

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT MINUTES

Monday, June 7, 2021
9:00 a.m.
Reno City Council Chamber
One East First Street
Reno, NV 89501

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

1. Call to Order

The Community Homeless Advisory Board was called to order at 9:05 AM and the Board conducted the following business:

2. Roll Call

Present:

Neoma Jardon
Oscar Delgado
Charlene Bybee alternate for Ed Lawson
Kristopher Dahir
Alexis Hill

Absent:

Ed Lawson
Bob Lucey

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

Ilya Arbatman spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.
Emily Montan spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.
Jammal Tarkinyten spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.
Pam Gormy spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.
Tara Tran spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.
Michael Carson spoke about concerns regarding the homeless in the region.

4. Approval of Agenda - For Possible Action

a. June 7, 2021

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

5. Approval of Minutes - For Possible Action

a. April 5, 2021

On motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Member Hill, which motion duly carried on a 4-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved. Member Bybee stated she abstained from the vote as she was not in attendance at the April 5, 2021 meeting.

6. Presentation on vehicle homelessness and safe parking programs - Iris Jehle-Peppard and Eileen Bidwell, One Truckee River - *Non-Action Item*

Iris Jehle-Peppard, Executive Director, One Truckee River (OTR), along with Eileen Bidwell, Human Services Educator, OTR, provided a presentation on the issues and challenges associated with vehicle homelessness.

Safe parking programs are operating with the primary goal to provide safe temporary vehicle camping for those experiencing homelessness. Examples of existing safe parking programs around the country were presented.

Member Hill inquired if an audit of all current individuals experiencing vehicle homelessness in the region exists. Ms. Bidwell mentioned there is no accurate count or audit for that population as it is so difficult to track and is not included in the annual Point in Time count.

Member Bybee suggested collaborating with churches and private businesses for parking program locations and management.

Discussion ensued regarding community engagement and participation in the development and benefit of safe parking programs and services.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

7. Presentation on the 2021 Point in Time Count - JD Klippenstein, Continuum of Care Leadership - *Non-Action Item*

JD Klippenstein, Chair, Northern Nevada Continuum of Care Leadership Council, provided a presentation on the Point in Time (PIT) Count for 2021.

The 2021 PIT was conducted on February 4, 2021. The PIT is an annual count done in one day of all the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in the region. The comprehensive count was submitted to The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by the May 14, 2021 deadline which included the unsheltered count, emergency shelter count, and transitional housing count. The total amount of HUD funding being provided in response to the 2021 PIT count has yet to be determined; a total is expected by Fall 2021.

The unsheltered count is an annual count by volunteers and law enforcement using the Counting US App. The 2021 unsheltered count was conducted by 33 volunteers and 22 law enforcement officers over 34 different mapped areas within the region.

The emergency shelter count for 2021 concluded a total of 697 individuals experiencing homelessness. The following providers were those included in the emergency shelter count: OUR Place Woman, OUR Place Families, VOA Men's Shelter, RISE Emergency Motel Vouchers, Safe Embrace, DVRC, Eddy House, and Nation's Finest.

The transitional housing count for 2021 concluded a total of 231 individuals experiencing homelessness. The following providers were those included in the transitional housing count: Bristlecone, Casa De Vida, DVRC, Eddy House, Empowerment Center, Hosanna Home, NYEP, Safe Embrace, Step 1, Steps to New Freedom, Vitality Unlimited, VOA - Veterans, and Westcare.

A PIT survey was given to 174 individuals at the emergency shelter. The PIT survey was conducted to provide information on the causes of homelessness.

Discussion ensued on the results and data provided from the PIT survey.

Member Hill inquired if the PIT count data and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data are inclusive of one another. Hettie Read, Management Analyst, City of Reno, clarified there may be some variations between the sets of data due to individuals having to complete a program enrollment to be included in HMIS.

Discussion ensued on benefits of the PIT count and potential adjustments and improvements for the next annual count and survey.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

8. Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus shelter including, but not limited to, operations, facility transition, and shelter usage - Doug Thornley, City of Reno - *Non-Action Item*

Doug Thornley, City Manager, City of Reno, provided an update on the current daily operations and management of the Nevada Cares Campus.

