

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

July 9, 2009

In attendance:

Nancy McLane, Alternate Chair, Clark County
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Adrienne Cox, Adrienne Cox Consulting
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Gina Gavan, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District

Absent:

Maryann Ustick, Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services

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 Nancy McLane, Alternate Chair, Clark County, at 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 9, 2009, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the July 9, 2009, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for July 9, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the July 9, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, had not arrived yet although quorum was met without him.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on June 11, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2009, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, 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 a \$1 million grant applied for through the Strengthening Communities Fund Non-profit Capacity Building Program; and a newly formed Youth Housing Coalition.

There was brief discussion by the Committee about the youth ages for the coalition's focus; and a

recommendation was made to have a presentation and/or report by the Youth Housing Forum at the next Committee on Homelessness meeting.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 5. Approve the recommendation for funding available through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, stated that, unfortunately, none of the respondents had viable projects so each of the jurisdictions will use the money that they had set-aside in November for their own respective programs.

There was discussion by the Committee about the amount of the set-aside funding, the deadlines and the expected goals; and the reason the final two projects weren't approved was because they each required additional, uncommitted money beyond the initial funding award.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on the homeless prevention funds appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shawna Parker-Brody, Management Analyst, gave an update on the homeless prevention funds appropriated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Preventing Homelessness in Southern Nevada – Implementing a "No Wrong Door" System".

There was discussion by the Committee about expected numbers of applications; maintaining transparency in the overall process and releasing an RFP; lead agency qualifications; and current HMIS use, compliance and functionality.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive an update on the local 2009 Continuum of Care application process. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, stated that HUD has not released the final application due date; and as a result, the new due date for local RFP submittals is August 17, 2009.

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 permanent housing programs and housing first projects for the homeless. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Management Analyst, gave an update on permanent housing programs and housing first projects for the homeless via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Housing First in Southern Nevada".

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

Agenda Item 9. Receive an update on budget issues at Clark County Social Service. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Nancy McLane, Clark County, gave an update on budget issues faced by Clark County Social Service via a

PowerPoint presentation titled “2009 Legislative Impacts – Clark County Social Service”.

There was discussion by the Committee about expected increases in numbers of homeless; impacts of closing the Fertitta Center; budget implications in other County departments; expected impacts to Metro and other jurisdictions and providers; transportation options for people who used the Fertitta Center to get them to other offices; approaching churches and missions for assistance; and the importance of continuing to work together and consolidate services where possible.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented on using nondiscretionary funds from the federal budget and local activism is almost nonexistent.

Agenda Item 10. Public Comment.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, expressed disgust that the situation was as bad as it was with no realistic resolution. He submitted an undated article from the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled “Social services office gets ax”; an undated article from the *Las Vegas Sun* titled “ ‘One stop’ center soon to be down to just one agency”; and he submitted a letter dated July 9, 2009, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee, as follows:

“Has there been a regional approach to the current actions in Ward 5? I may be repetitious, but isn’t that the reason the SNRPC/HUD summit was held in September 2001?”

I see the fences where the homeless in tents were denied access. Are they now in shelters, housing, inpatient mental facilities or in treatment for gambling, alcohol and drug addiction? If the majority aren’t it is irresponsible to once again disperse the homeless population throughout the Valley.

When I heard about the possible closing of the Fertitta Community Center I thought about the 200 bed shelter that was displaced to convert it to offices at a cost of \$325,000. What a waste if this building is not used now for offices.

I was pleased to see that the Clark County Commissioners are reconsidering cutting monies from the social services budget. It would be counter-intuitive and cruel to reduce this social service net when our economy is in a downturn and getting worse.

Do the regional governments want help from the citizenry? If so our elected officials on all levels should make public service announcements and work with advocates.”

Carla Lewis and David Sharpiro, Nevada Community Associates, asked about the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding decisions (from agenda item #5) and whether it was possible to modify or submit a project at this time.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, reminded Committee members and the public that Catholic Charities regularly assisted 200 to 300 people at the Fertitta Center who would now be on foot seeking alternate services.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.