

MEETING MINUTES SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION

January 29, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner Myrna Williams, Clark County
Councilman Lawrence Weekly, City of Las Vegas
Mayor Oscar Goodman, City of Las Vegas
Councilwoman Stephanie Smith, City of North Las Vegas
Councilman Steve Kirk, City of Henderson
Trustee Ruth Johnson, Clark County School District

Due to a lack of quorum, at 3:10 p.m., the members received a report on Agenda Item 8 while waiting.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a report on the current status of the Community Triage Center; and take appropriate action.

Janelle Kraft, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro), Dan Musgrove, Clark County, and Dick Steinberg from WestCare gave the report. Ms. Kraft reported that the Chronic Inebriate Task Force efforts are to try to relieve the overcrowding situation in the emergency rooms, jails, and in the courts in the community. The Task Force's goal is to lessen the occurrences of those who have drug and alcohol and mental disorders from accessing those systems by providing them with appropriate care and treatment. Some of the successes that the Task Force has experienced since their last report consist of several accomplishments. She stated that Senate Bill 94 was the primary bill to provide authorization for police, fire, and paramedic personnel to transport individuals who are in crisis to the Community Triage Center (CTC) instead of the emergency room. The Task Force was also able to help in a 32% increase in mental health funding and approval for the new State Mental Hospital construction. Metro has trained 114 police and corrections officers from several jurisdictions on how to respond to people in crisis. The Task Force also established a Jail Aftercare Program and assisted with obtaining grant funding for the first Mental Health Court in Southern Nevada.

At this point in the meeting a quorum was obtained; therefore, the meeting was officially called to order.

Agenda Item 1. Call to order, notice of agenda conformance with the Open Meeting Law.

Commissioner Myrna Williams, Vice Chair, called the meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition to order at 3:18 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 2004, at the East Las Vegas Community and Senior Center, 250 North Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

The agenda for the January 29, 2004, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for January 29, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 20, 2003, meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2003, meeting.

The meeting continued with Agenda Item 8.

Mr. Steinberg reported that the CTC has served over 5,000 individuals in the past year. The number served has increased significantly. These numbers are adults only. Regarding the adolescents and detox component, over 1000 have been assisted. Therefore, over 6000 people have been served during the past year. However, it is difficult to keep this going due to a lack of funding. Several cuts have been made because the budget is not at 100%. The Triage Center is continuing their search for funding in order to serve the community. The program works extremely well. WestCare does business in five different states. The cooperation of the service provider, local governments, and the hospitals is becoming a national model for other areas in the country in how we can work together. Mr. Musgrove reported that a three source system was set up to fund the budget for the CTC. One source is the local governments, which have contributed approximately \$1.2 million; another source is the hospitals, which have contributed approximately \$1.2 million; and the third source is the State. However, only a partial funding from the State has come through. The Triage Center was looking to the State for \$681,000 per year. Senate Bill 151 was the appropriation Bill that tasked the State to take care of their one-third portion of the total budget to fund the CTC. The Bill did not pass. Mr. Musgrove stated that strategically it should have been developed as part of the State's Human Resources budget. He believes that this strategy will be supported during the 2005 Legislative Session. In the meantime, other funding sources are being explored outside of the Legislative process.

Answering a question posed by Mayor Goodman, Mr. Steinberg stated that 1/3 of the individuals that access the CTC are mentally ill and approximately 75 or 80% are homeless. After 48 hours the CTC staff offer assistance for other services. Concerning an article regarding the CTC not wanting to receive a donation because it was from a source associated with a liquor company, Mr. Steinberg stated that he had not seen the article and that he was misquoted. Councilman Weekly asked about the long-term plans for the CTC. Mr. Steinberg stated that there needs to be dialog as to determine where the community would like to go with the issue as the population in the state grows. There would have to be changes made to the State laws in regards to licenses and policies. Councilman Weekly recommended that the item be placed on the SNRPC agenda on a future date in order to discuss what is happening with the CTC. Councilman Weekly also recommended that members of the Board visit the CTC. The community needs to look at a new way to handle the issue.

After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to receive the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for the 2004 calendar year.

Jon Wardlaw, Clark County, stated that the SNRPC is required to select officers annually at the first meeting in January. It is the Coalition's custom to rotate the Chair and Vice Chair between the entities. This year is Clark County's term to serve as Chair and the Clark County School District to serve as Vice Chair.

A motion was made to approve Myrna Williams as the Chair and the Clark County School District representative, Denise Brodsky, as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Receive a preliminary budget for fiscal year 2004 – 2005.

Each member received a copy of the SNRPC's preliminary budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 (Exhibit A). Mr. Wardlaw stated that the preliminary budget consists of the same budget line items and amounts from last fiscal year except the increases associated with cost of living and merit salary adjustments. The planning directors have been directed to prepare the work program for the next fiscal year and it will be presented to the Coalition Board at their March meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the fiscal year 2004-2005 preliminary budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a report from the Interviewing Committee; hold discussion; and select a candidate for the Regional Planner position, if appropriate.

