

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

WASHOE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
1001 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512

Monday, December 2, 2019
9:00 a.m.

Bob Lucey, Chair, County Commissioner, District 2, Washoe County
Marsha Berkgigler, County Commissioner, District 1, Washoe County
Neoma Jardon, Vice-Chair, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Reno
Oscar Delgado, Councilmember, Ward 3, City of Reno
Kristopher Dahir, Councilmember, Ward 5, City of Sparks
Ed Lawson, Councilmember, Ward 2, City of Sparks

NOTE: Items on the agenda may be taken out of order; the Advisory Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; may remove an item from the agenda or may delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any item per NRS 241.020(2)(d)(6).

Accessibility. The Washoe County Commission Chambers are accessible to the disabled. If you require special arrangements for the meeting, call the Office of the County Manager, (775) 328-2000, 24-hours prior to the meeting.

Public Transportation. Public transportation is available to this meeting site: RTC Routes 2, 2S, 5 and 15 serve this location. For eligible RTC ACCESS reservations call (775) 348-5438.

Time Limits. Public comments are welcomed during the Public Comment periods for all matters, whether listed on the agenda or not, and are limited to three minutes per person. Additionally, public comment of three minutes per person will be heard during individually numbered items on the agenda which are designated for possible action. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing on the agenda items and/or attend and make comment on that item at the Advisory Board meeting. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers.

Forum Restrictions and Orderly Conduct of Business. The presiding officer may order the removal of any person whose statement or other conduct disrupts the orderly, efficient or safe conduct of the meeting. Warnings against disruptive comments or behavior may or may not be given prior to removal. The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited.

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, the Agenda for the Community Homelessness Advisory Board Meeting has been posted at the following locations: Washoe County Administration Building (1001 E. 9th Street, Bldg. A), Washoe County Courthouse-Second Judicial District Court (75 Court Street), Reno City Hall – Clerk’s Office (1 East First Street); Sparks City Hall (431 Prater Way); www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/board_committees/ and <https://notice.nv.gov>.

Support documentation for the items on the agenda, provided to the Community Homelessness Advisory Board Meeting is available to members of the public at the County Manager’s Office (1001 E. 9th Street, Bldg. A, 2nd Floor, Reno, Nevada) Marilyn Kramer, Assistant to the County Manager, (775) 328-2000 and on Washoe County’s website www.washoecounty.us/mgrsoff/board_committees/

9:00 a.m.

1. Salute to the flag.
2. Roll call.
3. Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board agenda. The Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole.
4. Approval of minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
5. Update, discussion, and possible direction on a presentation of the annual Point in Time Count conducted by the Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH). Hettie Read, City of Reno. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
6. Update, discussion, and possible direction on a presentation of the Eddy House as a local facility for homeless and at-risk youth. Diaz Dixon, CEO. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
7. Update, discussion, and possible direction regarding safety and cleanliness of the Truckee River. Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Greg Herrera FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
8. Update, discussion, and possible direction on a presentation by the Nevada Department of Veterans Affairs, Sierra Nevada Health Care System on the Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans Program. Elizabeth Pope, Coordinated Entry Specialist, FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
9. Board members announcements, reports, and updates to include requests for future board agenda items. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION
10. Items for possible consideration on the January 6, 2020 agenda:
 - Nevada Fiduciary Solutions
 - Request for Proposals for Community Assistance Center services
 - Update on Washoe County moving towards lead agency for homelessness issues
11. Public Comment. Comment heard under this item will be limited to three minutes per person and may pertain to matters both on and off the Board agenda. The Board will also hear public comment during individual action items, with comment limited to three minutes per person. Comments are to be made to the Board as a whole.

Adjournment

**COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

9:00 A.M.

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Chair
Neoma Jardon, Vice Chair
Marsha Berkbigler, Alternate Member
Oscar Delgado, Member
Kristopher Dahir, Member
Ed Lawson, Member

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
Paul Lipparelli, Assistant District Attorney

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Washoe County Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

19-104C AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.

Ms. Kim Barghouti said she represented the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality, who worked with organizations to move meal services from the Record Street campus to a new location on 4th Street. She stated the first meal was expected to be served there today, but seating would not be delivered until November 15. She expressed gratitude to Home Depot in Carson City who donated picnic tables, but there was no place for people to sit. She asked if any organization could help by loaning them temporary seating until their chairs arrived. She stated the use of any type of seating would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Michael Pitkin opined street drugs should be legalized and regulated like alcohol was. He believed that would decrease criminal activity with drug-related situations. He wondered whether practicing drug addicts had rights and he wanted the County to develop a harm reduction program to enable addicts' behaviors. He asked for a housing emergency to be declared to allow tent cities for people to use drugs safely. He explained his opinion of harm reduction was to encourage behaviors such as paying bills first, getting plenty of nutrition and liquids, avoiding arrest, and keeping areas clean. He felt abstinence only programs were not realistic.

