

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE NEVADA INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

January 16, 2024

The Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Subcommittee for Technical Assistance was called to order by Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer at 1:07 p.m. on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024. This meeting is being conducted virtually. This meeting was noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law and posted on <https://dwss.nv.gov/Home/Features/Public-Information/> the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services website.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Manager, Clark County Social Services

Brooke Page, Corporation for Supportive Housing Director, Southwest, Nevada

Karen Van Hest, Director of Reimbursement and Compliance at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

Lorena Lemus, Case Management Services Coordinator Northern Nevada Hopes, Reno Nevada

Chris Murphey, Grants Manager, Churchill Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs DBA: New Frontier, Nevada

Austin Pollard, State Housing Manager for United Healthcare

Cristy Costa, Human Services Director, Northern Nevada Community Housing

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Ennis, Director, Salvation Army in Mesquite Nevada

Scott Benton, Emergency Shelter Director, Nevada Cares Campus

Nolga Valadez, Benefit Services Outreach Manager, Three Square, Nevada

Dr. Pamela Juniel, McKinney-Vento Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada

OTHERS PRESENT:

Niani Cooper, Manager, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Samantha D’Ambrosio, Coordinator, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Abigail Bagolor, Administrative Assistant, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Ryan Sunga, DAG, Nevada

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

Niani Cooper:

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Governor's Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing Technical Assistance Subcommittee. This meeting has been publicly noticed and compliance with Nevada's open meeting law. Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer will call the meeting to order.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Good afternoon, it is 1:07 p.m. on January 16th, 2024. I’d like to call the meeting of the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness Subcommittee for Technical Assistance to order. Will the moderator please call roll?

Niani Cooper: [Roll Call. We Have Quorum.]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Thank you. Let’s go on to item number two.

Agenda Item II. [General Public Comments]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Item number two on our agenda is public comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes. If you are making a public comment via phone, please call 1-775-321-6111, ID number: 847312658#. We are now open to public comment. Please unmute yourself and state your name for the council. Do we have any public comment? Seeing none, hearing none, I will close this item and we will move on to agenda item number three.

Agenda Item III. [For Possible Action – Discussion and Possible Approval of Minutes from December 19th, 2023, Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance Subcommittee Meeting]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

This item is for possible action, discussion, and possible approval of minutes for the December 19th, 2023, Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance subcommittee meeting. Do I have a motion to approve or discuss the minutes from December 19th, 2023?

Chris Murphey:

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Thank you, Chris. We have a motion for approval of the Minutes for December 19th, 2023. May I have a second?

Lorena Lemus:

I second the motion.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Thank you, Lorena. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, please indicate by unmuting yourself and saying “aye”.

Brooke Page, Karen Van Hest, Lorena Lemus, Austin Pollard, Chris Murphey, Cristy Costa:

Aye.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Any opposed, please unmute yourself and indicate by saying “nay”. Any abstentions? Please unmute yourself and indicate by stating you abstain. I will abstain since I was not at the last meeting. Any other abstentions? Motion carries. Let's move onto agenda item number four.

Agenda Item IV. [For Possible Action – Discussion and Possible Vote on the Process to Add New Members to the ICH Technical Assistance Subcommittee]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Let's open this up for discussion. This would include the number of members, length of time for letters to join, our rating system, and the scale that we would use.

Brooke Page:

We've been able to make quorum at all our meetings with our current number. Niani, will you be able to help us with how many members we currently have and what is our current vacancies?

Niani Cooper:

There are 11 members, and we currently do not have any vacancies.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Didn't we have 15 members at the beginning of the year?

Niani Cooper:

Madam Chair, at the beginning of 2023, there were 15 members, 2 of which were voted in, but never attended. Then, over time, you sat at a solid 13 for a few months, but now we're at 11.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Thank you. We identified last year that we wanted 15 members for this committee, but we have been meeting quorum with 11 members. That is up for discussion.

Brooke Page:

I think getting a quorum is critical, and I think 13 is a good number.

Austin Pollard:

I think we've done a great job with 11 members, but I agree with Brooke that 13 is a good number.

Karen Van Hest, Lorena Lemus:

I agree.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Sounds like we're coming to a consensus around 13. Do we have any concerns?

Austin Pollard:

What would we need for a quorum for 13 members?

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

I think it's 7.

