MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE NEVADA INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON

HOMELESSNESS

December 16, 2020

The Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness was called to order by Chair Lisa Lee at 3:05 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. The meeting was video conferenced via WebEx. In accordance with Nevada Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, there was no physical location for this public hearing. Exhibit A is the Agenda. Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster. Exhibit C is the Southern Nevada Continuum of Care PIT Presentation. Exhibit D is the Built For Zero Presentation. Exhibit E is the Northern Nevada Continuum of Care Presentation. Exhibit F is the Rural Nevada Continuum of Care Presentation. Exhibit G is the update from the Technical Assistance Subcommittee. All exhibits are available and posted on the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services website https://dwss.nv.gov/Home/Features/Public-Information/

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Lisa Lee, Private Citizen, Reno, NV

Stephen Aichroth, Administrator, Nevada Housing Division

A. J. Delap for Chuck Callaway, Sheriff of Clark County, Nevada

Judge Mike Montero, 6th District, Nevada

Fred Wagar, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Moises Denis, Senator, Nevada

Greg Herrera, Chief Deputy, Washoe County, Nevada

Bea Duran, Assemblywoman, Nevada

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Williams, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Corrections

Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Sheriff Jerry Allen, Pershing County, Nevada

Scott Gilles, Government Affairs Manager, State of Nevada

Judge David Gibson Jr, 8th District, Nevada

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ryan Sunga, DAG, Nevada

Tiffany Husband, Manager, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer, Manager, Clark County Social Services, Nevada

Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager, Community Lead in Built For Zero Initiative, Washoe County

Cassandra McNeil, Chair for Technical Assistance Subcommittee Nevada ICH

Hettie Read, Management Analyst, City of Reno

Marika Baren, Client Services Associate, Nevada

Agenda Item I. Welcome, Call to Order and Roll Call

Secretary Husband:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing

established by Assembly Bill 174. This meeting has been publicly noticed in compliance with Nevada's

Open Meeting Law. Chair Lisa Lee will call the meeting to order.

Chair Lee:

Good afternoon, it's 3:05 p.m. and I'd like to call the December 16, 2020 meeting to order. Will the

Secretary please call roll?

Secretary Husband:

[Roll was conducted] Madame Chair, we have quorum.

Agenda Item II. Public Comment

Chair Lee:

We will move on to item number II. on the agenda which is public comment. And just a reminder no

action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to an agenda.

Comments are limited to three minutes and we're now open for public comment so please unmute

yourself and state your name for the council.

[No Public Comment]

Agenda Item III. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2020

Chair Lee:

We will move on to Agenda Item number III. which is the approval of the minutes from our September

15th meeting.

Deputy Wagar:

Moved to approve.

Steve Aichroth:

Second.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item IV. Approval of Agenda for December 16, 2020

Chair Lee:

We will move on to Item number IV. which is the approval of the agenda for today's meeting.

Steve Aichroth:

Move to approve.

Greg Herrera:

Second.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item V. Receive Presentation from Built For Zero

Chair Lee:

Moving on to item V. Dana Searcy will be presenting for Built For Zero.

Secretary Husband:

Excuse me Madame Chair. Due to a scheduling issue we need to move to item VIII. on the agenda.

Which is the presentation from the Southern Nevada Continuum of Care.

Chair Lee:

OK great. We will move on to that agenda item.

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer:

[Presentation on Southern Nevada Continuum of Care PIT Count Exhibit C]

Chair Lee:

Thank you so much, Michele. Does anyone have any questions?

Steve Aichroth:

I did want to ask just a couple of questions. This was conducted January 28th, 2020. Is the next survey going to be roughly around the same date in 2021? And if so, will you be polling the folks that you're counting as to whether they've had a Covid impact? Lastly, if that's true, or if that happens, when would we see the results of that? To see how the Covid pandemic is impacting and increasing homelessness?

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer:

Those are phenomenal questions. We collaborate with the other two CoC's in the state. So that we all do our homeless census at the same time. So, we will be doing that the next homeless census on the 28th of January. However, it will be modified this year due to Covid. Our Continuum of Care is working very closely with HUD. It will be it will be a sampling methodology due to Covid because we don't want to put. We rely very very heavily on volunteers and we don't want to put folks at risk during this Covid outbreak. And we also are working very closely with HUD Technical Assistance providers to ensure that we are collecting appropriate information that is very useful during Covid response and recovery. So, at this point we are still determining exactly what we will collect during that period of time. We are having

conversations about whether we collect or do some type of Covid questionnaire or a couple of you know

very quick questions regarding Covid, but those decisions have not yet been solidified at this time.

