

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE NEVADA INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING

August 17, 2023

The Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness was called to order by Chair Tim Robb at 1:07 p.m. on Thursday, August 17, 2023. The meeting was video conferenced via Microsoft Teams. This meeting is being conducted virtually. This meeting was noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law and posted at the locations listed on the agenda, as well as on <https://dwss.nv.gov/Home/Features/Public-Information/> the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services website.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Robb, Chair, Office of the Governor

Robert Thompson, Administrator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Harold Wickham, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Corrections

Stephen Aichroth, Administrator, Nevada Housing Division

Brandon Zirkle, Lieutenant, Washoe County

Mike Montero, Judge, Nevada District Court 8

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bea Duran, Assemblywoman, Nevada

Fred Wagar, Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Christopher Gorrell, Police Lieutenant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Sheriff Jerry Allen, Pershing County, Nevada

Marc Bello, Captain, Washoe County, Nevada

Judge Christy Craig, 8th District, Nevada

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Samantha D'Ambrosio, Homeless to Housing Coordinator, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Abigail Bagolor, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Jonet Anderson, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

Sia Dalacas, standing in for 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 Council on Homelessness to Housing. This meeting has been publicly noticed in compliance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law. Chair Tim Robb will call the meeting to order.

Chair Tim Robb:

Good afternoon, it is 1:07 p.m. and I would like to call the August 17, 2023, meeting of the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to order. Niani, will you please call roll?

[Roll Call. We Have Quorum.]

Agenda Item II. [No General Public Comments.]

Chair Tim Robb:

Thank you for being here. Item number two on our agenda is public comment. 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: 211 969 23#. Please unmute yourself and state your name for the council. Seeing none, hearing none, I will close this item and we will move on to agenda item number three.

Agenda Item III. [Discussion and Possible Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9th, 2023, and June 21st, 2023, for the Interagency Council on Homelessness.]

Harold Wickam:

I move to approve the minutes for January 9th, 2023, and June 21st, 2023.

Stephen Aichroth:

I'll second that motion.

Chair Tim Robb:

Thank you. We have a motion and a second. I'll put this out for vote for the approval of the minutes for the January 9th and June 21st. Please unmute yourself and say "aye" if you agree.

Robert Thompson, Brandon Zirkle, Mike Montero:

Aye.

Chair Tim Robb:

If you disagree, please indicate by saying "nay". Any abstentions?

[Motion Carries]

Agenda Item IV. [Brief Introduction from the New Chair and Other New Members of the Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing.]

Agenda Item VI. [Presentation on Hope for Prisoners – Jon Ponder.]

[Not Present]

Agenda Item V. [Presentation on the Progress of LGBTQ+ Inclusive Youth Homelessness Study – Maria Wortman-Meshberger, DWSS.]

Maria Wortman-Meshberger:

Hi, my name is Maria Wortman-Meshberger, and I'll be presenting for you today the Progress of LGBTQ+ Inclusive Youth Homelessness Study. We will address the primary objectives, which include the number and characteristics, services, and addressing and reducing youth homelessness.

Year one, phase one of the study will take place between July 1st of this year, through December 31st of this year, and focus on developing a shared understanding of the project, identifying a core team, and initially convening. We have started to have our meetings and we will meet frequently. There will be a steering committee, and we're working on getting the steering committee together right now and conducting research to position the project team to engage in in-depth system mapping for each county. The core team members have been identified, and

we've had our kickoff meeting to begin the discussion of the project timeline, activities, and responsibilities. As a core team we'll be responsible for supporting leading and making key decisions impacting the project. We're working on identifying the steering committee members. As soon as they're all identified, they will have an initial kickoff meeting, and I believe that will be at the beginning of September. Then we'll conduct a review of the project, timelines, and roles. The steering community will be responsible for providing general guidance on design and implementation, giving feedback, and making introductions to key organization and individuals in the community. The study design will be refined and finalized the research questions to be investigated, the population, the independent research to be conducted, and the primary and secondary data to be collected and finalized. The steering Committee will review the study design and provide feedback, and then the core team will provide the final approval of the study design. The study design will be reviewed at least quarterly to discuss the project and make any needed adjustments.