Mr. Jeff Church said he previously ran the Reno Police Department homeless program and was the board president of a 501(c)3 homeless center. He thought the current conditions for homelessness were inhumane and it was starting to get cold. He stated the City of Reno boasted about how wonderful the parks were although they had been taken over by the homeless. He said Pickett Park had been cleaned up due to the

efforts of Paul White from Reno Quality of Life. He expressed frustration that the last five Neighborhood Advisory Board meetings had been cancelled, leaving people unable to speak about homelessness. He expressed concern about the lack of restroom facilities available to the homeless. He wondered why the Health District was not involved with the issue. He explained many people would not go to shelters so they needed areas to camp in tents, but they also needed restroom facilities available to them. He displayed photos of debris and tent cities, which were placed on file with the Clerk.

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) Executive Director Christi Cakiroglu stated she had the honor of working with more than 10,000 volunteers over her tenure at KTMB. She said river cleanup efforts started in 2004 and homeless people joined volunteers in helping pick up trash from the river corridor. She wished more resources were available to the homeless, like restrooms and well-maintained trashcans to help keep the river clean. KTMB first started coordinating the Truckee River Cleanup Day in partnership with Nevada Econet. When Nevada Econet closed during the recession, KTMB continued work with support from the Truckee River Fund through the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, funded by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). KTMB strongly believed engaging volunteers and caring for the water supply was as important as understanding the delicate ecosystem. She stated all Truckee Meadows residents had a responsibility to the health of the Truckee River. She thanked TMWA for its support and creation of the adopt-a-river program in 2014, which engaged volunteer groups and provided stewardship for cleanup around the river. In 2017, KTMB started making certain areas along the river off-limits to volunteer groups because of the accumulation of biohazardous materials; unless significant changes were made, KTMB would have to reduce efforts in all areas for safety reasons. She hoped someday public amenities would be available throughout the entire river corridor.

Mr. Jay Kolbet-Clausell suggested people focus on available volunteer opportunities. He said there were some recent press interviews that talked about spending more money on officers, but he felt that was not going to get the community where it needed to be. He mentioned there was a tent at the shelter that needed to be staffed nightly to process individuals checking in and out. He said a new meal tent started serving meals as of today and he expressed appreciation to the people who served food at the meal sites for more than a decade. He hoped volunteers would help people move when a sanctioned campsite became available.

Volunteers of America Regional Director Pat Cashell announced a Shelter from the Storm Breakfast fundraiser would be held on November 14. He invited the Board and the community to attend. He stated almost 400 people had already confirmed and said it was an incredible way to start the day.

19-105C **AGENDA ITEM 4** Approval of minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Member Berkbigler, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

19-106C **AGENDA ITEM 5** Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH) staff structure and overview. J.D. Klippenstein, Vice-Chair, RAAH

Reno Area Alliance for the Homeless (RAAH) Vice-Chair J.D. Klippenstein conducted a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: RAAH Purpose; RAAH Organizational Structure (2 slides); RAAH Leadership Representation; and The Pathway Forward. He encouraged people to reach out to him with questions.

Member Dahir stated the work RAAH was doing was important and it fulfilled some local jurisdiction goals. He said he tried to attend meetings, but his schedule was not always flexible enough. He expressed gratitude for the entities working together. He asked whether the strategic plan would provide details about RAAH's processes from beginning to end. Mr. Klippenstein wanted the strategic plan to be detailed to encompass those steps, along with affordable housing and other issues. He stated his goal was to have a strategic plan to ensure service providers worked well operationally and with the multiple jurisdictions. He explained the plan would be a working document that included best practices, ensured effective delivery of services, and addressed large barriers of housing in the community. Member Dahir thought the most effective way to understand progress was a step-by-step program that ensured individuals reached the final steps without struggles. He said would be happy to assist if volunteers were needed for the point in time count.

Member Berkbigler asked whether the \$1.6 million from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was for housing. Mr. Klippenstein confirmed it was. Member Berkbigler wondered about the process for determining which organizations received money. Mr. Klippenstein stated organizations were required to be members of the Continuum of Care (CoC) to apply for funds. The CoC leadership and general membership ranked the applications based on criteria developed by HUD and local needs. He noted applications were submitted to HUD once the ranking was complete for distribution of funds. He stated homeless service providers who were awarded funds would distribute money to partner agencies to provide services. He explained all funds were tracked by the CoC. He said grant dollars helped clients with transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent support for housing. Member Berkbigler wondered whether the money went to new development. Mr. Klippenstein stated the funds were not for new development, but to help pay rent for individuals in need.

Vice Chair Jardon asked about an emergency contact number for homeless individuals who could not get into shelters because of a pet or partner. Mr. Klippenstein explained there was no emergency number to call because RAAH dealt with re-homing

people before they became homeless. Coordination of entry was run by Catholic Charities, where individuals would receive a needs assessment and the most appropriate housing for them would be determined based on their scores.

Member Lawson stated the City of Reno was the lead agency for writing grants and he understood it was the grant writer's last year. He wondered whether arrangements had been made for a replacement for the following year. Mr. Klippenstein stated Social Entrepreneurs Inc. (SEI) was contracted by the City of Reno in 1999 to fulfill some of the administrative functions of the CoC. The responsibilities had since been brought in-house and the City of Reno dedicated a staff member to the CoC. He noted SEI continued to ensure the rankings and grants were completed correctly. He added the point in time count was the next significant area for which the CoC would take the lead.

