 11, 2009, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the June 11, 2009, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for June 11, 2009.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 11, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Service, had not arrived yet although quorum was met without him.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on May 14, 2009.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the May 14, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Service, 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 on the 2009 Continuum of Care application and status.

There was brief discussion by the Committee about the focus or criteria for funding; and Ms. West stated that permanent housing and other housing options were the federally mandated priorities.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item. Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Service, had not arrived yet.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, asked about permanent housing and availability and progress related to it. Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, and Ms. West responded that accomplishments related to permanent housing will be placed on a future agenda.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on the allocations for funding available through AB 629. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, presented the applicants and projects that were selected to receive the redirected \$100,000 portion of the AB629 funding that was not able to be used by Clark County Social Service. She reminded the Committee that the reallocation of funds had been approved at their May 14, 2009, Committee on Homelessness meeting.

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

**Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, stated that the Summer Day Shelter had begun and an excessive heat day had been observed on May 17; and she gave an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program and capacities of several providers.

There was brief discussion by the Committee about unduplicated people seen and comparisons to last year's numbers.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on coordination efforts on Main Street and Foremaster Lane (Corridor of Hope) in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Myrna Pili, HELP of Southern Nevada, and Jodie Gerson, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS), gave an update report on the continuing coordination efforts in the Main Street and Foremaster Lane area. Ms. Pili provided basic statistics of the people served/placed, and she stated that approximately 130 people had refused all services.

Rich Penska, HELP of Southern Nevada, reported on mobile crisis outreach and intervention efforts from May 27 and June 3 visits to the area.

There was discussion by the Committee about service resistant people and resistance due to job loss or drug use; this is the beginning of a long process and it will not be fixed overnight; multi-agency approach remains critical; options for treating people who refuse services; and setting/using temperature thresholds.

Mr. Penska stated that the two main types of service resistant people seen were those receiving the minimum amounts of social security that would rather gamble or drink with it; and those who were severely drug dependant.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive resignation and accept nomination for committee chairperson. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to receive the resignation of Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, as Chair, and accept the nomination of Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, as Committee Chair beginning at the July, 2009, meeting. Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, accepted on her behalf. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.**

John 3:16 Cook, private citizen, commented on the waste of money for paid employees and elsewhere; seeing babies on the street at Main and Owens; churches and missions should open their doors; and the Salvation Army is not using money locally instead it goes to their corporate offices. He recognized contributions by Mitch Snyder; and he gave an ultimatum of moving the people in their tents or he would work with Larry King and other national media outlets and expose Las Vegas.

Magical Marissa, private citizen, placed a blessing on the homeless in Las Vegas.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on ongoing V.A. deficiencies; frustrations being a veterans advocate; behavior shown is especially disgraceful during wartime; he doesn't understand why issues are continued to be ignored especially when the meetings are televised; and problems faced by returning Iraq-Afghanistan soldiers have increased and are worse when compared to all previous wars. He expressed disappointment that he feels he is "talking in a vacuum" when commenting during these meetings; and he stated it was disgraceful to ignore advocates and not provide assistance. Mr. Perna also submitted a letter dated June 11, 2009, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee, as follows:

"Once again we read about overcrowding in our emergency rooms. This happened when the economy was good and I'm certain that now that the economy is poor that our government will use this as an excuse to not address our critical shortage of mental health facilities. A welcome addition would be inpatient domiciliaries at the V.A. Health Complex at 215 and Pecos where inpatient facilities for veteran PTSD, TBI, alcoholism and legal and illegal drug addiction therapy programs could be provided. These services are available at the V.A. facility in Jacksonville, Florida. The reason we don't have domiciliaries here is a lack of unity among veterans organizations, veteran service org. and their governmental counterparts."

Ivo Plecko, Piters LLC, gave an update on the solar powered modular home units he is developing; and he submitted a letter dated June 1, 2009, addressed to the Office of the Regional Homeless Coordinator, as follows:

"Enclosed please find Letter of Interest. At this time, my major effort is in designing features for the Smart PitersHome housing unit, which will make it possible to put together unique alternative energy

**TOTALLY SOLAR POWERED SMART PITERSHOME UNIT**

I have already lined companies, which have technological capabilities to meet my design objectives.

Smart PiterHome basic unit will be manufactured in Slovenia.

Once basic unit/s will arrive to Las Vegas, they will be equipped with solar panels on top of the roof, and connected to two alternative options:

1. To rechargeable batteries
2. To the power grid, allowing to have excess energy sold to the power company. Here in Las Vegas to Nevada Power Company.

Inside Smart PiterHome, LED lighting will be used, low energy appliances, and tankless water heater, to conserve energy.

I will continuously work on technological upgrades, and basic design will, due to the modularity of the Smart PiterHome, allow such upgrades any time new technologies will be available.

I do hope Piter LLC will be given an opportunity to receive funding, and expect your positive answer.”

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, thanked Committee members for their time and dedication.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.