Next is the development and approval of templates such as monthly status reports, environmental scan, county profiles and statewide system maps and reports. The completion of the environmental scan will include online research, virtual outreach, interviews and or small focus groups with key people that operate within and have experience in the service system. The environmental scan related to youth homelessness that utilizes national as well as state sources to document relevant resources include best practices, funding opportunities, data sources and policies. The National Research aims to identify critical system components needed to identify those experiencing at risk homelessness, which will then be used during the statewide system mapping activities. The environmental scan will also identify the organizations within Nevada that serve youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. The initial research is critical for the ongoing outreach, engagement and relationship building.

Year one, phase two, is going to be focused on the ongoing identification outreach engagement and relationship building with individuals and organizations whose involvement, knowledge, and expertise are critical to the successful completion of the study. The individuals and organizations will not only provide direct information to inform the study, but will through their connections in the community, ensure that the study includes the experiences and inputs of a broad base of individuals. The activities in this phase may include the development of a public facing website to share the knowledge, outreach, and data collection activities. A development of county or regional specific teams that will support data collection and in-person activities. Identification and connections with other key partners that operate in or have experience in the system to serve youth and coordination with organizations identified by the core team, which could include the Nevada Department of Education, this council, Bitfocus, or other organizations to share information and provide support for this and other ongoing projects.

Year one, phase three, will take place between January and June of 2024, and focus on developing a system map that describes the services, organizations, and financial supports available to address and reduce youth homelessness. This map will provide a preliminary

summary profile for each of the counties, as well as the description of the overarching statewide services, supports, and funding available. Activities associated with the development of the county profiles employment statewide system map are expected to include reviewing the environmental scan and conducting additional research as necessary, organizing, and participating in site visits to each county to understand the services, supports, and other factors impacting youth. Each site visit will be focused on developing an increased understanding of the services, supports, geography, and other factors. Then there will be data collecting through a variety of methods such as virtual meetings, calls, provider, or participant surveys, and then sharing the draft profile for each county and statewide system map with a select group to review, refine, and finalize.

Both phase four of year one, and phase eight of year two are the same, and will happen through July 1st of 2023, all the way through the project in June of 2025. Project management will be ongoing throughout both years of the project with a goal of ensuring tasks and deliverables are high quality, on time, and within the budget.

Phase four includes the development of the final deliverables for year one, a year-end status report that includes a compilation of work completed to date, information learned during the first year, and proposed adjustments to year two activities.

Phase eight includes opportunities for the SEI team to meet, coordinate work, and manage the project in an efficient, effective, and responsive manner, as well as to provide regular updates to client and key partner groups about the progress and challenges through the monthly core team meetings.

Year two, phase five, is focused on continued identification, outreach, and engagement with partners. These partnerships will help with the data collection, surveys, and focus groups. The plan is to build and maintain trust with key partners, because it's crucial to ensure that they are comfortable and positioned to support necessary data collection activities, such as doing the developing and conducting of surveys, participating in focus groups, or other community convenings, and then providing feedback throughout the study.

Year two, phase six, will take place between July 1st of 2024, through December 31st of 2024, and will identify system gaps that need to be addressed to better serve Nevada's youth, and recommendations for where financial resources should be focused to have the largest impact on successful reduction of youth homelessness. Some of the activities will include analysis of survey results and recommendations. At a minimum, activities will need to engage both system providers, current or past system participants, and are anticipated to include analysis of survey results, drafting, testing, and refining a preliminary set of gaps, needs and recommendations with individuals who contribute to their development, as well as the steering committee, and the core team.