Member Delgado thought some organizations in the community with access to funds were requiring individuals to be late on rent in order to receive rental assistance. He stated the Reno City Council wanted assistance to be provided before late fees were assessed. He said the public and the leaders in the community were learning how to work with RAAH and the services available. He thought people had different perceptions about the point in time counts and he sought clarification about the process. Mr. Klippenstein stated the point in time count was an effort to get a one-time count of the general population every January. He said it was the best practice to consider a specific count for youth because higher HUD scores resulted in more federal dollars for counting youth. He said the point in time counts were connected but reported separately. He explained the federal definition of homelessness came from the point in time count. He stated a large amount of analysis took place before the point in time count was released to the public. He mentioned RAAH would appreciate any support and partnerships they could get for the point in time count.

Member Lucey said the intent of this Board was to bring the community together and identify the driving factors of homelessness. He mentioned the initiatives should be taken back to each entity to devise a regional understanding and approach to homelessness. He thought the solutions RAAH brought to the Board could help each entity make functional changes regionally, rather than individually. He stated it was important to identify services along the river and identify the use of federal dollars received. He thanked Mr. Klippenstein for his presentation.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

19-107C **AGENDA ITEM 6** Update, discussion, and possible direction regarding safety and cleanliness of the Truckee River.

- Washoe County Sheriff: Chief Deputy Greg Herrera
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority: Andy Gebhardt, Director, Operations and Water Quality
- One Truckee River: Iris-Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River Partnership Coordinator

Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas stated this item was a result of the previous meeting when river cleanliness was addressed. The Board requested that information be brought back about clean water. She stated it was important to not only address water issues, but to include the efforts of law enforcement and One Truckee River.

Washoe County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Greg Herrera said the three law enforcement agencies were operating independently, which proved to be ineffective. Over the past several months, a collaborative unit was formed specifically for river cleanup. He said the regional goal was to provide wraparound services and continuum of care. He stated the Sheriff's Office had success with cleaning up camps and meetings had occurred with the Reno and Sparks Police Departments to identify dedicated bodies for this effort.

Vice Chair Jardon expressed appreciation for the collaborative efforts of law enforcement. She recognized the cleanup efforts but said people moved to new locations and the efforts needed to be comprehensive, global, and preventative. She stated Reno struggled with identifying continued resources. She wondered whether there was an estimated timeframe to deploy a regional river group. Chief Deputy Herrera explained they were working on some dedicated positions, but currently were only able to participate part-time due to a lack of personnel. He stated the Sheriff's Office was working with the Washoe County Manager's Office for additional staff to dedicate to the initiative. He said the Reno Police Department had three full-time officers and one additional full-time person joining in January. He indicated that was not enough manpower to manage the efforts.

Member Lawson clarified there were two Reno Police Officers dedicated to the river. He mentioned the Sheriff came to this Board previously about establishing a team for the river. Chief Deputy Herrera stated he and Reno Police Deputy Chief Holly Miller attended a conference about wraparound services, and they were actively providing mental health and drug addiction services to the homeless population. He mentioned they spoke to law enforcement officials in Salt Lake City, Utah about their efforts. Member Lawson thought Salt Lake City was a different model compared to most places because churches donated millions of dollars per year for homelessness issues. Chief Deputy Herrera agreed it was different in this community but law enforcement was also actively engaged with wraparound services in Salt Lake City. Member Lawson suggested meeting with the Reno City Manager.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Director of Operations/Water Quality Andy Gebhardt conducted PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Brief Overview;

Important Facts to Remember; Chalk Bluff (5 slides); Glendale Water Treatment Plant (4 map slides and 14 photos); and Questions.

Mr. Gephardt stated this presentation did not suggest a 'not in my backyard' approach. He expressed he did not envy anyone dealing with this issue. The presentation was from the point of view of a water authority that treated the water the community consumed. He commented TMWA could treat most anything in the water because they had two excellent treatment plants. He displayed photos of hazardous waste in and around the river and said what went in the water had to be taken out. He asserted it was dangerous by the river at night due to the homeless population living in bushes. Homeless individuals plugged items into TWMA's power sources, and he said the connections had to be removed after dark. People had been recorded dancing in polluted water inside the fenced areas of treatment plants; both the fences and cameras were for the safety and security of the water.

Mr. Gephardt stated the Glendale Water Treatment Facility was by the river at the city line dividing Reno and Sparks. Early last spring, there were no homeless tents on the Reno side, but there were over 50 camps on Sparks side, right above the intake structure. He said the holding ponds downstream of the Glendale Street and Greg Street bridges were pumped back up and treated again to recycle as much water as possible. He displayed photos of human waste in bags as well as bottles thrown over the fence into the ponds, and he noted the presence of hypodermic needles near the ponds. He expressed concern about the hazardous waste near the water that the community drank. He noted it was dangerous for homeless individuals to use propane tanks in areas near the facilities because fires were easily started. He indicated this was not just a TMWA issue, but a community-wide issue.

