

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

June 21, 2007

In attendance:

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group
Marc Joseph, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Marcia Evans, Veterans Administration

Absent:

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
John Thedinga, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

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 Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:06 p.m., on Thursday, June 21, 2007, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the June 21, 2007, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for June 21, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 21, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Darryl Martin, Clark County, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on May 17, 2007.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the May 17, 2007, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Darryl Martin, Clark County, 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 Coordinator, gave a progress update including: State budget allocation for Assembly Bill 126; the status of the Continuum of Care application submittal to HUD; multi-agency encampment response protocols; the status of the 10-Point Plan and joint August workshop; and an update on the Housing Workgroup and the Housing Conference that was being held June 21 and June 22.

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

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, expressed disappointment that the full \$20 million was not allocated to Assembly Bill 126. He recommended asking the Interim Finance Committee for financial support. Mr. Perna stated that S.H.A.R.E. is the 501c3 nonprofit organization of Arnold Stalk's and his idea of converting shipping crates into low income, affordable housing sounded sensible and workable, but that zoning changes would be required by the County.

Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on Inclement Weather Shelter. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, stated the Summer Day Shelter was scheduled to officially open on July 1, but when temperatures rose to 108 on June 14 they opened early.

There was discussion by the Committee on numbers served by Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, asked whether the Day Shelter at Catholic Charities had beds available or just chairs; and Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, responded that beds were available during the night from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Darryl Martin, Clark County, recommended that specific questions like this be addressed after the meeting.

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

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, stated that the 2007 Summer Point-in-Time Count would be held beginning at 2:00 a.m. on July 31, 2007. She said that summer numbers would be compared to the numbers reported in the recently completed Winter Point-in-Time Count. She also stated that trainings for the count would be held on July 26 and 27 at Clark County Social Service on 1600 Pinto Lane.

Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, asked what the summer census would actually cover; and Ms. Fuller-Hallauer responded that the summer count would be a snapshot response as compared to the winter count.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, stated that a PSA about the summer count would begin airing on Channels 2 and 4.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. 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, stated that the final update and reports on the AB580 funded "Transition from Homelessness" Programs would be presented at July's meeting and that there would be no OUTREACH report at this meeting as all members were attending the Housing Conference.

Larry Lovelett, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), presented a summary report for NPHY for May, 2007.

There was discussion by the Committee about presenting the final report covering the two year period at the special joint workshop in August.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, reported that Clark County Social Service would be renewing the contracts for these programs, but monthly updates would no longer be given. She stated that updates would be provided on different programs and/or providers instead.

There was continued discussion by the Committee on funding allocated to AB126 and expected disbursement of the \$1 million.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented that there were no votes at today's meeting, and he felt the public was being ignored. Darryl Martin, Clark County, responded that there were no action items so therefore there was no voting required, and no action could be taken on items that weren't properly posted or agendized.

Mr. Perna presented an article from the April 19 issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled "Veterans care center's builder wins judgment" and an article from the May 17 issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled "VA requests close look at awarding of bonuses." He read a letter he submitted as follows:

"Nevada's Congressional Delegation has the primary responsibility to ensure that the Veterans Administration provide the most efficient and best healthcare for our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, coming home not only wounded physically but mentally. Nevada also has the highest, per capita, population of veterans and homeless veterans who have a fractured healthcare system spread over the Las Vegas valley. Poorer veterans and the homeless veterans find it practically impossible to access this system.

If they require operations or other complex procedures, they must travel to Southern California without the support of family or friends.

This wastes money, in leasing extra facilities and paying for travel that would be better spent in accelerating the completion date, to 2009, of the Veterans Administration outpatient clinic at 215 and Pecos.

Support our troops and especially when they, as veterans, are not given the services they earned with their blood. Call the Nevada Veterans Office at 636-3070 and 1-755-688-1653 and Senators Reid and Ensign at 388-5020 and 388-6605.

All citizens must support better veteran healthcare."

Mr. Perna also read a petition to "Support our Veterans" that would be submitted at the VA's Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Advisory Committee meeting on June 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clark County Library at 1401 E. Flamingo Road. The petition submitted is as follows:

"Due to our unprecedented growth in population, Southern Nevada has had inadequate veteran health care. Today we have the highest population of veterans in the country and sadly the highest per capita of homeless veterans.

Our returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering seven casualties for every fatality. This is over double the rate in previous wars. The rate of PTSD is now 1-6 and TBI (traumatic brain injury) is 1-10. It is clear that our inadequate system, made worse by the unnecessary closure of the Guy Ambulatory Clinic in 2003, and the resultant dispersion of the V.A. healthcare system to over a dozen locations, has led to less efficiency. Since then, veterans have been forced to travel to Southern California for operations and other complex procedures, denying them the support of family and friends.

Funding has been increased to support this inefficient and inadequate system. Veterans will be better served if this funding is utilized to accelerate the building of an outpatient clinic at the 140 acres, located at 215 and Pecos, from 2011-2012 to 2009. Also domiciliaries (veteran housing) are needed to house additional programs, PTSD and TBI, programs of respite care and nursing homes.”

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, asked about the homeless expenditure report and whether the recommended committee had been formed yet. He advised that the PSA language on “helping homeless people change their lives” needed to be revised as it sounded to him like “blaming the victim” language.

Mr. Martin stated that the committee formed on homeless expenditures would be meeting after the joint workshop in August wraps up.

Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, stated she would like to take a tour of Arnold Stalk’s pod units, and she would also like to visit Catholic Charities. Mr. Martin recommended that Shannon West organize the tour and notify Committee members appropriately.

Tiger Todd, Heroes Incorporated, spoke about motivational speaking engagements he gives at Catholic Charities and other locations. He submitted a copy of his brochure titled “Are You Still Repeating History? You Don’t Have To Anymore...”

Mr. Perna spoke further about veterans being undercounted, especially since the HMIS system is not gathering adequate data on the homeless veteran population.

Mike Swecker, Homeless Helpers, spoke at length about his program and how they currently are feeding 1500 homeless individuals every Sunday, Monday and Wednesday. He asked whether there was any assistance offered to providers such as him.

Mr. Martin recommended he speak with Ms. West after the meeting. Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group, commented how she had contacted Mr. Swecker’s partner, Tony Sipich; and she commended Mike for the progress he’d made so far and for including multivitamins in what they gave out.

Kenny Young, City of North Las Vegas, told nonprofit providers interested in participating in the City of North Las Vegas event on July 15 to contact Leone Lettsome at 633-2764.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.