Year two, phase seven, isn't anticipated to take place during the full second year of this study, so through January 25th, 2025, through June 30th of 2025, with the majority of the work occurring there in those last six months. The phase consists of a development of the study documentation through the Nevada Study on Youth Homelessness report. This will include developing and loading all the content approved by the core team for inclusion in the report template, such as the narratives, the data visualizations, and relevant appendices. This report will be provided to the division as well in a word and PDF document. The allowance for SEI to support and participate in a virtual webinar publicly presenting this study, if needed and requested. The document will serve as the primary and final deliverable for the project.

Chair Tim Robb:

Awesome, thank you so much. Are there any questions from anybody on the council? Well, fantastic job. Looking forward to seeing all the progress over the next couple of years and seeing some of the outcomes that are kind of developed in the process, and some of the good work that you guys will be doing. Thank you very much for the presentation. It looks like you put your contact up there as well. If anybody is interested in engaging in the process further, I think it's probably best to reach out and see how you might be able to engage.

I think with that we'll move on to agenda item number seven.

Agenda Item VII. [Update on the Interagency Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance Subcommittee – Michele Fuller-Hallauer ICHTA Chair.]

Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

Good afternoon chairman Robb, members of the council, and members of the public. My name is Michele Fuller-Hallauer, former manager for Clark County Social Service. I am now the proud owner and chief strategist for winged Wolf Innovations, a technical assistance and consulting firm. I've been a social worker for over three and a half decades and leading the efforts in homelessness in Southern Nevada for the last two decades. I am honored to serve as the chair of the Technical Assistance Subcommittee for this council.

I provided my last update to you at your October 17th, 2022, meeting. At that meeting, I presented the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness Strategic Plan, and you approved it. I also presented the next steps: that we were going to develop the action plan in collaboration with the three continuums of care across the state and the providers and the people that they serve. On our progress to date, we have met with leadership groups for each of the three continuums of care throughout the state and presented the update on our plan, and we've gathered feedback. We opened recruitment to expand the membership of the Technical Assistance Subcommittee and voted in six new members into the group. Unfortunately, since then, we've had two of our subcommittee members resign from their seats.

We have created a document in collaboration with our strategic plan and action plan. The purpose is so that we could receive feedback from members of the three continuums of care and their geographic regions on the work that's already taking place, how the work is being reported, and points of contact within each of those regions, so we can start populating an action plan. The thought being that we do not want to duplicate work that is already taking place throughout the state. We've identified champions within the Technical Assistance Subcommittee for each continuum of care that is responsible for ensuring that we are gathering the work within each of the continuums. Austin Pollard is our champion for the Northern Nevada CoC, Chris Murphy is the champion for the Rural Nevada CoC, and I'm the champion for the Southern Nevada CoC. We have also identified champions from the Technical Subcommittee for each of the eight strategic issues within the new strategic plan.

Just this week, I'm proud to report that we had quite a representation from the Technical Assistance Subcommittee at the second annual Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness in Reno. Three of our members, Brooke page, Doctor Pamela Juniel, and myself presented on the state strategic plan. During our presentation we asked for our participants to sign up to be part of the work teams for each strategic issue as to help us as we develop out the action plan that is part of the strategic plan. I'm glad to announce that we had an overwhelming response for volunteers. We're excited to get moving on developing the action plan that is part of the strategic plan.

What are our next steps? We will continue to populate the spreadsheet that I discussed to find out what is happening around the state, how that work is being reported, and make sure that we are gathering that information. We are going to continue to work with the continuums of care, the providers, and the people that they serve to populate a robust action plan and get that fleshed out and reported back to you all for approval. We will work very closely with our Bitfocus partners, and others across the state. This is so that we can make sure that we have good reporting mechanisms to report outcomes from across the state to measure our progress in ending homelessness. Then we will compile all that into a comprehensive, living, breathing document that will accompany the strategic plan in the form of an action plan.