Steve Aichroth:

And then real quick, when would we know the results of said surveys?

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer:

I don't have an answer for that yet. We will get that information out as quickly as possible. Unfortunately,

we don't have extra we haven't gotten extra staff to help us with all of the extra work that has come with

the Covid response. So, we're having to juggle priorities and so you know this is it it's taken, it took us a

long time just to get out what we did with our Point In Time count this year because of the Covid

response. So hopefully we'll get it out earlier than we did this year, but it depends on what happens with

Covid and where we have to you know divert staff resources.

Steve Aichroth:

Alright thank you.

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer:

I hate to give that answer but it's the reality.

Chair Lee:

I'm just wondering as far as your observational data or kind of anecdotally for the last few months if you

if you're seeing a rise in vehicular homelessness down in Las Vegas? I know we've seen a rise of that up

here in Washoe, so I guess that's my question and then I have a comment.

Michelle Fuller-Hallauer:

Yes, our outreach teams have indicated that they are seeing more folks living in vehicles than they have in previous years.

Chair Lee:

Yeah, it will be interesting in what emerges you know from the January 2021 data. What struck me was I think it was a slide up on the infographic the reasons cited for initiation or maintenance of homelessness, affordable housing of course and then medical or illness, alcohol use disorder or substance use disorder and mental health. I just wanted to bring that up in this meeting because I think that's useful information for us to tackle within the Technical Assistance or strategic plan. Then we have assemblywoman Duran and Senator Dennis as well, I know they're probably slammed with the upcoming session but just to put it on their radar, right. Some things that we can tackle the next session, so thank you for your presentation.

Chair Lee:

Do we have any further discussion?

Agenda Item VI. Receive Presentation from Built for Zero

Chair Lee:

Well hearing none. Let's go ahead and move on to the original Agenda Item V. we'll hear from Dana Searcy on the Built For Zero.

Dana Searcy:

[Presentation on Built For Zero Exhibit D]

Chair Lee:

Do we have any discussion or questions?

Deputy Wagar:

The only question I would have is the cleanup effort. I'm not quite sure I understand what that's all about and you were going up from August to September and then September to October and then you had a pretty substantial decrease. What's meant by clean up what are you cleaning up and how does that affect these numbers?

Dana Searcy:

I thank you for the question. Allow me to clarify cleanup. We are working to clean up trash. We're working with the individuals who are currently unsheltered and living along the river. The plan, the project, is all about engaging those individuals to allow us to educate you know the safety of safe disposal of sharps and trash and minimizing fires in tents that kind of thing. and Teaching them about really protecting the environment and keeping the area around them clean. Through that, that's holding them accountable there they are called with showing up each day at a certain time to help as part of this process. and then the theory of the man who Grant Denton who's running this is really that through that commitment and through those baby steps, a structure that is actually teaching them and preparing them to be successful when they are admitted into or join into a housing program.

Deputy Wagar:

Those people all became housed? They became involved with the housing program, those 64 people that or decreased?

Dana Searcy:

Slowly not quite those 64. Right now, we have five different individuals we've only done this for about six weeks so it's pretty new. But yes, five different individuals over the last six weeks have been housed many of them have jobs at this point. So, it's definitely a pilot we're excited to see where it can go, and the community support has been wonderful. The changes in the numbers that you're seeing as previously presented that Point In Time count is has a very specific method of coming up with that numbers. The same time every year we do the same thing, and we have a number, it's very reliable indicator of whether

that homeless population is moving up or down. A different tool as they noted you know it's an estimated isn't an actual number. What we are attempting to do with they call it by name list is have a list of every single individual in our community that's currently homeless and be able to track that on a daily basis. So at any one point in time we know what that looks like and what you're seeing in those very large fluctuations is kind of the messy still beginnings of that process to bring all of this data together and the idea is that hopefully over the next couple of months we'll have a we'll be comfortable that that data is actually accurate, we're not there yet.

Greg Herrera:

The question I have is, you talk about the databases and the information, how many different databases are you seeing in our area? 'Cause I get confused when I speak to the different groups out there and you mentioned Good Grid and I know that Sparks Hopes team is working on another one that they're trying too. So, is there possibility that we could start collaborating again? On the same page to use the same database that you see. Are you seeing that as an issue in our area?