Each member received an application packet (Exhibit B) for the three Regional Planner candidates that were interviewed on January 12, 2004. Sean Robinson, City of Las Vegas, informed the members that the item is on the agenda for the members to select the final candidate for the Regional Planner position. Mayor Goodman stated that several of the members had the privilege to interview the three candidates and had the opportunity to speak with each about their vision and experience. Mayor Goodman continued stating that after the interviews, the members concluded that all three candidates were excellent; however one conveyed an independence, background and knowledge in the area of planning that the members are looking for in this position. This person is Edward James from Utah. Mayor Goodman made a motion to retain Mr. James as the SNRPC Regional Planner. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The interview committee was directed to prepare a letter from the Coalition's Chair to all three candidates accordingly. Bob Genzer, City of Las Vegas, thanked Sean Robinson for his work on this item.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a report regarding the progress of the Homelessness Task Force; approve the selection of a Regional Homeless Coordinator; and take appropriate action.

Thom Reilly, Clark County, introduced Rose Mary West representing the Southern Nevada United Way, and Paula Haynes-Green, the top candidate recommended for the Regional Homelessness Coordinator position. Mr. Reilly stated that he is pleased to recommend to the Coalition Board Ms. Paula Haynes-Green who was selected out of seventy applicants to be the area's first Regional Homelessness Coordinator. Mr. Reilly gave a brief description of Ms. Haynes-Green's background and past work experience.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Hayes-Green as the Regional Homelessness Coordinator. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Reilly continued reporting on shelter options for the homeless. Each member received a copy of the 2003-04 Winter Crisis Shelter Options for the Homeless Interim One-Year Plan (Exhibit C). The plan consists of three phases as follows:

Phase 1 consists of contracted shelter beds. Mr. Reilly directed the members' attention to Exhibit C, stating that the Technical Committee on Homelessness has held three meetings. One of the issues being addressed is the issue of winter beds for the homeless. The draft plan proposal will be finalized on January 22 and will be presented to the SNRPC Board. The first phase of the plan is to use contracted winter beds. This action was implemented on November 25, 2003. Clark County has contracted with existing shelters for emergency beds for the duration of the winter season. The contract includes shelter for both single men and women and women/families. The County will request participation from the municipalities consistent with previous homeless funding allocations. The plan includes criteria for declaring an inclement winter weather emergency. Based on input from the Clark County Coroner, an inclement winter weather emergency shall be considered when the following conditions are met: 1) temperatures are at or below 36 degrees and cold temperatures are combined with dangerous wind chill factors and/or sustained precipitation, and 2) all emergency winter beds are full. Once capacity is reached during an inclement weather emergency, Phase 2 will be implemented.

Phase 2 consists of the use of motels throughout the Valley by way of a motel voucher program, which would be funded using Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds. Clark County Social Services Department anticipates receiving between \$80,000 - \$100,000 federal dollars from United Way by late January 2004. The distribution points would be established at Catholic Charities, Clark County Social Services (Martin Luther King and Carey), Salvation Army in Henderson, and the Street Teen Drop-In Sanctuary near UNLV.

Phase 3 consists of use of the armory or another State-identified facility. When the calculated capacity to pay beds, overflow beds, and the motel vouchers are exhausted Phase 3 would be implemented. Use of the armory would be provided at no cost; however, there will be cost associated with security and clean up.

After discussion, a motion was made to adopt the 2003-2004 Winter Crisis Shelter Options for the Homeless Interim One-Year Plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Reilly introduced Rose Mary West from the United Way of Southern Nevada to report on the Community Assistance Center (CAC). Ms. West stated that the property is located on the campus of Catholic Charities. In the last few weeks \$75,000 has been secured toward the \$100,000 goal to complete the center. Ms. West recognized two major donors; Stations Casinos donated \$50,000 towards build out and in turn the building will be named Fertitta Community Assistance Center. The land donation of \$25,000 was provided by KLAS TV Channel 8. The United Way is still looking to secure the final \$25,000 to reach the \$100,000 goal. A ground breaking ceremony is scheduled for mid February. Regarding the operational funding, the United Way has pledged \$61,000, the City of Las Vegas has pledged \$60,000, and Clark County has pledged \$60,000. Meetings are scheduled with the remaining cities to secure pledges. The CAC has also received approximately \$13,000 worth of office furniture as a donation. The entire project has truly been a community effort supported by all of the generous people in the

community. Mr. Reilly concluded the report, informing the members that the Southern Nevada Continuum of Care application was not funding this year because the overall score of the application was too low. Two of the main factors for the low rating were because Southern Nevada has not conducted a count of the homeless since 1999. Clark County has partnered with the UNLV Department of Sociology to conduct the count. The second factor is that the HMIS system is a requirement to be considered for funding. Staff will return to the next Coalition meeting to discuss strategies for getting these items accomplished.

Agenda Item 9. Approve the 2003 population estimates for Clark County and its cities and towns.

Each member received a copy of the Clark County, Nevada 2003 Population Estimates – by Place (Exhibit D). Mr. Wardlaw stated that in 2000 the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition took a lead roll and adopted a Resolution that established the population estimation method that is to be used in Clark County. Mesquite also approves the same process by means of Resolution adopted by their City Council. On September 25, 2003, the Coalition, for the fourth year in a row, endorsed the adopted methodology set forth in the Resolution and attached are the 2003 population estimates for Clark County, its cities and towns. These population estimates are completed in a cooperative effort that involves each of the local jurisdictions. These figures are vital to the regional planning process as they are used for planning purposes by the SNRPC member agencies as well as other local and federal organizations.

A motion was made to accept the meeting schedule as proposed. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. The next date and location for the SNRPC Board is tentatively scheduled for March 25, 2004, 3:00 p.m. at the Clark County School District.

The next date, time and location were approved as above.

Agenda Item 11. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.