

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE NEVADA INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON

HOMELESSNESS

February 23, 2021

The Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness was called to order by Chair Lisa Lee at 3:11 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. 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 Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homelessness Outreach Presentation. [Exhibit D](#) is the Homeless Outreach Team Presentation. All exhibits are available on <https://dwss.nv.gov/Home/Features/Public-Information/>

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Lisa Lee, Owner/Manager Roots to Wings Consulting, Reno, NV

Stephen Aichroth, Administrator, Nevada Housing Division

Judge Mike Montero, 6th District, Nevada

Fred Wagar, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Moises Denis, Senator, Nevada

Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness
February 23, 2021

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

Greg Herrera, Chief Deputy, Washoe County, Nevada

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Williams, Deputy Director, Nevada Department of Corrections

Sheriff Jerry Allen, Pershing County, Nevada

Scott Gilles, Government Affairs Manager, State of Nevada

Judge David Gibson Jr, 8th District, Nevada

Chuck Callaway, Sheriff of Clark County, Nevada

Bea Duran, Assemblywoman, Nevada

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ryan Sunga, DAG, Nevada

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

Cassandra McNeil, Chair for Technical Assistance Subcommittee ICH, Nevada

Josh Reynolds, Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homelessness Outreach, Nevada

Annie Wilson, Homeless Manager HOT Team, Nevada

Sargent Tim Frederick, HOT Team, Nevada

Chad Lowery, Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homelessness Outreach, Nevada

Rachel, Private Citizen, Health Plan of Nevada, Nevada

Anthony Maselli, Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Nevada

Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness
February 23, 2021

Chris Burrell, Office of Community Engagement HOT Team, Nevada

Norris, Private citizen, Nevada

Meg Pike, Liaison for Mckinney Vento, Nevada

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

Secretary Husband:

Good morning 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 3:11 p.m. and I'd like to call the February 23, 2021 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 December 16, 2020

Chair Lee:

We will move on to Agenda Item number III. which is the approval of the minutes from our December 16th meeting.

Steve Aichroth:

Moved to approve.

Robert Thompson:

Second.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Agenda Item IV. Receive Presentation from Sparks Police Department Hope Team

Chair Lee:

We will move on to Item number IV. which is the Presentation from Sparks Police Department Hope Team.

Secretary Husband:

Madame Chair, when we put the agenda out, I had a little bit of a confusion as to the presentations. The presentation is Northern Nevada Homeless Outreach Team and it is all put together. So, it is listed as two different agenda items.

Chair Lee:

Thank you.

(Received presentation from Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homeless Outreach)

Chair Lee:

Thank you so much for that presentation. Do we have any questions?

Steve Aichroth:

Great to see you all in the same room shows that you are all in the right direction. I have a question regarding the new shelter that's under construction at the Governor's bowl. That seems to be as if it right in the middle of kind of the Reno Sparks boundary and you know, what is your, how do you, working with the residents, for lack of a better word, might be there who sometimes they might go to Reno sometimes they might go into Sparks looking for help. Can you just kind of talk about what your thoughts are working for that shelter?

Chad Lowery:

You know I think with being on the border it's really not much different than what we typically deal with law enforcement anyways. We have a border but everything kind of runs into each other. As far as the resources go, if you know somebody went into one jurisdiction the other thing were all going to offer up the resource and what we can to help those people. Understanding too is with that shelter they're really trying to connect and put a lot of resources nearby by that so that way you know you don't have to travel as much to get to those resources that are needed.

Rachel (private citizen Health Plan of Nevada):

This is Rachel with health plan of Nevada this is a question for RPD. What type of trainings are your officers who are on the Homeless Outreach Team doing to better engage with the individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Chad Lowery:

Officers get crisis intervention training they get education that. I think a lot of it too is working with some of our partners. Working with the mobile outreach safety team and just going out there and having those communications with the people out there.

