

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

October 19, 2006

**In attendance:**

Darryl Martin, CHAIR, Clark County  
Kendall Wiley, Alternate, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group  
Kenny Young, 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  
Susan Wright, Clark County School District

**Absent:**

Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas  
Theodore Moody, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

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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 Darryl Martin, Chair, Clark County, at 2:07 p.m., on Thursday, October 19, 2006, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the October 19, 2006, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

Roll Call was held; and all members of the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness, as listed above, were present except for Orlando Sanchez, City of Las Vegas, and Theodore Moody, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for October 19, 2006.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the October 19, 2006, meeting; but to take agenda items 5 and 8 together as a single item. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on September 21, 2006.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the September 21, 2006, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trina Robinson, City of Las Vegas, received accolades and a commendation plaque for her service to the SNRPC Committee on Homelessness.

**Agenda Item 4. Receive an update on the new Regional Transportation Commission program for government/non-profit entities. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Jeffrey Share, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), stated that there would be no more bus token or transfer passes sold after October 15, 2006; but they would continue to be accepted for one year. He said that new passes could be purchased for day passes or monthly passes, and all were magnetic strip cards.

He also stated that, if packets of 100 were purchased at a time by non-profit entities, Full Fare Day Passes (not including Strip routes) would be \$1.25 each instead of \$2.50 each, and All Access Day Passes (including Strip routes) would be \$2.50 each instead of \$5.00 each.

There was discussion by the Committee about cost impacts, durations of the passes, and locations to purchase passes.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 5. Receive an update on the development and implementation of the Public Awareness Campaign. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

George McCabe, Brown & Partners, gave an update on the Public Awareness Campaign via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Regional Approach to Homelessness – Public Awareness Campaign Update, October 19, 2006.”

Kim Sherwood, Clark County Channel 4, presented four examples of English language public service announcements (PSA’s). She also stated that two PSA’s had been developed in Spanish.

Robert Herdzik, Bitfocus Inc., presented [www.helphopehome.org](http://www.helphopehome.org) and demonstrated specific areas to access on the website.

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson, asked about linking to the website and about individual presentations of the website; and Mr. McCabe added that the PSA’s could be accessed from the HelpHopeHome website and from links on the City of Las Vegas’ and Clark County’s website homepages.

Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City, gave an update on Ricky who is a citizen she’s been assisting in Boulder City who now lives in a permanent trailer.

Mark Stets, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, asked if there was a Spanish version of the website; and Mr. McCabe responded it hadn’t been developed yet.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item; and discussion moved on to agenda item 8 (Southern Nevada Homeless Trust Fund).

**Agenda Item 8. Receive a status report and recommendations on the Southern Nevada Homeless Trust Fund. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Dan Goulet, United Way, gave a report on the Southern Nevada Homeless Trust Fund via a PowerPoint presentation titled “Public Awareness Campaign – Homeless Trust Fund.” He also stated that the United Way website had a link to both the HelpHopeHome website and to the Trust Fund, and these would be included in United Way’s written publications for the upcoming year.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, asked what the administrative fee for United Way was; and Mr. Goulet responded that there was no cost until the fund was established then it would be one half of one percent of the interest annually.

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

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Coordinator, gave a report on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program including summary reports for September 2006 for Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army and HACA/TSA.

There was no discussion by the Committee; and a motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, asked for more detail on the Winter Shelter availability and how it compared to previous years; and Darryl Martin, Clark County, directed Ms. West to assist him with those numbers.

**Agenda Item 7. Receive a report on the status of the AB580 funded "Transition from Homelessness" Programs. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Pat Lau, OUTREACH Management Analyst, presented the quarterly OUTREACH report and summarized September's efforts and results. She and Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, commented on the critical shortage of housing, especially apartment complexes accepting rent vouchers.

There was discussion by the Committee about housing and the average cost per unit as well as flexibility in the budget for paying for housing.

Ms. Lera-Randle El commented on creative assistance for housing (i.e. allowing good samaritans who call about reporting a homeless individual to contribute money toward the cost for a hotel room or apartment) and on support services. She also shared an anecdotal story about a Hawaiian couple she'd assisted.

Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group, applauded Ms. Lera-Randle El for being awarded Advocate of the Year.

Melissa Goodwin, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY), presented a summary report for NPHY for July, 2006, through September, 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to accept both reports. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.**

Carol Beinhorn, public citizen, commented on a documentary she was producing on the homeless in Las Vegas.

Dr. Leroy Pelton, Homeless Advocate, commented about the continuing criminalization of the homeless, especially by the City of Las Vegas and Mayor Oscar Goodman, and about increasing government funding and resources for direct services. He requested an analysis of each of the cities' budgets regarding what portion of each was allocated for homeless direct services as a future agenda item. He commented on the

annual failure to increase the number of beds available, and he requested that a future agenda item also be a discussion on the government's responsibility to provide housing as a fundamental right.

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, commented about the continued assault on the homeless, especially violations to their civil and constitutional rights, by Mayor Oscar Goodman and the City of Las Vegas. He referred to two letters he submitted regarding a Southern Nevada Homeless Summit held between the SNRPC and HUD in September, 2001; and he recommended meeting again to discuss similar topics. He also commented on the former MASH village accommodating families and providing extra beds in an emergency tent.

Linda Lera-Randle El, Straight From the Streets, commented on the need for public outrage and public awareness. She also spoke about some shortcomings of the MASH crisis center and the need for more centers providing support services.

Kathleen Boutin, Nevada Homeless Alliance, volunteered to chair a working group on the assessment of the local government's budgets regarding homeless assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.