Niani Cooper:

Yes, Madam Chair, that is correct.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

It sounds like we are going for 13. At this point, is there anybody who feels that they will need to step down?

Austin Pollard:

I will be taking parental leave in February for at least 6 weeks, but I do plan on continuing once I come back.

Brooke Page:

I'd like to make a motion to establish a number of 13 members and to fill for vacancies when our membership falls below 13.

Lorena Lemus:

I'd like to second that.

Austin Pollard:

My recommendation is we have a quarterly review of the applicants unless there's an opening. Then we can review them monthly until we get the board seats full.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Can we shift the way we recruit into an actual application format rather than submitting a letter?

Austin Pollard:

I think an application format would be the easiest way to attract attention.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Niani, is it possible to do an electronic application through the website?

Niani:

We will ask.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Can we also make the application downloadable, or with the ability to apply in some other way, for folks who may not have access or may have a limited access to a computer?

Niani Cooper:

Madam Chair, I will ask those questions.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Thank you. I believe we have a motion on the table, and a second with a modification. We will set our membership at 13. We will recruit and accept applications, leaving our recruitment application open in perpetuity, reviewing those applications at minimum on a quarterly basis, monthly if necessary, in order to fill any vacancies as they come up to maintain membership at a level of 13. Did I get that correct?

Brooke Page:

I would like to amend the motion to start recruitment in the 2nd quarter and open an application now with the intent that we have new members in the 2nd quarter of 2024 and increase our number to 13 at that time.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Are we ready to take a vote now or do we need more conversation?

Brooke Page:

I think we should vote.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

All those in favor please respond by saying “aye”.

Karen Van Hest, Brooke Page, Chris Murphey, Austin Pollard, Lorena Lemus, Cristy Costa:

Aye.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Any opposed, please unmute yourself and indicate by saying “nay”. Any abstentions? Please unmute yourself and indicate by stating you abstain. Seeing none, hearing none, the motion passes. Before we proceed, we still need to identify the verbiage and the length of time for the request for letters to join.

Austin Pollard:

I would recommend leaving the application process open year-round. When we are at capacity, we will notify people that we'll hold the letters until a future seat does open, and we can review in then.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Do we need to put some language to that effect in the letter that's going out to recruit?

Brooke Page:

I think we should add the criteria about how we score and evaluate.

Niani Cooper:

We can reformat the letter with your expectations and have it ready to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Austin Pollard:

I think the sooner we can review and approve it the better, to begin looking for new members.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Will a couple of people like to identify themselves as the reviewers to approve the final product before it goes out?

Austin Pollard:

I'd be happy to be one of the individuals that reviews it.

Karen Van Hest:

I would also like to do that.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Any concerns with Karen and Austin acting as spokesperson for the rest of this group? Please unmute yourself and speak up. Hearing no dissension, Austin and Karen will be our reviewers. Thank you both for volunteering. Anything else on this agenda item? Hearing none, seeing none, we will close agenda item number four and we will move on to agenda item number five.

Agenda Item V. [For Information Only – Champions Report (Status Update) from CoC and TA Subcommittee Members Regarding Their Progress in Developing Content and Language to be Included in Their Assigned Sections of the Nevada Strategic Plan on Homelessness. Updates will be Populated During the Meeting]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Agenda item number five – this is for information only. We want to go around and have a conversation about our Champions Report and get a status update from the Continuum of Care and Technical Assistance Committee members regarding their progress in developing content and language to be included in their assigned sections of the Nevada Strategic Plan on Homelessness. Updates will be populated during the meeting. I apologize, I missed the last meeting, but I think there was an update made to the Co-Champions list, is that correct?

Niani Cooper:

Madam Chair, we have the most updated list.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Do we need to validate this list or was that done at the last meeting?

Austin Pollard:

We reviewed it at the last meeting with some minor changes.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

The Long-Term Planning Committee has a team that's rolling.

Brooke Page:

We have Shannon from Washoe County who's been designated and volunteered to be our Co-chair for the Policy Committee and will give the update.

Shannon Couk:

Thank you. For the Policy subgroup, we had our first group with 7 participants. We had good representation among those 7 participants, including people statewide from housing, direct services and with lived experience. Our 1st goal as a group was supporting policies that address equitable access to housing by addressing discrimination based on source of income, prior justice involvement, mental health status and participation in a housing program.