Rachel (private citizen Health Plan of Nevada):

OK thank you. Has your teams engaged in any like trauma informed care training or anything of that nature?

Chad Lowery:

I don't know that they specifically have.

Rachel (private citizen Health Plan of Nevada):

Have you considered any further training for your officers?

Chad Lowery:

Yeah, I think we're always up for any kind of training anything that'll make our officers better to be able to help provide people with assistance. I think we're up for anything.

Chair Lee:

Who would we reach out to? I have a ton of trainings put together and I'd be happy to reach out to you all as well. Especially hearing from people experiencing homelessness and kind of letting them be the subject matter experts in that conversation would you be open to that? And who do I contact?

Chad Lowery:

You can actually, contact myself. I think maybe the other agencies might be interested as well. I can also forward that information as well.

Anthony Maselli:

This is Anthony Maselli with the Sheriff's office. I'm definitely interested in that information since we are just starting up our unit developing our unit. If it's easier just to send it off to Chad and then he can forward it I'm sure to everybody else in this room.

Chair Lee:

I have a question for UNR. I'm wondering I know that there's a lot of youth and our students experiencing homelessness and that number is growing from what I hear. I worked with a couple of students who are working on projects related to homelessness on campus and they're putting together a presentation for the Board of Regents. I'm wondering what's your plan? Like what is in your toolkit as far as how to approach and how to help some of the students you know there are going to school, and they don't have a stable place to stay? I'm just wondering what that looks like for you?

Josh Reynolds:

I'm not aware of the Board of Regents presentation. I know there is we're in a weird position because I know there's some push from students to eliminate benches that are not homeless friendly on campus is that the one, you're referring to?

Chair Lee:

That's correct.

Josh Reynolds:

So, I am aware of that but at the same time we pretty consistently get phone calls from students and parents concerned for safety because of the homeless population on campus. So, it's kind of a catch 22 I know we have these emergency student funds that they do have the ability and access to apply for. The Police Department made a \$2500 donation to that fund within the last year. So yeah, we are we're in a weird spot because we're getting it from both sides with the bench thing in particular and the Chief is aware of that. And it is hard because when we get calls from parents asking about that we have to tell him hey i mean this is being pushed by the students. I understand your perspective as a parent but. I don't know if that answered what you are looking for, or?

Chair Lee:

I'm just wondering as more and more students are affected by the pandemic etc etc. Seems to be a snowball where more and more students are becoming unstably housed due to circumstances beyond their control. So, I'm just wondering what was your strategy. I guess for students not necessarily adults but students experiencing homelessness that may be on campus.

Josh Reynolds:

What helped out of that a lot and I referenced in the PowerPoint is the social work student interns that we brought on board beginning last semester into this semester so they do have a lot of that resource information that the officers may not necessarily be aware of. Or were not aware of beforehand that they're more aware of now. So, we do take them, they go they ride with the officers and go on calls and they are able to present that resource information to the students. Then the two officers that we do have two officers that did express interest in this interagency collaborative effort that we're undertaking currently. And I would be more than happy to get your information that you have as far as that training either from the Lieutenant from Reno or if you want to send that to me directly and I'd be more than happy to get them involved with that as well.

Chair Lee:

Great thank you.

Lieutenant Maselli:

I'd like to chime in on that a little bit. I think with all our being in the same room and so close and working with each other, all of us coming together in this area. In this community working together any resources any contact any information that we gather we quickly share with each other. That's why we understand you know the communication piece was very essential amongst all of us. And so that's work we're committed to doing it for regular meetings and all. We're able to tell our success stories and our difficulty, the challenges and overcome any obstacles that any of us come into contact with.

Chair Lee:

That's awesome, thank you. Does anyone else have any questions?

Greg Herrera:

A comment maybe a question for Tiffany. As this team started to compile statistics and put those all together, what would be the proper conduit to share with this board? I receive those statistics on a weekly basis could I send them through to you, Tiffany. Or what's the proper channel for all that?