Of course, I really want to make sure that we point out that all this work is a heavy lift for a volunteer committee to accomplish in a reasonable time frame without assistance of a dedicated staff or of technical assistance consultants. Please be patient with us as we work on this plan and come forward to you with progress. We are working feverishly to get this together and move it forward. This ends my report. I'm open for any questions, comments, or instructions for the subcommittee as we move forward. Thank you.

Chair Tim Robb:

Thank you so much. Does anybody on the council have any questions, thoughts, hopes, dreams, or ideas?

Michele Fuller-Hallauer:

We welcome any of you to volunteer to be on any of our work teams.

Stephen Aichroth:

I want to say “thank you” to Michele for your tireless efforts. I think I've been on this committee now going on six years. You have always been present and doing the good work. Hopefully you'll continue, and I can't thank you enough for what you've done down in Clark County to help with the homeless situation.

Chair Tim Robb:

Thank you very much. I think I want to echo this praise as well. I think being engaged in this process as long as you have and continuing that great work even in your transition in the private world is awesome. I appreciate all the things that you're doing and the continued work in this space. Anybody else who has thoughts or input? Well, thank you for your continued work. I look forward to working with you on all of this stuff. I think with that, we can move into agenda item number eight.

Agenda Item VIII. [Discussion of agenda Items for the next meeting.]

Chair Tim Robb:

Discussion of the agenda items for the next meeting, and possible dates for the next meeting as well. Does anybody have anything that they would like to see on the upcoming agenda?

Stephen Aichroth:

Whether the committee is aware of it or not, there was legislation passed in this last legislative session. AB 310 that provides this committee some decision-making processes on where we will fund supporting housing projects. While we still have to develop the process, it would probably be worthwhile to walk through that bill and talk about the intersection of the committee with AB 310.

Chair Tim Robb:

I think that's a very welcome piece we can have on the agenda for the next meeting. I think that's also a testament to this group's efforts that the legislature has entrusted more authority and more pieces of the puzzle that this group can have an effect on in this space.

Anything else that anybody would like to see on a future agenda? Hearing and seeing none, please feel free to reach out to myself or Miss Cooper on any items that you'd like to see added. As far as next meetings, I know we are supposed to meet four times a year, and I think with our two meetings not having made quorum, we might need to do a little bit of catch up and make sure we're still within our statutory requirements on number of meetings that we hold. I would say potentially October, maybe the week of the 16th, that might work well for folks.

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Stephen Aichroth:

Across the week of the 16th is a National Housing Conference that I will be attending, so I would not be available to either present or attend in that particular week. However, if it's the desire of the group to do that, I can have somebody present AB 310 in my stead.

Chair Tim Robb:

I think it's important to have you here as a member of the council, so maybe the week of the 23rd that following week, maybe that Thursday.

Stephen Aichroth:

Again, that's right up against the Nevada Day holiday. Certainly, that Thursday would not work. Early in the week would potentially work for me.

Robert Thompson:

I'm open all-day Tuesday, October 24th.

Brandon Zirkle:

That's our National Sheriffs and Chiefs Conference in Las Vegas.

Chair Tim Robb:

Not a problem at all. How about earlier in October, the week of the 9th?

Robert Thompson:

We have a Board of Examiners on the 10th. I could make the 12th work.

Chair Tim Robb:

Let's aim for the 12th. I think with that, we can move into agenda item number nine.

Agenda Item IX. [General Public Comments.]


Chair Tim Robb:

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: 211 969 23#. We are open to public comment. If anybody would like to make public comment, please unmute yourself. Hearing and seeing nobody come off mute, I think we are good for adjournment. Thank you all very much for making this meeting happen and helping us make quorum. Thank you all to the presenters and thank you all for the hard work that everybody's doing in this space. I look forward to our next meeting. Have a great day.


Adjourned 1:38 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Robert Thompson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Tim Robb, Chair

Date: August 17, 2023