

## MEETING MINUTES

### COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

November 13, 2008

**In attendance:**

Orlando Sanchez, Chair, City of Las Vegas  
Maryann Ustick, Vice Chair, City of North Las Vegas  
Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Rose Ann Miele, City of Boulder City  
Adrienne Cox, Focus Property Group  
Gary Schofield, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department  
Darryl Martin, Clark County  
Gina Jackson, Nevada Homeless Alliance  
Myra Berkovits, Clark County School District  
Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration

**Absent:**

Skeet Fitzgerald, City of Henderson  
Mike Darley, Fitzgeralds Casino and Hotel

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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, November 13, 2008, in Commission Chambers in the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The agenda for the November 13, 2008, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for November 13, 2008.**

A motion was made and seconded to remove agenda item 7 (2009 Continuum of Care Application) and to approve the amended agenda for the November 13, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, and Darryl Martin, Clark County, had not arrived yet although quorum was met without them.

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on October 9, 2008.**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the October 9, 2008, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. Stuart Ghertner, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, and 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 Services Coordinator, gave a progress update stating that the 2009 Winter Homeless Census Count would be held on January 29, 2009, with returning assistance from Applied Survey

Research. She also stated that the UNLV Department of Public Administration was partnering in an effort to evaluate the Continuum of Care process and programming.

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

**Agenda Item 5. Receive a presentation on the October 8, 2008, Project Homeless Connect. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Ilona Nagy, Clark County, gave a presentation on the October 8, 2008, Project Homeless Connect via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Southern Nevada Project Homeless Connect 2008."

There was discussion by the Committee on: immigration services; Hispanic percentages appearing low; future partnerships with United Way to help manage volunteers; future promotion and potential increases in frequency; shifting resources to accommodate potential increasing frequency; expected date of completing data entry; follow-up and/or success stories; video testimonials; tracking who was placed in housing and where; and the HMIS system.

No motion or action was required on this agenda item.

**Agenda Item 6. Receive an update on the HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Kristin Cooper, Clark County, gave an update on the HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program via a PowerPoint presentation titled "Neighborhood Stabilization Program."

There was discussion by the Committee on: the total allocation to Southern Nevada; funding is not to be used to prevent foreclosures but is to be used to assist people to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes to rehabilitate them and/or to stabilize neighborhoods; funding can also be used to rehabilitate properties to convert to rental housing; funds must be committed to specific and legitimate projects or used completely within 18 months; plans/proposals must be submitted to HUD by 12/1/08 and HUD has 45 days to review and approve them; expected qualifications other than income; potential service gaps related to income; and assisting the homeless population within such a short timeframe.

A motion was made and seconded to forward this to the Coalition Board for their endorsement on how to use a portion of the set-aside funds of the total expected federal funding for the homeless population. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

This item was removed from the agenda.

**Agenda Item 8. Receive an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program. Recommended action - Take any necessary action.**

Shannon West, Regional Homeless Services Coordinator, gave an update on the Inclement Weather Shelter Program; and she stated that the Winter Weather Program opens on Monday, November 17 and runs through March 30. She also stated that a Community Campaign was being developed on how to consolidate cash donations as well as the donations of items (i.e. blankets, etc.).

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

## **Agenda Item 9. Public Comment.**

Frank Perna, Homeless Advocate, submitted two articles from the November 9, 2008, issue of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* titled “Veteran fights silence on mental pain” and “Many female vets homeless, in need”; and he submitted a letter dated November 13, 2008, addressed to the SNRPC Homeless Committee, as follows:

“There were two excellent articles in Sunday’s Review-Journal relating to veteran’s mental health and female veteran homelessness which I hope will be incorporated in future workshops and agendas. I’ve included these articles in the record.

All veterans, especially our Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans, have lost a champion in mental health care and their advocacy in the loss of V.A. Dr. Rena Nora. I want to extend condolences to her family, friends and fellow workers. Please read her obituary to gain an understanding of her many accomplishments.

I made public comments last month about public service announcements for veterans and was disappointed again in that our local veterans administration did not respond to my and others activism on behalf of veterans. These public service announcements would have to be initiated and approved by the local V.A. administration.

I hope they would appeal to the families and friends of veteran patients, especially the homeless and Iraqi-Afghanistan veterans, to accompany them on their appointments to help them in their rehabilitation. One of the articles I submitted spoke of the stigma of mental illness in the military but as we know there is a stigma in America against mental illness, especially in homelessness.

There was no mention of a liaison to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. Has there been any progress?”

Anthony Hodges, private citizen, commented on his son who is a veteran, and on the frustrations and difficulties in finding services for him since he’s not homeless.

Mr. Perna recommended Mark Smasal, Veterans Administration, meet with Mr. Hodges to help him; and he commented further on the importance of cooperation and communication. He also thanked Darryl Martin, Clark County, for forwarding the March 30 SNRPC Resolution to Arlen Spector and others.

Phillip Holloman, Catholic Charities, stated that 351 flu shots had been given to homeless individuals during the October 23 event; and he presented a flyer on the “Thanksgiving Turkey Sign-Up” to be held on November 14 and November 17-20 and the “Thanksgiving Extravaganza” partnership with the Excalibur to be held on November 25 at St. Vincent Lied Dining Facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.