Secretary Husband:

Yes, if you send them to me and let me know who exactly you want as the intended audience. Carolyn and I will take care of that for you.

Greg Herrera:

I just wanted to make sure the Board is aware of what's taking place up North and share that something that I think would be interesting as a board.

Chair Lee:

Well, you know I love data. Data is my favorite thing. I will always say yes to data and stats. Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions? We will move on to item number VI. On the agenda which is the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department presenting on the HOT team.

Agenda Item V. Receive Presentation Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Homeless

Outreach Team (HOT)

(Received presentation)

Chair Lee:

Thank you so much that was quite impressive. We appreciate your time. Does anyone have any questions?

Greg Herrera:

I echo Madame Chair, great presentation thank you very much. Ton of information great program. With the current situation with Covid are other agencies able to, will we be able to send teams down to the North just to take a look at what you guys do? And spend a couple days of what may work in our community as well?

Chris Burrell:

Absolutely. You guys are willing to send some people down now we have no problem man just scheduling that and let you guys see I think the collaborative effort of all these agencies. The more we see each other we learn from each other the more it's gonna be a not just a Southern or Northern thing it's gonna be a complete statewide agenda to help with this population. So, whatever you guys need you can email myself.

Greg Herrera:

Thank you.

Chair Lee:

I have one question. How does your team and it sounds like the MORE team is a separate team. The HOT team, the MORE team and how does LEAD intersect with these teams?

Chris Burrell:

So, I'll answer part of that and then I'll defer it to one of the other two to answer the second part. But it's actually one whole team we just have of the eight officers. Two are specifically assigned to deal with the MORE teams and the resources that they have in the city because it's such a high density population

homeless down there, that we wanted to make sure that we had two consistent members of that team. So, we could have some consistency with the communication and important once you resources and people that are involved instead of trying to bounce that around from all members of the team. All the members assist but it's just there's two specifically assigned to that and as regards to LEAD I'll turned it over to the much brighter and smarter Tim Fredrick or Annie Wilson.

Timothy Fredrick:

Yeah, can you elaborate on LEAD?

Chair Lee:

Sure, so forgive my ignorance. I live in northern Nevada. We don't have law enforcement assisted diversion. I think folks here are toying with the idea. And so I know that Las Vegas Metro has piloted that for a couple of years.

Timothy Fredrick:

Do you mean LIMA and not LEAD? Our law enforcement intervention for mental health and addiction?

Chair Lee:

No. I meant LEAD.

Timothy Fredrick:

I think we might use a different acronym. Is there anyway that I can get back to you on that one?

Chair Lee:

Of course it's been pitched and there were some peer ~~tiers~~ that were going out with that team with the law enforcement assisted diversion. And I for some reason, I think it might be connected to that Fresh Start court you were talking about. It was based on the Seattle program that came out in the 1990s and so we know that Metro was piloting that. But I'm really curious to hear more. So, thank you.

Do we have any questions from the board?

Steve Aichroth:

I have one question regarding the Fresh Start court. And sort of I guess if you could kind of run through the process of how individuals become engaged in that court as opposed to going through the regular court process?

Timothy Fredrick:

So, when the individual is issued a citation for whatever offense. Be it trespass, traffic type of things the ticket is given to these particular departments in our court and when that individual arrives at court basically he or she goes in front of the judge and they discussed what that person might need. Why they are homeless what led them there what we can do to help. Then based on that person's answers and where they are, all the service providers that are there can offer their services in lieu of jail time or fines and things like that. So, a good example is a person that has long term alcohol abuse issues, and that caused them to become homeless. Well we have substance abuse counselors there that can get them into either inpatient or outpatient services and then case manage them all the way through to get them some temporary housing. Get them job training if needed, get them a job and then set the conditions for them to get their own place on their own, you know doing their own funding and things like that. Did that answer your question?

Steve Aichroth:

Yes, it did. Thank you.