We reviewed strengths in the community, opportunities that we see, aspirations, risks, and threats that we already see occurring, or that may occur. Through that we had some big topics that we landed on. The first one is landlord engagement and accountability by creating a landlord engagement strategy. This would include support for landlords having a third party to help with any issues that arise, figuring support would increase the willingness to engage or house some of these populations. Also, educate landlords about vulnerable populations and discrimination. Another suggestion was looking at a regulatory process to hold landlords accountable for bad practices, as well as looking at the demographic information of who is providing housing. An additional topic was tenant support by looking at providing education on the rental process and rental rights for tenants. It was suggested to create a tenant union or association that would help provide advocacy for individual rights and policy changes. Stop blanket regulations regarding background checks or source of income, as well as looking at limiting time frames for background checks, as well as reducing fees. One great idea that came up was tenants utilizing a single background check for multiple applications, versus having to pay for multiple background checks as well as capping the fees on security deposits first, last, and late fees.

Another big topic was utilizing and expanding existing tools and resources. Looking at support through the MCO's, as well as expanding and utilizing wraparound services, such as the ACT program providing those additional case management supports for tenants, utilizing HMIS data, and coordinated entry. One of the things identified was it needs more uniformity. The housing assessment through each organization, increased participation, looking at concepts including second chance housing, or shared

housing, that may increase opportunities for those vulnerable populations. We noted what needs to be done is researching regulatory bodies who are responsible for enforcing sparse outs and policies. We were not clear if there was one, who it would be, etc., so we are researching that. We need to find how far back landlords can look in a background check. We would like to review rental and cap legislation from the 2023 legislation where it was mentioned that a bill didn't pass. We seek to look at other stakeholder agencies and invite them to participate. We identified a couple and will try to keep that conversation going and get more stakeholder engagement.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 30th. After that, we will be having a bi-monthly meeting. Our goal for our next meeting is to discuss goal number 2, which is supporting housing policies that prioritize funding used to construct and preserve low income and affordable housing units. Emphasis should be placed on both the development of permanent supportive housing, and affordable units targeted to those households at 30% AMI or below who are at risk for homelessness.

Brooke Page:

Thank you, Shannon, for a thorough recap. Does anybody have any questions for Shannon or our Policy group?

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

When you say bi-monthly, is it twice a month or every other month?

Shannon Couk:

Every other week.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

There's a couple of items that Shannon brought up that I think will be important for the Long-Term Planning work group. I think there might be some ways for us to collaborate to build in around Long-Term Planning.

Brooke Page:

I agree with you. As for the Housing work group, we also met on January 10th. We had a great representation. Austin Pollard helped me co-facilitate. We had 12 participants and great diverse representation from across the state. We identified that rural is an area we want to ensure receives good representation. We had eight goals. The first goal is providing the resources and the support necessary to further expand and develop our inventory for supportive housing for folks that are in affordable housing, below 60% AMI. We also talked about workforce housing, very low income, and folks in that 30% to 60% AMI, and extremely low-income folks below 30% AMI.

We talked about the strengths and opportunities happening in our state around development and identified resources, such as the program Home Means Nevada. We also discussed funding opportunities, such as local housing trust funds, the state housing trust fund, and others that are focused on this population. The resources and the diversity of the Cares Campus in Washoe County addressing non-congregate and congregate shelter. We discussed having a robust resource center and the expansion of supportive housing being developed on the Cares Campus. Clark County's Community Housing Fund, resources from the Public Housing Authority and the importance of having multi-funding

sources that are focused on developing supportive housing. The group talked about aspiring to ensure that we have a tracking system for housing stock, that warehousing is being developed for which population. Also, to make affordable housing attractive to developers, the importance of workforce housing, and figuring how we hold the economic developers accountable in developing housing that will not take up the affordable housing stock available for Nevadans while contributing to the housing issue and the aspiration to have enough student housing.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 24th and we will be meeting bimonthly to meet this body's target goals by the end of March.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Are you creating a list of the affordable housing programs that are available or upcoming with the state or is that something that we need?

Brooke Page:

We need a housing inventory tracker, and a needs assessment to understand the need and how many units we need to develop a targeted goal.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

I agree. If that ends up being a recommendation in the action plan, we could add the language around the naturally occurring low income and affordable housing to the tickler. Any other questions or comments for Brooke or Austin? Anybody who wants to go next?

