

**Community Homelessness Advisory Board**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, April 5, 2021 9:00 a.m.

*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 9:04 a.m. via Zoom webinar online.

**AGENDA ITEM 1. Pledge of Allegiance**

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.)**

City Clerk Turney stated one public comment was received from Kathleen Maxwell via the City of Reno website, expressing various concerns regarding limited public bathroom accessibility for the homeless community.

**AGENDA ITEM 4. Approval of Agenda – (For Possible Action) – April 5, 2021**

On motion by Member Delgado, 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) – March 1, 2021**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 6. Presentation from GRACE Marketplace in Gainesville and Alachua County, Florida – Jon DeCarmine, MS, Executive Director**

Jon DeCarmine, Executive Director, GRACE Marketplace, located in the city of Gainesville provided a presentation on the organization's one-stop homeless assistance center, GRACE. An overview on the organizations national best practices on resolving issues with homeless camps and prioritizing permanent housing was included.

Alachua County has a population of approximately 270,000 individuals with approximately 160,000 individuals residing in the City of Gainesville. Based on the most recent Point-in-Time (PIT) count, Gainesville currently has a homeless population of approximately 800 individuals.

The GRACE campus and Dignity Village (DV) was established in 2014. Since its establishment, approximately 1600 individuals have transitioned to permanent housing with a housing retention rate of 90%. The housing retention rate represents the percentage of individuals who transition and remain in permanent housing after one year.

DV was established as the alternative solution in response to a 200 person tent city which was removed from downtown Gainesville. Located on the GRACE campus, DV offers an organized and centralized location for public safety and amenities. However, DV was

closed in 2019 due to violence, drug activity, and no self-governance to include uncompensated EMS costs, insufficient staffing, and individuals becoming stagnant.

A temporary transitional campground was established as an option for individuals once DV closed permanently. Residents were surveyed six months prior to the closing of the camp to determine interest and priorities for the new temporary campground with pet services and couple sites mentioned as a high priority.

Mr. DeCarmine outlined the history of responsibility between Alachua County and the City of Gainesville regarding operations and funding. In 2009, the two entities divided responsibilities 50/50. However, the current agreement states the City of Gainesville is responsible for the operating budget while Alachua County is responsible for the permanent housing program.

Member Dahir inquired about GRACE organization's experience in sourcing safe affordable housing.

Mr. DeCarmine stated affordable housing continues to be a challenge. GRACE continues to leverage existing relationships with landlords and creates diversion programs to help supply affordable housing options.

Member Hill inquired about GRACE's approach to community misconceptions suggesting those who experience homelessness prefer to reside without assistance or services. Mr. DeCarmine suggested PIT count surveys along with community outreach.

Member Jardon inquired about GRACE's process of calculating their PIT count survey. Mr. DeCarmine explained that GRACE hires residents of the campus to gather the data and information themselves within the community.

Member Lawson inquired if residents of GRACE are required to participate in chores or labor. Mr. DeCarmine stated residents are required to follow seven rules of expectation but are not required to participate in labor.

No public comment was received and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 7. Update on regional outreach efforts underway and collaborative regional law enforcement discussions – Deputy Chief Oliver Miller, Reno Police Department, Deputy Chief Clinte Bellamy, Sparks Police Department, Deputy Chief Greg Herrera, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Lieutenant Josh Reynolds, University of Nevada, Reno, Police Department, and Regional Staff – (Non-Action Item)**

Deputy Chief Oliver Miller, Reno Police Department, provided an update on the City of Reno's outreach operations. The Clean and Safe Team operations have been focused along the downtown river corridor in preparation of the Cares Campus opening.

Monica Cochran, Housing & Neighborhood Development Senior Management Analyst, City of Reno, provided an overview on the operations of coordinating providers and available services with individuals in need.

Deputy Chief Clinte Bellamy, Sparks Police Department provided an update on the Sparks Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (H.O.P.E.) Team. The H.O.P.E. Team has provided outreach to over 1,250 individuals since July 2020. In addition, Sparks PD has assisted the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the University of Nevada (UNR) Police Department with their outreach programs.