The Nevada Cares Campus currently has 550 guests residing at the campus, 54 open beds, and 100 emergency overflow cots available.

Volunteers of America (VOA) have 12-14 staff members, including two case managers, operating the campus daily. High speed internet is being installed at the campus in the coming weeks to increase support and efficiency for case workers and staff.

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada has provided 37,174 meals as of June 6, 2021 and continues to provide three meals a day. Allied Security has three full time staff members currently on site 24 hours seven days a week.

Mr. Thornley stated the Nevada Cares Campus is continuing to see an increase in usage, specifically by single women. The Nevada Cares Campus is hiring additional security officers,

and installing fencing for central ingress and egress, to support safety concerns on campus. A Covid-19 vaccination clinic is available on site and efforts are underway for additional pet vaccination options. The shade structure from the day use site along 4th street was relocated to the Nevada Cares Campus on Friday June 4, 2021.

The Nevada Cares Campus is accommodating single women, couples, and couples with pets at this time. Additional temporary sani huts and handwashing stations were installed to accommodate for the increase in volume until industrial style utilities become available.

The City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County are collaborating to finalize an interlocal agreement for shelter operations. Upcoming phases for the campus include fundraising efforts and transitional housing outreach supported by the Reno Housing Authority.

Mr. Thornley summarized previous outreach efforts that took place beginning November 2020 leading up to the opening of the Nevada Cares Campus.

Cynthia Esparza, Senior Management Analyst, City of Reno, provided information on storage options available at the campus. There are individual lockers for small belongings and an on site storage facility for larger items available at the campus.

Amber Howl, Human Services Director, Washoe County, provided clarification on the process of transitioning women and families from Nevada Cares campus to Our Place. Our Place staff provides Nevada Cares staff with a list of bed vacancies and available pick up times daily to help women and families into transitional housing.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

9. Board update and discussion on the Nevada Cares Campus safe camp including, but not limited to, scheduled opening and operations - Kate Thomas, Washoe County - *Non-Action Item*

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager, Washoe County, provided an update on the safe camp at the Nevada Cares Campus.

The safe camp site is intended to provide a safe location for temporary camping and will be autonomous from the Nevada Cares Campus community. The safe camp will have 44 tents at the initial opening on Thursday June 17, 2021. Tents and cots are being provided.

Individuals will be required to work towards a housing plan and submit a simple application including a minimum amount of personal information for admission. Applications will be distributed and collected through Pilot Partners. The existing Pilot Partners include: Eddy House, Health Plan of Nevada, Washoe County MOST team, City of Reno - Clean and Safe Program, Safe Camp Case Manager, and Karma Box Project. The Washoe County Regional Homeless Services (WCRHS) team will be responsible for reviewing applications.

No public comment or action was taken on this item.

10. Board update, discussion, and possible recommendation to staff related to the transition and responsibilities of regional shelter operations and the Continuum of Care from the City of Reno to Washoe County - Regional Agencies Staff - *For Possible Action*

Mr. Thornley provided an update on the transition of shelter operations and responsibilities between City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County.

All three agencies are collaborating on an interlocal agreement (ILA) that will discuss the timeline of transitioning responsibilities to Washoe County, capital contributions, and other operational information. Once the ILA is approved all pre existing contracts will be transferred to Washoe County.

Mr. Thornley provided clarification on the amount of case managers currently on staff at the shelter. Nevada Cares Campus currently has a total of ten case managers employed and no less than two case managers on site at a time. Once internet access is fully functional all ten case managers will be on site full time.

On motion by Member Hill, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered to approve the transition of responsibilities of regional shelter operations and the Continuum of Care from the City of Reno to Washoe County.

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

Member Dahir emphasised the need for community collaboration and participation in regards to homelessness and requested an update from the Eddy House at the next meeting.

Member Jardon requested an update from Built for Zero, One Truckee River, and Nevada Cares Campus phase two at the next meeting.

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

Correspondence was received from and entered into the official record from the following individuals:

Lynette Schweigert
Jackie Reilly

13. Adjournment - For Possible Action

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Hill, seconded by Member Bybee, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.