Lorena Lemus:

I had my first meeting with my group last week. I had about five people, some representatives from Southern and Northern Nevada, but didn't have anyone from the rural area. Chris Murphey is my co-chair. We're working together to make sure that we get the rural area represented, as well as connecting to the people that are out there who could participate in this strategic and action plan. We went over what this is and what our goals are. We got some input from individuals that were in the group and stated that meeting once a month works best for them. They are all aware of the deadline for the first draft being the end of March.

Our next meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of February at 2:30pm. I will be resending my invite to everybody on my list to get a more solid group. Our goal is to start brainstorming up all the resources, to find out what's available in each CoC right in their areas and how we can connect our unhoused population to those resources. One question was brought up and I want to make sure that I have some clarification on it. When we're addressing the goals that are on our action plan, we're only making recommendations for good connections between agencies and entities, and we're working towards making it happen and connecting to the stakeholders, right?

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

We are trying to identify who's already doing certain things that might be a good fit for these folks, make a conversation with them, and work to see if it is something that we can help develop. Having the name in there doesn't mean that you're locked in.

Lorena Lemus:

Thank you.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

The Data and Resource group didn't have a meeting in December, but I did give an update on where we are with the group at our meeting in November. For the Long-Term Planning group, we had three meetings. Thank you, Austin, for covering the meeting last month. We had a meeting earlier today. I think we're moving along as far as collecting the information on who's doing what across the state. Our next meeting will be on February 20th. We will be identifying where we want to go to fill the gaps that we have in the system and start identifying things that we need to put into the action plan.

Regarding the CoCs, the rural Nevada CoC has determined that they are not going to update their strategic plan until after we have updated our action plan for our strategic plan. They will utilize our action plan to see what is applicable to the CoC and then utilize that to help populate their region's CoC strategic plan. They're now working on a work plan for 2024 and will be willing to do what we need to support the work for the development of our action plan as we move forward.

Austin Pollard:

For the Northern Nevada CoC, there's been no changes to the strategic plan update that we provided back in August. The Northern Nevada CoC did approve our leadership strategic plan and it aligns with what we submitted already.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Anything else on this agenda item? Seeing none, hearing none, we will close agenda item number five and we will move to agenda item number six.

Agenda Item VI. [For Information Only – Discussion of Agenda Items for the Next Meeting on February 20th, 2024]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

This is for information only. This is the discussion of the agenda items for the meeting on February 20th, 2024. What would we like on our agenda for February 20th? We have the standing item of our champions report for the strategic plan. Do we want to hear feedback from Niani if we've received any letters?

Brooke Page:

I think that would be important. As part of the recruitment process, could we have an update about our existing membership, and if we should add an agenda item to solidify if we have a vacancy or not?

Niani Cooper:

Yes, there will be an agenda items for the following: feedback about the recruitment process, application letters that come in, an update of the existing membership, and if there are any qualifying vacancies, correct?

Brooke Page:

Correct. I'm wondering if Niani can help us with the research about a centralized place with the Legislative Council Bureau where they capture the various plans or reports for the legislature?

Niani Cooper:

We can look and find out if there is a place.

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Is there anything else we would like for the next agenda? Seeing none, hearing none, let's move on to agenda number seven.

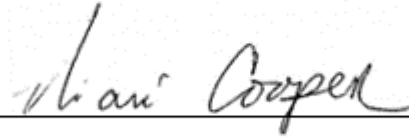
Agenda Item VII. [General Public Comments]

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If you are making a public comment via phone, please call 1-775-321-6111, ID number: 847312658#. We are now open to public comment. Please unmute yourself and state your name for the record. Do we have any public comment? Seeing none, hearing none, it is now 2:38 p.m. on January 16th. I will adjourn this meeting of the Technical Assistance Committee of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing. Thank you all. Thank you for your time today. Have a great day.

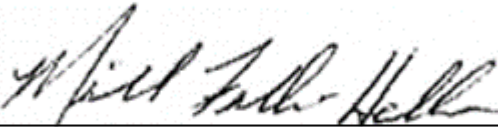
Agenda Item VIII. [Adjournment: 2:38 PM]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Niani Cooper", is positioned above a solid horizontal line. The signature is contained within a light gray dotted rectangular box.

Niani Cooper, Committee Moderator

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Fuller-Hallauer", is positioned above a solid horizontal line. The signature is contained within a light gray dotted rectangular box.

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Chair

Date: February 06, 2024