Vice Chair Jardon said the issues of funding for law enforcement and imbedded social wraparound services were identified. She expressed disappointment that global law enforcement issues had not been solved in the previous seven months. She stated complaints about homelessness by the river were the most numerous she received. She wondered whether a fiscal resource was available for law enforcement to help TMWA with hazardous waste issues. Mr. Gephardt indicated the TMWA Board expressed interest in possibly funding efforts to protect the water. He stated the City of Sparks found a way to clean up homeless camps, although they may have moved people to Reno. He noted Sparks worked diligently to support moving the homeless and thought it could also be done in Reno.

One Truckee River Partnership Coordinator Iris Jehle-Peppard conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: (Some of) One Truckee River; Nine Focus Areas and Four Primary Goals; Accomplishments; OTR's Priority Water Quality Action Item 1.3.b; The most crucial need in the Reno-Sparks urban core; River Restroom Project; One Truckee River's Action Item 2.6.a; The Truckee Meadows region; Support the Affordable Housing Trust Funds; Support the Amendment Topic; Explore and consider shelters similar to Dignity Village in Portland, OR; Learn more about One Truckee River; and numerous photo slides.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated One Truckee River was a collaboration of public and private partners working together to ensure a healthy and thriving river connected to the Truckee Meadows community. She noted they currently consisted of 130 stakeholders and 17 active partners. The partnership developed the One Truckee River Management Plan Phase 1, which focused on challenges and opportunities connected to the river. She indicated the plan identified more than 100 action items to improve river conditions. She reviewed the focus areas and goals, and stated all three jurisdictions voted unanimously to approve the plan once it was completed. She said the partnership council prioritized nine action items at the end of 2017, and noted they were included in a packet provided to each Member, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated action item 1.3.c was to increase the number of restrooms along the river to improve water quality. She pointed out Fishermen's Park had the highest contamination levels and noted there was a 3.5-mile stretch along the river from Barbara Bennett Park in Reno to Rock Park in Sparks with no public restrooms. She indicated this area was where homeless individuals were living along the riverbanks, and asserted that human waste and needles presented unsanitary and unsafe conditions. She noted the conditions discouraged visitors from enjoying the river in those areas. She expressed concern about people encountering contaminated stools that could carry hepatitis and other diseases. TMWA treated the water, but she said more agents were being added to the water to make it safe.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard stated homelessness was so important, not only for water quality but people suffering. She asserted the efforts to address homelessness needed to include an increase of public facilities along the river to make it possible for human waste and garbage to be disposed of properly. Without restrooms, trash containers, and sharps disposal units, she said it would be difficult for anyone to dispose of waste properly. She presented the phases of the River Restroom Project, which would provide nine new restrooms along the river. She noted all funds were secured to install restrooms for phase 1, but support was needed to raise an additional \$250,000 for phase 2. She indicated more information was included in the packet provided earlier.

Ms. Jehle-Peppard explained One Truckee River had a small staff but many partners they relied upon for expertise. She said many of the partners were from water quality agencies but more partners with human service expertise were needed. She stated information about affordable housing was included in the information provided earlier, but increased inventory of affordable housing would also lead to better water quality within the community.

Chief Deputy Herrera apologized for not having a physical presentation, but assured the Board that regional law enforcement was extremely engaged in resolving homelessness issues around the river.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Jeff Church expressed concern that this was a health emergency. A water test was done by Paul White from Reno Quality of Life (RQOL) and results were emailed to many of the Board Members. He challenged the Board

to make their coffee with the untreated water from the Truckee River. He stated it should not be consumed by pets or humans and the Health District needed to be involved. He said he called the property owner of 1035 East Commercial Row to complain about a mess on the property, and the out-of-state owner had the property cleaned promptly. He indicated Mr. White was approached during a river walk by an individual armed with a weapon, but there were no law enforcement officers to be found. Mr. Church had offered to mediate with various groups but his help was refused. He indicated the Reno Fire Department reported two fires per day caused by homeless individuals. He thought the answer was to move the homeless away from the river to an area where people could legally camp.

Vice Chair Jardon said the importance of homelessness could not be overemphasized. She stated options for housing were being worked on and she did not want enforcement in areas when there were no other places for homeless to relocate. She wondered if a standing item for updates about law enforcement regionalization along the river could be placed on future agendas. She opined it would be great to have a comprehensive plan in place for spring. She wanted updates and feedback to help determine funding for the needed resources to reduce these issues.

Member Dahir wanted a presentation at the next meeting on the steps already taken and any future steps.

Chair Lucey stated all these issues required funding for additional staff and efforts to improve the quality and safety of the area. He wanted each jurisdiction to identify funding for these issues in their budgets. Without a funding source, none of the ideas suggested could be achieved. Health issues for the public alone were dangerous and the effects on the homeless population were worse. He noted the river was a community asset that provided drinking water to residents and visitors, and it needed to be protected. He stated each jurisdiction received franchise fees from Waste Management which could be used for bio-waste dumpsters along the river. He wanted a plan to be developed to make the needed changes. He noted he did not like going to the river knowing people were challenged to have a civil life because the government failed to meet their needs. He did not agree with displacing the homeless from one place to another; he wanted a solution for the homeless to live safely. He asked for an ongoing agenda item at each meeting to discuss the direction and progress in the community.