Dana Searcy:

It absolutely is an issue, Greg. We have way too many. And what part of our very large survey data right now that we're collecting, we're meeting with over forty different groups or programs or entities. To figure out exactly what data are you collecting in what system is it and how might we go about bringing that altogether. It is really complex, and we hear this over and over. If we had a central system where all of the different groups that are working to solve and reduce homelessness could easily get in, look up a name figure out who is the appropriate caseworker. What medications should this individual be taking who's had contact with them and where should they be? That would save each organization hours and hours of time because they're trying to recreate the wheel and start fresh each time so that is really our goal here.

Greg Herrera:

Thank you. I agree if there's an opportunity in the future to be part of those discussions, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

Steve Aichroth:

Thank you for the presentation. I'm on your website currently and I see that you've got a couple different committees and you've got representation from DHHS and Veteran Services, but we are absent. So along with what Greg was just mentioning is there a way for the Division to become involved?

Dana Searcy:

Absolutely, Steve. I will reach out.

Chair Lee:

Correct me if I'm wrong. Fred, were you talking about the cleanup of the data that she was talking about on that slide where it was 500 people down due to kind of cleaning out those duplicative clients ?

Deputy Wagar:

I was just concerned 'cause we went 149 in July, 139 in August and then it was a spike of 67 at 206 in September little bit more increase in October and then a sudden decrease of 64. And so that's really what I was trying to focus on is what caused that decrease in the number of homelessness. But she described it pretty well and so I think I think I get where that's coming from but if I'm mistaken, you can certainly clarify.

Dana Searcy:

The jump that you're seeing there when it when we have a couple months it looks the same and then it jumps up that's because we added a second system of data. The first two months only included one system the second two months included another system. And then this last drop that through all the cleanup of the data that HUD staff honestly tediously comb through all of the different data systems to see how this, we

combine data in two different systems. So, we wanted to make sure that there were no duplicates. One of the things that we saw was that some programs that maybe had ended a couple months ago I had not been closed. And so those people were still showing up as active even though they weren't. So, we were able to come up with a couple of tips on how we clean up our data in the future. I mean one thing that we've actually talked about is how we would be interested to see how this affects our Point In Time count now that we're going to know that a lot of the data has been cleaned up.

Deputy Wagar:

I appreciate it. I can't imagine how tedious that was to do that. I would be interested just like we had the previous presentation and I think Steve mentioned it, to find out how Covid it is affecting the homeless numbers as well. So, thank you very much. Appreciate your presentation.

Chair Lee:

Do we have any additional commentary, questions?

Agenda Item VI. Presentation from Northern Nevada Continuum of Care

Chair Lee:

Alright, we will go ahead and move on the Agenda Item VI. Northern Nevada Continuum of Care.

Hettie Read:

[Presentation from Northern Nevada CoC Exhibit E]

Deputy Wagar:

I did have a question you said thirty-eight veterans unsheltered. Did you have any data on veterans who were sheltered, and did you ask?

Hettie Read:

We do. Yeah that was all reported to HUD I can get you that, if you would like.

Deputy Wagar:

That would be great. I'd appreciate it.

Chair Lee:

Do we have any other group discussion or questions?

Chair Lee:

I can't remember the historical data on the motel count portion, but can you recall if that if those numbers have gone down since 2017?

Hettie Read:

So, I do I have it in front of me, I can kind of go through it. So, we actually have an amazing volunteer from Marshall County Stacy Fleck. Who heads up the motel count year by year. In 2019 she was unable to help us out and so we did see a decrease in the number. But I think it was also due to the number of the amount of information collected. So, for example in 2018 for a total number we saw we had 3551 and then it dipped down to 1525 in 2019 and then back up to 2997 for 2020. So, we've seen a decrease, I think overall because of the number of motels that are available, but I would say it's probably more steady than those numbers reflect.

Chair Lee:

Thank you for that.

Hettie Read:

 I should mention this year we are planning to do a head count of folks. Also utilizing the Counting Us app. We requested an exception from HUD which was granted. So, instead of doing a full survey on each

person who's unsheltered we will be doing a head count to limit contact and limit the amount of

volunteers that we need. So, we'll get some number data but not as in- depth of data for 2021.

Chair Lee:

Hettie for those of us joining us, one how many volunteers will you need for that January count and then

Secondly how can people get involved in the count?

Hettie Read:

If you would like to get involved, you can definitely email me. Our planning groups have been meeting

every other Wednesday, we met today at 11. If you're interested in volunteering, you can get in touch with

me or you can email the raw email the rawnevada@gmail.com and we can get you those meeting invites.

