

**MEETING MINUTES
SOUTHERN NEVADA REGIONAL PLANNING COALITION
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2004**

In attendance:

John Sullard, Chair, Boulder City
Thom Reilly, Vice Chair, Clark County
Gregory Rose, City of North Las Vegas
Phil Speight, City of Henderson
Steve Houchens, Alternate, City of Las Vegas
Fred Smith, Clark County School District

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

Thom Reilly, Vice Chair, called to order the meeting of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition Technical Committee at 4:07 p.m., on Thursday, January 8, 2004, in the Pueblo Conference Room, at the Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89155.

The Agenda for the January 8, 2004, meeting was duly posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of the Agenda for January 8, 2004.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the January 8, 2004, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 3. Approval of the Minutes from the November 6, 2003, meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 4. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for the 2004 calendar year; take any necessary action.

A motion was made to nominate Thom Reilly as the Chair and Fred Smith as the Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 5. Receive a status report from staff regarding the Regional Planner recruitment, direct staff accordingly.

Sean Robinson, City of Las Vegas, informed the members that three candidates have been selected to be interviewed. The interviews would be held on January 12, 2004, in the City of North Las Vegas beginning with a "meet and greet" at 2:30 p.m. and the actual interviews beginning at 3:00 p.m. The interviews have been posted as a public meeting and a quorum of the SNRPC Board has been confirmed for attendance.

No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item 6. Receive a preliminary SNRPC 2004 budget and direct the Planning Directors to prepare a work plan and final budget for consideration by the Technical Committee and Board.

Each member received a copy of the Preliminary budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 (Exhibit A). Jon Wardlaw, Clark County, stated that the SNRPC bylaws require that a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year be presented at the January meeting. Referring to Exhibit A, the preliminary budget for fiscal year July 1, 2004 - June 30, 2005 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. A proposed work program for the next fiscal year is currently being considered by the planning directors. The recommendation for this item is to accept the report on the FY 2004 preliminary budget, direct the planning directors to prepare a work plan, and to forward the preliminary budget to the SNRPC Board.

A motion was made and seconded to follow the recommendation. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Agenda Item 7. Receive a request for planning information assistance from RTC staff, take any necessary action.

(Due to technical difficulties, the slide presentation was not delivered on this item.) Jerry Duke, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), gave the report. The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RPC) and the Department of Air Quality Management are requesting SNRPC assistance with land use and development information and forecasts for use in federally required modeling efforts. This information is required for use as the data input to the Travel Demand Model, Emissions Model, and Air Quality Dispersion Model. In the past, the RTC has contracted private firms to carry out this work and then asked for consensus approval of the results by the Cities and County. For many reasons, this has proven to be an inefficient, costly, and difficult process. Therefore, the RPC is suggesting a significant process improvement in asking the SNRPC members' planning and demographics staff for ongoing assistance in directly preparing future land use and the related population and demographic information for the area's Traffic Analysis Zones. The detailed presentation of this agenda item is available upon request (Exhibit B)

A motion was made to approve the process and outline as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 8. Receive a status report from the Homelessness Subcommittee; take any necessary action.

Each member received a draft copy of the Draft Crisis Shelter Options for the Homeless (Exhibit C), and the Funding Proposal for the Community Assistance Center (Exhibit D). A report was given on three major issues; 1) Recruitment of the Regional Homelessness Coordinator, 2) winter beds, and 3) the new Community Assistance Center. Nancy McLane, Clark County Social Services, reported on the recruitment of a Regional Homelessness Coordinator who will be responsible for implementing the recommendations that came out of the SNRPC Homeless Symposium in 2000. The recruitment for the Regional Homelessness Coordinator began in late November 2003 and 70 applications were received for the position. Of the 70 submitted applications, 41 met the minimum qualifications. The applications were screened by homelessness advocates and a representative from the City of Las Vegas. The applicants were interviewed by the "first round" interview panel which consisted of a representative from the Cities of Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Clark County, and a homelessness advocate. The first round interview panel narrowed the applicants down to 11 people. Ms. McLane stated that after further screening the applicants were narrowed down to 2 candidates

who were being interviewed today by the final interview panel. The final interview panel consists of the City of Las Vegas, Clark County, and two homelessness advocates. A mixture would be held until 6:00 p.m. tonight allowing interested parties to meet the 2 candidates. Final selection would be made tomorrow. After the background check is completed, the chosen candidate would attend the January 22, 2004, SNRPC Board meeting for ratification. The successful candidates will begin in the position sometime between February 9 and February 22, 2004. Regarding the crisis shelter options, three phases have been developed.