Lieutenant Josh Reynolds, UNR Police Department, provided an update on the current UNR outreach operations. Two full-time UNR officers have been assigned to collaborate with the H.O.P.E. Team specifically in the areas surrounding the University.

Lieutenant Anthony Maselli, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, provided an update on the current Washoe County outreach operations. The newly established Washoe County H.O.P.E. Team is planning for a full-time outreach unit consisting of one sergeant and two deputies to begin July 2021. Additional Washoe County outreach is taking place for individuals camping on BLM land.

Rachel Rosensteel, Health Plan of Nevada, provided an update on Health Plan of Nevada's collaborations specifically between Washoe County, UNR, Sparks Hope Team, and the Clean and Safe Team.

Member Hill emphasized the need to centralize and share the data collected on individuals experiencing homelessness regionally with all agencies. Chief of Police Jason Soto, City of Reno, mentioned concerns regarding the legality of sharing individual's information between agencies.

Member Delgado inquired the reasoning behind City of Reno not utilizing Good Grid or Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data at this time.

DC Miller clarified efforts are currently underway for the City of Reno to transition its current process towards a digital data information system.

No public comment was received and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 8. Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus including, but not limited to, construction, possible future site improvements, and stakeholder engagement – Doug Thornley, City of Reno – (Non-Actions Item)**

Doug Thornley, City Manager, City of Reno provided an update on the Nevada Cares Campus.

Mr. Thornley stated the building and surrounding perimeter of the Nevada Cares Campus is anticipated to be completed by April 15, 2021. Volunteers of America (VOA) is

scheduled to move equipment and beds by April 21, 2021 with an anticipated opening date of April 30, 2021. The transition of current Community Assistance Center (CAC) and 4<sup>th</sup> St Shelter clients to the Nevada Cares Campus is scheduled for April 22 – April 29, 2021.

Onsite meals will continue to be provided by Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission for breakfast and Northern Nevada Catholic Charities for lunch and dinner.

The City of Reno Clean and Safe Team is continuing to provide outreach and information to the community regarding the Nevada Cares Campus.

No public comment was received and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 9. Board update, discussion, and recommendation related to the transition and responsibilities of regional shelter operations from the City of Reno to Washoe County – Regional Agencies Staff – (For Possible Action)**

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County, provided an update on the Washoe County Safe Camp which is currently in the development phase. The infrastructure development of the site is expected to take several months. A temporary site is being developed in response to the timeframe with an anticipated opening date of May 2021. The temporary site will operate to provide services while the Safe Camp is under construction.

The Safe Camp services will include restrooms, handwashing, trash, drinking water and evening meals. The Safe Camp will have 24/7 staffing to include a full-time County staff member, contracted operating staff, case management, and contracted security. The Safe Camp will be a low barrier shelter, with no drugs or alcohol allowed on site. Long term priorities for the Safe Camp include options for couples and pets.

No public comment was received and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 10. Board update, discussion, and recommendation related to the transition and responsibilities of regional shelter operations from the City of Reno to Washoe County – Regional Agencies Staff – (For Possible Action)**

Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager, provided an update on the transition of regional shelter responsibilities.

Washoe County, City of Reno, and City of Sparks are in the process of drafting an interlocal agreement. Collaboration between the jurisdictions continues to be a priority. The proposed staffing plan is being presented at the upcoming Washoe County Budget meeting later this month for review.

No public comment was received and no 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 Jardon and Member Hill have begun meeting with groups of individuals who have experienced homelessness with efforts to gather feedback for improving shelter services and priorities. Member Jardon mentioned interest in a future presentation from individuals who have transitioned out of homelessness.

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

Public Comment was received from Dawn Houghtling in regards to homeless services in the North Valleys area.

**AGENDA ITEM 13. Adjournment – (For Possible Action)**

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Member Lawson, which motion duly carried on a vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.