Vice Chair Jardon said she had talked about prioritizing this with the Reno City Council for the past two years. She thought the priority was to determine a global comprehensive approach to river issues by spring; that would send a message that this was this Board's priority. She stated one solution that could help was the use of tiny houses. She said she initiated a tiny house effort at the City of Reno more than two years ago which would hopefully get underway in a month or two. She found it disheartening that other jurisdictions initiated tiny houses and had them in place within 90 days. She thought that was a problem. She wanted clear expectations from this Board to be determined by spring.

Member Lawson said affordable housing was a complicated subject. He wanted to focus on one priority then move on to the next. He thought law enforcement

could work together to provide the services homeless individuals needed; those individuals had a choice to accept the services or not. He stated the river needed to be taken back from the homeless. He assumed there were neighborhood kids that had never been to the river because of the dangers.

Member Dahir thought a camp was necessary for homeless individuals until the jurisdictions decided on a better solution. He knew encampments caused other issues and the option involved asking homeless individuals to make significant life changes to get help. He opined the worst situation would be to allow them to stay where they were. He did not know the process for providing a temporary, safe, and sanitary location, but he hoped a non-profit organization would take the lead on the efforts. He acknowledged it was not the optimal solution.

Chair Lucey indicated restrooms were the most important basic need for homeless individuals. He stated it was imperative that human waste did not get into the water source or thrown onto water treatment facility properties. The restrooms would have to be maintained on a regular basis.

Member Dahir mentioned TMWA was working on a restroom and he thought a second one was also in the works. Chair Lucey opined that was not enough for the homeless population. He wanted this topic to be put on the agendas for every meeting going forward.

10:34 a.m. Chair Lucey and Member Berkgigler left the meeting. Vice Chair Jardon assumed the gavel.

19-108C **AGENDA ITEM 7** Update, discussion, and possible direction on the status of OrgCode Consulting, Inc.'s report and next steps on the operational review of the housing and homelessness system in Washoe County. Bill Thomas, Assistant City Manager, City of Reno.

Reno Assistant City Manager Bill Thomas conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: Overarching Recommendations; OrgCode Deliverables; CoC Policy Recommendations; Service Delivery/Policy Recommendations; and Service Delivery Recommendations. He stated that, prior to the creation of the Community Homeless Advisory Board (CHAB), a transitional governing board consisted of representatives from the three local entities. That group, in coordination with the lead agency, City of Reno, hired OrgCode Inc. as an expert organization to review and assess the homeless situation and provide recommendations.

Member Dahir thought the steps were great and expressed appreciation to the City of Reno for taking the lead on these efforts. He hoped Reno knew the CHAB was committed to helping.

Mr. Thomas stated the new alternate feeding site was a result of all three entities working closely together. Vice Chair Jardon asked whether the City of Reno could help with a public speaker's request for the temporary use of chairs for a feeding site. Mr. Thomas said he would investigate that.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Jeff Church was called but was not present to speak.

19-109C **AGENDA ITEM 8** Update, discussion, and possible direction regarding federal funds usage and potential impacts to service provision. Bill Thomas, Assistant City Manager, City of Reno.

Reno Assistant City Manager Bill Thomas conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk, and reviewed slides with the following titles: FY 2018-2019 Federal Funding; HUD CoC Housing Programs; Federal Guidelines for CoC; and Federal Low Barrier Best Practices.

Vice Chair Jardon asked whether the \$1.6 million was for the Continuum of Care and \$850,000 was for the shelter. Mr. Thomas confirmed that was correct. The question often asked of elected officials, Vice Chair Jardon said, was about the stringent requirements for shelter entry; she thought changing them could put funding at risk. Mr. Thomas again confirmed that was correct. Vice Chair Jardon wondered about requiring individuals staying at the shelter to set aside part of their income for permanent housing. Mr. Thomas stated they were not allowed to charge people to enter the facility. He thought they could explore the possibility of partner entities talking to people at the shelter about setting money aside for future housing or collecting money to help pay for the services received.

Vice Chair Jardon thought it was worth exploring. She noted the City of Reno and the County had forced savings programs which set up new financial responsibilities to help people get to the next life step. She asserted it was worth exploring and wondered whether it could be voluntary instead of a forced condition.