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. Phase 3 would have to be approved by the SNRPC because it requires participation and contribution from each entity. Mr. Reilly suggested that a report be given, at the SNRPC Board's next meeting, on Phase 1 and 2, and that a recommendation for approval be requested for Phase 3 of the plan. In regards to the new Community Assistance Center, Dan Goulet, representative from the United Way of Southern Nevada, informed the members that from 1995 to 2002 the Crisis Intervention Center (CIC) at Father Joe's MASH Village provided a "one-stop-shop" for about 30 social services providers for the homeless population in the Valley. This center was closed in the fall of 2002 due to lack of community financial support. The United Way of Southern Nevada, Catholic Charities, and Clark County Social Services have developed a plan to relocate the services formerly housed at the CIC, as well as expand program opportunities. Catholic Charities has agreed to allow the Fertitta Building located on its campus to be rehabilitated for use as a new Community Assistance Center. The United Way has taken the lead to secure donated services and labor to complete the building. The new focus for services will expand from serving only the homeless population to also supporting families and Veterans. Funding requirements for the project are anticipated at \$100,000. To date, \$75,000 in contributions has been secured. The United Way continues to seek community support so that the project can begin on schedule this month with a 90-day build-out. A five-year sustaining operational budget has been developed and 80% of the budget has been secured.

A motion was made to approve the report on all three issues and forward the items to the SNRPC Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 9. Receive a status report on the West Care Continuum of Care; take any necessary action.

Janelle Kraft, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Metro), Dan Musgrove, Clark County, and Dick Steinberg from WestCare gave the report. The SNRPC joined with the Chronic Inebriate Task Force to work together in order to resolve the problems associated with emergency room overcrowding, detention facility overcrowding and the divert situation caused by the significant number of chronic inebriates and mentally ill person who were being held in emergency rooms and jail cells because there was insufficient mental health services and metal health beds available. The SNRPC recognized this as a regional issue and directed staff to assist in the task force in developing an action plan. One of the most significant items on the action plan was the determination that the community should create a centralized drop off location for triage. This location is the Community Triage Center (CTC). The Triage Center assesses, treat, and stabilize these chronic inebriates outside of the jail, and emergency room environment.

Ms. Kraft reported on some of the successes the Task Force has experienced since their last report to the Technical Committee. 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 CTC instead o 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.

Mr. Musgrove reported that 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. Local governments contributed approximately \$1.2 million, the hospitals contributed approximately \$1.2 million and we were looking to the State for \$681,000 per year, for a total of approximately \$1.2 million. 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.

Mr. Steinberg reported that in the past year 5,154 people have been diverted from the hospitals to WestCare. 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 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 stated that it is important for this issue to be brought back before the Coalition Board because it is a regional issue and it is not going away; however, there are some solutions to alternative funding available.

After discussion, a motion was made to forward this item to the SNRPC Board. The motion was approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 10. Set the agenda for the January 22, 2004, SNRPC Board Meeting.

A motion was made and approved for the following agenda items to be heard at the January 22, 2004, SNRPC Board meeting:

- Elect the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Accept the Southern Nevada 2003 Population Estimate.
- Receive a status report on the Regional Planning position. (If selected this item would call for approval of the Regional Planner.)
- Receive the SNRPC preliminary budget for FY 2004-2005.
- Receive a status report from the Homelessness Committee.
- Receive a status report on the West Care Continuum of Care.

Agenda Item 11. The next date and location for the Technical Committee meeting is tentatively set for March 11, 2004, 4:00 p.m., in the Las Vegas Valley Water District's Mead 1 Conference Room.

The Technical Committee meeting date, time, and location was approved accordingly.

Agenda Item 12. Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.