Chair Lee:

Are there any questions? Thank you for your time today in your presentation. Alright, so I guess we'll move on to agenda item number VII. Receive report from the Subcommittee for Technical Assistance.

Agenda Item VII. Receive Report from Subcommittee for Technical Assistance

(Report received)

Chair Lee:

Thank you so much. Do we have any questions regarding that Subcommittee? Or if anyone is interested in joining? Alright, we are moving on to agenda item number VIII. which is, Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

Agenda Item VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Chair Lee:

Does anyone have suggestions for future meeting topics? Let's hear them.

Norris:

Hi, my name is Norris I'm a person in long term recovery. Having experienced the homeless situation as I have in the past going on 5 years being out of that situation this March 8. I was at a dumpster area contacted by an officer which probably was a Captain of some sort. He simply said he was here to help me wasn't here to take me to jail and suggest they give me a ticket anywhere out-of-state or ride anywhere I'd like to go other than jail. I chose to go to the shelter. They placed me in the system as being chronic homeless. I was also instructed at the shelter to basically take county assessment follow through on all these things along with the Social Security card and birth certificate and other things, ID's and things of that nature to get me established back in the community. And I stayed there three years four months. And I just want everyone to know that out there be encouraged to that I can do it they can do it. I'm happy to give my email address and my name and number. I'll be more than happy to reach out for assistance, and I suggest that we should careful about how we approach these people out there. The language for using people like my myself are use to. We have to use their language they're expecting to be heard and listen to us. If we use proper language, we can get through to them and I can give you the information on how to use that language what language to use I should say. Just throwing it out there and

I'm hoping that you know maybe we can discuss again for topic next time on the approach. It is very important because sometimes we get discouraged from my past experience going out to outreach. We get discouraged; it seems like I want it more than they want it for themselves. But again, you know as I called you on this Covid time and haven't been able to go out more. It's the approach is very important language that you use and just cannot give up on them completely just contact and get through to one of them, we've done our part so just be aware of that please. Thank you for hearing me.

Chair Lee:

Hey, Norris thank you. Sorry I didn't wanna cut you off but this item on this agenda item I'm gonna refer you to Public Comment which is the next agenda item since this one we have to vote on. But I appreciate your testimony today. Let's get together I would love to have you be a part of that presentation, hearing from folks so we'll connect offline. Ok. Does anyone have any agenda items for the next meeting?

[Agenda items for next meeting noted]

Robert Thompson:

Motion to accept previously mentioned topics as agenda items.

Greg Herrera:

Second.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Agenda Item IX. Public Comment

Chair Lee:

We will move on to item number IX. 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.

Meg Pike:

Hi good afternoon everybody my name is Meg Pike and I am a McKinney Vento liaison for the Clark County school district here in Nevada. I'd actually like to just kind of jump off of what Mr. Norris brought up earlier an lending voice to those groups that are going out and doing outreach and specifically advocate that there is more youth voice brought to all of these issues. There is a lot going on with youth I know in Southern Nevada but also around the state. There's actually a group called N 95 that is looking at bringing all of those voices together throughout the state. So maybe incorporating some of that voice towards any outreach programs, educational programs any issues that might come up around. I know you were talking about the issues at the University level maybe bringing some youth voice and to those issues and trying to come up with some good ways to tackle it just seems like bringing that youth part into it might help solve some of those issues in ways that adults aren't.

Chair Lee:

Thank you, Meg. Any further comments? Hearing none. We will move to item number 10 and adjourn.

Adjourned:

4:15 p.m.

Exhibits

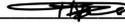
[Exhibit A](#) Nevada Interagency Advisory Council (ICH) February 23, 2021 Agenda

[Exhibit B](#) Attendance Roster

[Exhibit C](#) Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Homelessness Outreach Presentation

[Exhibit D](#) Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Presentation

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Tiffany Husband

Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:



Lisa Lee, Chair

Date: _____