

**Community Homelessness Advisory Board
DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, February 1, 2021, 9:00am

Meeting was held via teleconference only pursuant to NRS 241.023

Members:

Neoma Jardon, Chair, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Reno
Oscar Delgado, Councilmember, Ward 3, City of Reno
Ed Lawson, Vice-Chair, Mayor, City of Sparks
Kristopher Dahir, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Sparks
Alexis Hill, County Commissioner, District 1, Washoe County
Bob Lucey, County Commissioner, District 2, Washoe County

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:06 a.m. via Zoom webinar online. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, Ashley Turney, City Clerk, City of Reno, called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

AGENDA ITEM 2. Roll Call

Present:

Neoma Jardon

Oscar Delgado

Ed Lawson

Kristopher Dahir

Alexis Hill

Absent:

Bob Lucey

AGENDA ITEM 3. Public Comment. (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

No public comment was received.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Approval of Agenda - For Possible Action - February 1, 2021

On motion by Member Lawson, seconded by Member Hill, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Approval of Minutes - For Possible Action - December 7, 2020

A motion by Member Delgado, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Board update on the Built for Zero initiative and homelessness solutions matrix - Dana Searcy, Washoe County

Member Lucey present at 9:02 a.m.

Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager, Washoe County, provided an update on the foundational work being done with Built for Zero. Ms. Searcy indicated they have focused their efforts to provide quality data to help guide a strategic direction and plan for assisting the homeless community.

The current Built for Zero data graphs reflected a variety of topics including the monthly reporting data, unsheltered vs sheltered homeless population, and inflow versus outflow of individuals experiencing homelessness. It was mentioned that the data is continuing to be developed.

With the support of the Truckee River Fund Grant, two needle collection containers were installed. The Karma Box Project is also working to provide education and support on safe disposal of needles.

Discussion ensued on the importance of a regional effort for supporting those experiencing homelessness.

No public comment or action was taken on this item

AGENDA ITEM 7. Presentation and discussion on law enforcement efforts related to encampments along the Truckee River and an update on collaborative regional discussions - Deputy Chief Oliver Miller, Reno Police Department, Deputy Chief Clinte Bellamy, Sparks Police Department, Deputy Chief Greg Herrera, Washoe County Sheriff's Office - For Possible Action

Deputy Chief Greg Herrera, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, began the presentation on the Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homeless Outreach by emphasizing the need for collaborative inter-agency outreach efforts.

Deputy Chief Clinte Bellamy, Sparks Police Department, provided an overview and shared the current objectives for the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (H.O.P.E) team.

Deputy Chief Greg Herrera stated the Washoe County Sheriff's Office is in the process of establishing a Homeless Outreach Team, with a proposed start date of July 2021 to begin full time operations.

Deputy Chief Oliver Miller, Reno Police Department, provided an overview on the Clean and Safe Team established by the Reno City Manager's Office in January 2020.

Lieutenant John Galicia, University Police Services, stated the University Police Services currently do not have specific personnel solely assigned to assist homeless related calls for service. A part-time team consisting of two patrol officers, one lieutenant, and two UNR social work students, is being created to assist in the inter-agency efforts in helping those experiencing homelessness.

Deputy Chief Clinte Bellamy, Sparks Police Department stated the participating agencies have been sharing data and information since December of 2020 with the objective to improve outreach efforts.

Member Lawson inquired whether or not the law enforcement agencies were considering a regional unit similar to other emergency response units.

Deputy Chief Oliver Miller stated the law enforcement agencies are currently discussing the best approach for all agencies. Possible approaches include creating a regional unit, or exchanging information and data through teams based on jurisdictions.

Chair Jardon, City of Reno, requested regional law enforcement agency updates for all foreseeable future CHAB meetings.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus including, but not limited to, construction, site improvements, and community fundraising initiatives - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno - For Possible Action

Arlo Stockham, Acting Assistant City Manager, City of Reno, provided an update on the construction of the Nevada Cares Campus. Construction has been delayed at least a

week due to weather conditions. The primary contractor, Q & D Construction, is expediting the clearing of snow to begin pouring concrete.

The Nevada Cares Campus structure is scheduled to be delivered the second week of February 2021. It was mentioned the competition date of March 15, 2021 could be delayed into late March 2021.

Mr. Stockham mentioned a phase two improvement plan for the interior of the Nevada Cares Campus will continue to be worked on with the guidance of the invested agencies, community, and outside organizations interested in contributing. The phase two improvement plan was discussed to be funded through a combination of Government and private contributions. Improvement ideas have included a kitchen, cafeteria, resource center, and secured storage.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Presentation from the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope's Camp Hope, a transitional living community, located in Las Cruces, New Mexico – Nicole Martinez, Executive Director

Nicole Martinez, Executive Director, Mesilla Valley Community of Hope, provided a presentation on Camp Hope, a tent city program established in 2011 for the City of Las Cruces. The presentation highlighted the camps operations, concerns, successes, and development.

Ms. Martinez emphasized the importance of working with the City of Las Cruces and receiving their permission for services. Additional information was shared on the Hope Camp's safety team, housing support services, and management of camp residents.

Member Lawson inquired about the acreage size of the Hope Camp site.

Ms. Martinez estimated the size of the Hope Camp to be two to three acres and confirmed there are 45 individual tent sites located ten feet apart within that area.

Member Dahir inquired about Hope Camp's drug tolerance and crime regulations.

Ms. Martinez shared Camp Hope does not require individuals to be sober to utilize the camp. However, the property is City owned and does not permit or allow any drug or alcohol consumption on property. Services and support are available on site for

individuals experiencing addictive behaviors.

Mr. Stockham stated the Governor's Bowl has an estimated two acres that could be dedicated to a camping area for approximately 175 camping sites.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Board update and discussion on the status of the RFP to solicit a vendor for the sanctioned safe camp at the Nevada Cares Campus - Kate Thomas, Washoe County - For Possible Action

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County, provided an update on the draft RFP regarding the sanctioned safe camp being located on the Nevada Cares Campus.

Ms. Thomas stated the draft terms of the RFP have been distributed to all City Managers and is ready for review from law enforcement and staff for completion.

Ms. Thomas recommended a future discussion on funding sources for the RFP. The possibility of receiving combined funding from the private sector, nonprofits, and Government agencies was suggested.

Discussion ensued on the short-term sheltering benefits and concerns on a sanctioned safe camp.

Member Delgado absent at 10:39 a.m.

Member Delgado present at 10:47 a.m.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Board members announcements and updates, including future agenda items requests. - No discussion will take place on this item.

Member Hill requested a future agenda item from Washoe County to provide a timeline encompassing shelter operations and development.

Member Lucey stated as of November 2020 the Washoe County Human Services Agency operates an emergency motel housing program. To date this service has housed 150 individuals and currently has 53 housed through the motel housing program.

Chair Jardon requested a visual tool to summarize and inform the community of the efforts being done regionally to help the homeless community.

Member Lucey requested a future agenda item for discussion on the Foundation Communities in Austin Texas that are offering access to healthcare and financial services to their community.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Public Comment (This item is for either public comment on any action item or for any general public comment.)

No public comment was received.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Adjournment - For Possible Action

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Hill, seconded by Member Lawson, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.