Member Lawson asked for the gentleman who did financial planning to provide some information to the questions. Nevada Fiduciary Solutions (NFS) Manager Joe Arrascada stated Member Lawson brought up some dollar amounts allocated by the federal government to the Community Assistance Center (CAC). The information they received was from 2018; the actual amount of money allocated to the CAC was \$962,627. He said it was discovered that 80 percent of people who used a CAC in 2018 had a monthly tax-free income of \$1,000 or more. He stated numerous shelters across the United States charged for the use of the shelters. He noted Indiana charged individuals \$7 per night to stay in a shelter. He said people from the local shelter contacted friends at shelters in San Francisco to come to Reno, where they could get free housing, food, washer and dryer, and were given no reason to leave. He indicated the money from some people staying at the shelter went to NFS and individuals received an allowance of \$35 per week. Individuals who did not need the weekly allowance saved it for when they could relocate to permanent

housing so they had money for deposit and rent. He explained NFS, as a representative pay agency, was required by the federal government to retain at least 5 percent of the clients' money for a rainy day fund. He did not know whether the CAC required individuals to save money, but a pay agency did.

Member Lawson stated it was a legal practice and proven to work. He wanted staff to research the process to help individuals save for a rainy day.

Mr. Arrascada stated he had been trying to get on the agenda for the December meeting, but it did not work with his schedule; he wanted to be on the January agenda to discuss the work being done with the downtown ambassadors.

On the call for public comment, Mr. Jeff Church urged the Board to only support programs that required payees to save. He quoted from a Housing First study. He said he understood the need to get funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but wondered where potential locations of campsites would be. He suggested the Empire Mine because it was closed. He provided a document, which was placed on file with the Clerk.

19-110C **AGENDA ITEM 9** Board members announcements, reports and updates to include requests for future board agenda items.

Member Lawson requested a presentation by Nevada Fiduciary Solutions (NFS) Manager Joe Arrascada be placed on the agenda for the January 5 meeting.

Member Dahir thanked staff from all jurisdictions for the work being done.

Vice Chair Jardon said the status of regional efforts along the river should be updated monthly. She wanted a quarterly transition update related to the County taking over the operations lead from the City of Reno. She understood the County was busy with the Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services Campus coming online. She thought the beginning of the year was a good time to start transition updates.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

19-111C **AGENDA ITEM 10** Items for possible consideration on the December 2, 2019 agenda:

- Annual Point in Time Count
- Nevada Department of Veterans Services appearance
- Eddy House presentation

Member Dahir asked for an update on youth in the community. Vice Chair Jardon asked staff to add that to the December 2 update.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

19-112C AGENDA ITEM 11 Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

* * * * * * * * * * *

11:00 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

BOB LUCEY, Chair
Community Homelessness Advisory Board

ATTEST:

NANCY PARENT, County Clerk

*Minutes Prepared by:
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*

Pending Board Approval



Point In Time Count

Presentation to CHAB, December 2, 2019

Hettie Read, Management Analyst

Point In Time (PIT) Count

- Mandated by HUD to take place within the last 10 days of January annually
- Conducted nationally
- The 3 Nevada CoCs conduct their counts on the same day
- Scheduled for January 30, 2020

BELIEVE RENO

PIT Reporting

- Data collected is reported to HUD, and used as part of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report, an annual report to Congress
- Provides longitudinal data to show trends in homelessness locally and nationally
- *“Despite its flaws, the annual point-in-time counts result in the most reliable estimate of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S.”* - National Alliance to End Homelessness

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Elements of the PIT

- **Required by HUD**
 - Unsheltered Count
 - Sheltered Count
- **Other Data Collected (Not Required by HUD)**
 - Motel Count
 - Interviews

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Unsheltered Count

- Follows HUD methodology for validity
- Teams meet in the early morning to count individuals they find living in place not meant for human habitation (i.e., on the street, in a tent, or in a car)
- Teams consist of law enforcement and case management staff
- Teams go to designated mapped areas
- Utilize the Counting US app

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Sheltered Count

- Count of everyone staying in emergency shelter and transitional housing the night of the PIT
- Utilizes HMIS data

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Motel Count

- Count of individuals and families living in motels in the area
- A team of volunteers collect the data from motel managers and residents the day of the PIT

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Interviews

- Collect more in-depth information on homelessness
- This year outreach teams will be conducting interviews with those they encounter the week of the PIT

