

MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

September 10, 2009

In attendance:

Maryann Ustick, Chair, City of North Las Vegas
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
Nancy McLane, Clark County
Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas
Danielle Turner, Alternate, City of Henderson
Sara Duncan, Alternate, Clark County School District

Absent:

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District
Adrienne Cox, Adrienne Cox Consulting
Gina Gavan, Nevada Homeless Alliance
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration

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 Maryann Ustick, Chair, City of North Las Vegas, at 2:03 p.m., on Thursday, September 10, 2009, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the September 10, 2009, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for September 10, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the September 10, 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 August 13, 2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 13, 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.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, gave a progress update including: Inclement Weather Shelter reports including BitFocus generated reports; August 21st and August 28th had cooling stations open and in use; Project Homeless Connect will be held on November 10, 2009, at Cashman Field

from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. although intake processes are scheduled to end at 3:00 p.m.; volunteers are requested to call 455-5188 or go to www.helphopehome.org; a Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Project hearing is scheduled for September 15; and the October 8, 2009, Committee on Homelessness meeting location has been changed to the City of North Las Vegas City Council Chambers beginning at 2:00 p.m., and the meeting will not be televised.

There was discussion by the Committee about volunteers and service providers still needed for Project Homeless Connect; and a recommendation was made to send out an e-mail reminder for volunteers.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item. Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, had not arrived yet.

Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on homeless related projects funded by Clark County Outside Agency Grants. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Shawna Brody, Clark County, gave an update on homeless related projects funded by Clark County Outside Agency Grants, and she stated that because of the economy overall funding had decreased to approximately \$3 million from almost \$5 million last year. She also presented the “Clark County Outside Agency Grant Allocations – Fiscal Year 2009-2010 – Homeless and Prevention Services Only”; and she reported that Emergency Shelter grant applications were due by October 6.

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 2009 Continuum of Care local application process. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, gave an update on the 2009 Continuum of Care local application process via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Continuum of Care Evaluation Working Group”. She reported that the total amount of funding available is approximately \$6.2 million, and the total amount requested with the 17 submitted new and renewal proposals is approximately \$8.8 million.

There was discussion by the Committee about when the final recommendations would be made to the Committee on Homelessness for approval; and the difference in this year’s requested funding amount compared to last year’s approximate total of \$5.5 million.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a presentation from Lutheran Social Services of Nevada on agency services. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Armena Mkhitarian gave an update on Lutheran Social Services of Nevada’s agency services via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Lutheran Social Services of Nevada”, and she presented a newsletter titled “LSSN Fall 2008 Newsletter”.

There was discussion by the Committee about outreach efforts with other denominations of churches and expanding the numbers of partnerships; challenges because of limited staff; potential partnership development with grocery stores for additional food pantries; difficulties faced by existing exclusive arrangements by grocery stores with other non-profits; limited communication with and ensuring unduplicated services, especially with other food pantries such as Three Square and the Salvation Army; and continuing to use HMIS to track people served.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Continuum of Care Coordinator, announced that the Community Interfaith Council is planning a summit scheduled for November 6, and food pantries and their operation will be a topic of discussion.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 8. Discuss an direction or action required from the September 3, 2009, SNRPC Technical Committee agenda involving formal agreements or interlocals. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.

Maryann Ustick, City of North Las Vegas, read the following agenda item description from the September 3, 2009, SNRPC Technical Committee meeting: “Discussion on Fiscal Impacts Pertaining to Regional Partnerships Through Formal Agreements and/or Interlocals. Take appropriate action. Recommended action – Direct jurisdictional staff to examine regional agreements and/or interlocals and associated existing and proposed budgets for possible line item reductions, eliminations and/or efficiencies.”

She stated that because of severe revenue challenges faced by all jurisdictions, general fund amounts and resulting available services would be decreased; and the impacts to existing service arrangements, that may have already begun in good faith, would need to be evaluated. Ms. Ustick stated that the SNRPC Technical Committee recommended creating an ad-hoc working group to work with agencies to review the existing interlocal agreements and report back their findings at November’s SNRPC Technical Committee meeting.

There was discussion by the Committee about the short time frame for review; some existing interlocals such as the Winter Inclement Weather Shelter Program would need to be dormant until a decision was reached; developing alternate plans having less local government involvement and more by the faith based communities and other non-profits; ensuring participation by all key players (i.e. many of the service providers who receive significant funding do not attend committee meetings); coordination and specific commitments with the faith based organizations; evaluating expected gaps with funding cuts; and focusing on outcomes and accountability.

An announcement was made that the Faith Based Summit would be held on November 6, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Trinity Life Center.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.

Danielle Dreitzer, HopeLink, commented that the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing public hearing at the Board of County Commissioners meeting had been changed to September 15, and she expressed concern about the wording of their current motion because specific recommendations do not seem to be forwarded properly.

Phillip Hollon, Catholic Charities, commented on the excellent partnership between Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services, and he said that the Phone Home for the Holidays program was an example of that successful partnership.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.