We have about twenty case managers who volunteered so far and we're working on getting about twenty

law enforcement. We could use a few more folks to volunteer if they're willing to participate in the

unsheltered count. The other ways to volunteer are participating in the motel count or handing out

interviews as part of the outreach effort. So, there's lots of ways to get involved. Thanks for that question.

Chair Lee:

Thank you, Hettie.

Agenda Item VIII. Presentation from Rural Nevada Continuum of Care

Chair Lee:

Do we have any more questions? Alright hearing none. We're going to move to the next item on the

agenda which is Agenda Item number VII. Marika Baron with be presenting on the Rural CoC.

Marika Baren:

[Presentation from Rural Nevada Continuum of Care Exhibit F]

Chair Lee:

That was very thorough. Anyone have any questions?

Steve Aichroth:

This is Steve from housing again. Just real quick just to sort of understand what you're seeing out in the rurals. In administering rental assistance, I see this by County, and it looks like the bulk of it is almost all in actually Carson City and Elko and Lyon. With some out in Pahrump also. Is that sort of what you see on the same thing on the homelessness issue? Or does it sort of differ in this? I guess what I'm asking is it centered in the population centers of the rurals?

Marika Baren:

Like are people experiencing homelessness? Like is there a greater population in those areas?

Steve Aichroth:

That is correct.

Marika Baren:

Yes absolutely. I mean we do in our PIT report which is lengthy but if you thought that was thorough, oh boy! Right so, in our PIT report we do break it down by County so there is a picture of homelessness by County both sheltered and unsheltered so you can get a picture of that I would say you are correct. I think yeah Elko, Nye County, Carson, Lyons, Churchill that's sort of where the bulk of our reporting comes from but yeah if you interested in the by county information it is like contained in the back of our PIT report which I can give to Tiffany to distribute.

Steve Aichroth:

Thank you.

Chair Lee:

I have a question. The loss of beds, I believe you said that during the year of 2020 there's been a loss of beds in Pershing, Nye, Lyon and Douglas. I guess my first question is what is the reason for the loss of those beds? Is it a funding issue or?

Marika Baren:

So I'm so sorry I didn't catch your first question it cut out in the middle of it I'm sorry the first part of the question.

Chair Lee:

How many beds are affected, how many beds are lost? And the second is the reason for that loss?

Marika Baren:

OK so I'm looking here. So again, it's like a much smaller percentage we say like all these beds were lost and we look at it in the context of the rurals it's a little bit different. But it did decrease from 119 to 97 so you're looking at you know like 24 beds and or that's probably faulty math on the fly so I apologize for that. But something around there and then I think the loss, like we don't necessarily delve into that so we try to figure out you know like what happened some of the organizations were dissolved likely to due to lack of funding, right. I mean I would say if there's one need that we have in the world it's an emergency shelter that's really active and serving larger populations. Some of them let's see well we did find out kind of like Hettie pointed out, that one was operating at the warming shelter so it shouldn't have been included in the egg in prior years. And then yeah two organizations did indicate that they have lost their shelter due to funding.

Chair Lee:

Yes, thank you. Are there any additional questions?

Agenda Item IX. Receive Report from Subcommittee for Technical Assistance

We will move on to item number IV. Cassandra McNeil would you like to give us a report on the Technical Assistance Subcommittee?

Cassandra McNeil:

[Received Update from Subcommittee for Technical Assistance Exhibit G]

Agenda Item X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Chair Lee:

Let's move on to agenda item X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

[Agenda items for future meetings noted]

Agenda Item XI. Public Comment

Chair Lee:

We will move on to item number XI. on the agenda which is public comment. And just a reminder no action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to an agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes and we're now open for public comment so please unmute yourself and state your name for the council.

[No Public Comment]

Agenda Item XII. Adjournment

Chair Lee:

This meeting is adjourned (Adjourned 4:49 p.m.).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Tiffany Husband

 Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

_____
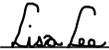
Lisa Lee, Chair

Date:____12/30/2020_____

Exhibits

Exhibit A   Nevada Interagency Advisory Council (ICH) December 16, 2020 Agenda

Exhibit B   Attendance Roster

Exhibit C   Southern Nevada Continuum of Care Presentation

Exhibit D   Built for Zero Presentation

Exhibit E   Northern Nevada Continuum of Care Presentation

Exhibit F   Rural Nevada Continuum of Care

Exhibit G   Nevada ICH Technical Assistance Subcommittee Presentation