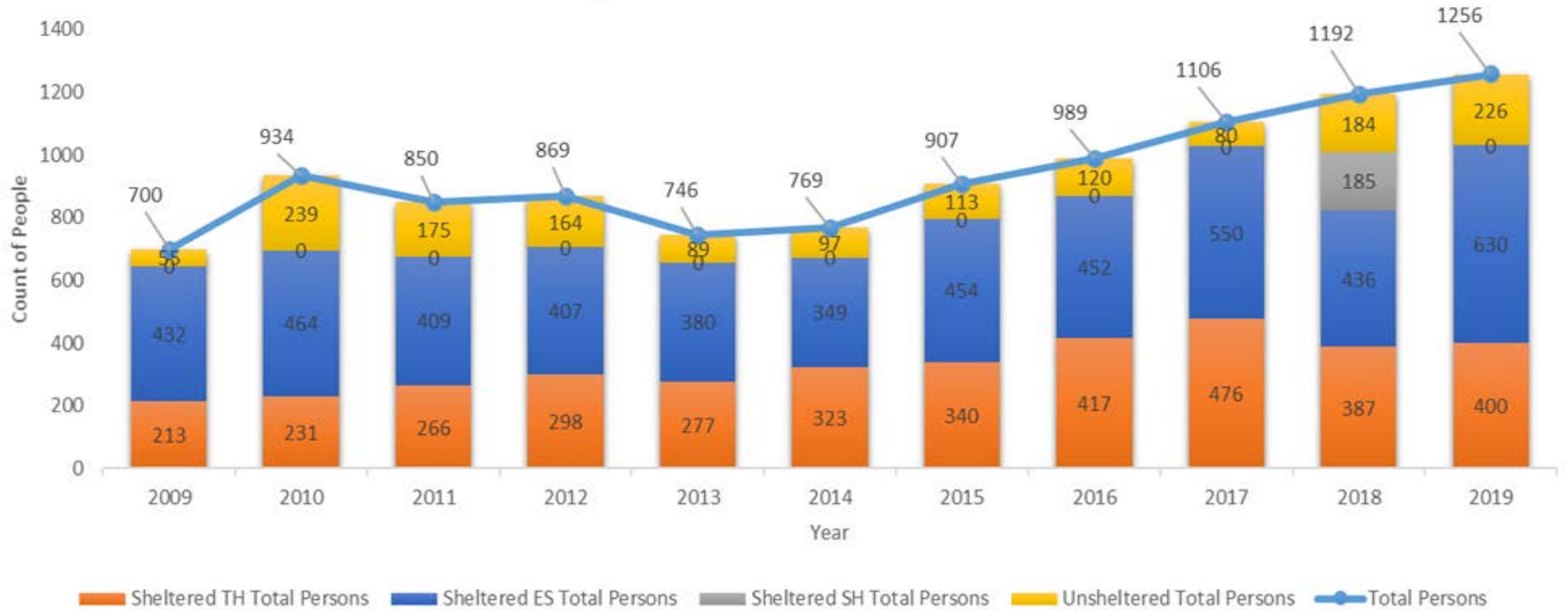
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2019 PIT Data

- Unsheltered - 226
 - Males - 165
 - Females - 57
 - Transgender - 3
 - Gender non-conforming - 1
- Emergency Shelter - 630
- Transitional Housing - 400
- People in Weekly Motels - 1525
 - Seniors - 475
 - Children - 93

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Longitudinal Point in Time Data



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Elizabeth Pope, LCSW

Coordinated Entry
Specialist

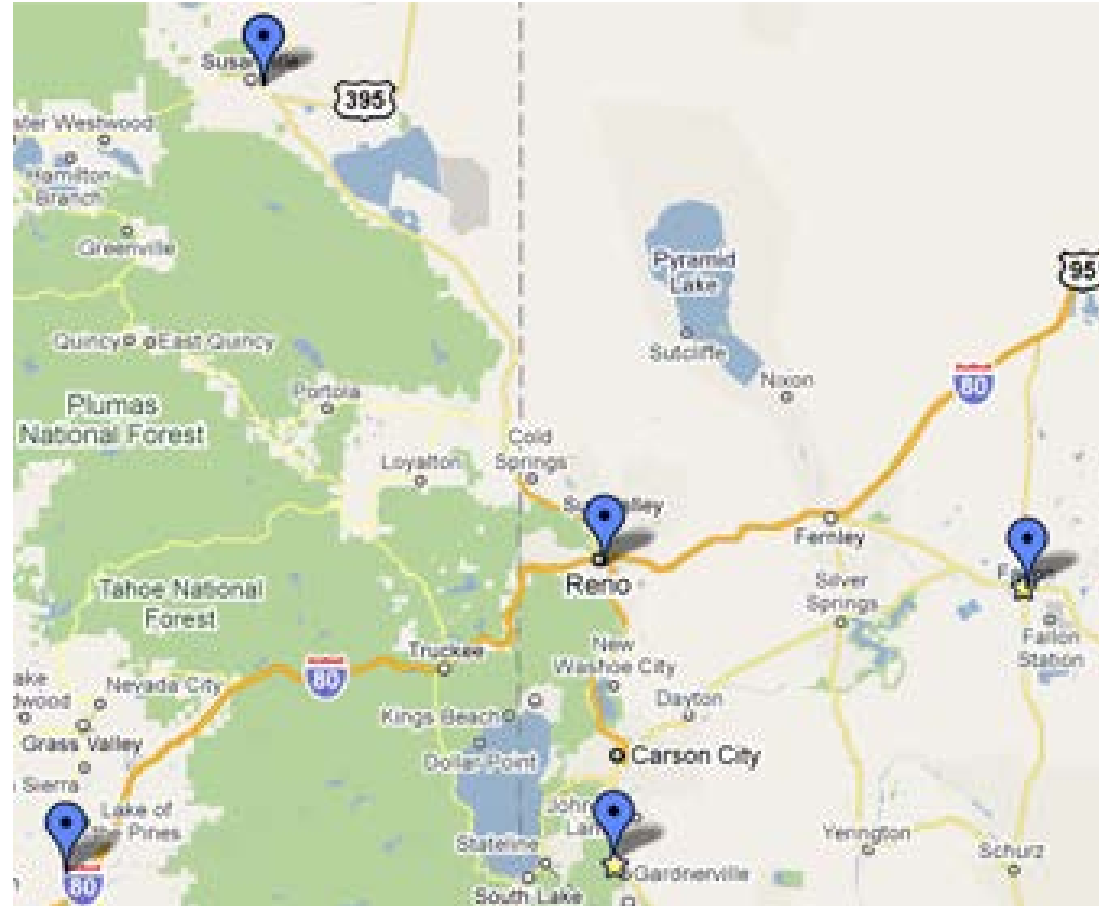
SERVICES FOR VETERANS WHO ARE HOMELESS

THROUGH THE
VA SIERRA NEVADA
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS (HCHV)

The Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) program is an essential and critical part of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), providing a gateway to VA and community-based supportive services for eligible Veterans who are homeless.

VA SIERRA
NEVADA
HEALTH
CARE
SYSTEM





ELIGIBILITY

For HCHV and HUD-VASH:

Veteran is defined as a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and is enrolled or eligible for VA health care under 38 CFR 17.36 or 17.37.

An eligible Veteran must meet the criteria specified in 38 CFR 63.3 to qualify for benefits under the HCHV program.

For SSVF and GPD:

Veteran means a person who has served in the active military, naval, or air service who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

PROGRAMS
AVAILABLE TO
VETERANS WHO ARE
HOMELESS



Outreach



Emergency and
Transitional Housing

Contract Emergency Residential
Services
Grant & Per Diem



Justice Outreach/re-entry



Case Management



HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
Provided by Veterans Resource Center

HCHV OUTREACH

Walk-in services

- Monday – Friday (except Federal Holidays) 0800-1400
- 350 Capitol Hill, Reno, NV 89502

Community outreach

- Provide Outreach at the Record Street Campus
- Street Outreach
- Respond to motels and street corners
- Serve as community liaisons for the VA homeless program.



HCHV OUTREACH

- Assist with enrollment in and connection to VA Medical and Mental Health Care
- Connect with Veterans Benefits Administration
- Assess acuity
- Collaborate with Veteran to determine most appropriate level of care and referral
- Support placement into emergency and transitional housing options
- Begin process of referral to HUD-VASH

OUTREACH CENTER



A center that helps Veterans with housing related needs without an appointment



Veterans come into the Veterans Outreach Center and are seen in the order of their arrival



Staffed by HCHV Social Work staff from 8 AM to 2 PM Monday – Friday except Federal Holidays



The goal is to triage the housing needs and any other urgent needs for the Veteran



Shower and laundry facility



Small food pantry for emergent food needs



COORDINATED ENTRY

- Creating a no wrong door entry system to receiving services to exit homelessness
- Collaborations between the VA and community service providers
- Use HMIS and VA systems
- Bi-Weekly case staffing meetings to ensure Veterans do not fall through the cracks



PEER SUPPORT

- Peer Specialists (PSs) are VA employees with lived experiences, who are in recovery and help other Veterans to successfully engage in recovery supports.
- Peers create a bridge of support between clinical staff and Veterans recovering from homelessness.
- Support Veterans in obtaining documents needed for housing process
- Support Veterans in getting to meetings needed to facilitate recovery and housing engagement.

EMERGENCY &
TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING:

CONTRACT
EMERGENCY
RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES
(CERS)

GRANT & PER DIEM
(GPD)

Temporary short term housing for
Veterans who are homeless

Services are provided by community
agencies and paid for by the VA

Case management is provided by the
agency with the goal of assisting Veterans
in obtaining permanent housing

Case management seeks to ensure that
once housing is secured, it is sustainable

TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING
PARTNERSHIPS
IN
WASHOE COUNTY

Contract Emergency Residential Services (CERS)

- Bristlecone Family Resources (13 beds)
- City of Reno – Volunteers of America (26 beds)
- Steps to New Freedom (13 beds)
- Veterans Resource Center (18 beds)

Grant & Per Diem (GPD)

- Bristlecone Family Resources (12 beds)
- Vitality Veterans (28 beds)
- West Care Home Front (15 beds)

HCHV CASE MANAGEMENT

Provides longer term case management services for Veterans who are literally homeless

The ultimate goal is to help the Veteran obtain permanent, sustainable housing

Designed to provide longer term interventions than outreach social workers can provide



HUD-VASH

- Permanent Supportive Housing Program
- Pairs Housing Choice Voucher through Reno Housing Authority with VA Case Management
- Social workers work with Veterans to support housing sustainability
- Veterans are referred to this program based on acuity
- 303 vouchers in Reno

- Grantees provide a range of supportive services to eligible veteran families that are designed to promote housing stability
- Assist very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing
- Services include:
 - Rapid Rehousing
 - Rapid Resolution



SUPPORTIVE
SERVICES
VETERAN
FAMILIES
(SSVF)

NATIONAL CALL CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS



- Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Family members, friends and supporters calling on behalf of Veterans
- VA Medical Centers and other VA facilities and staff
- Federal, state and local partners
- Community agencies and providers who serve Veterans who are homeless

VETERANS CRISIS LINE



QUESTIONS?