



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Strategic Plan Implementation Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Intervention

Workgroup #1

MINUTES

September 7, 2016

Via Teleconference with Public Access At:

4126 Technology Way, Second Floor Conference Room, Carson City, NV 89706

1. Introductions, Roll Call, and Announcements

CJ Manthe called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. A quorum was determined by roll call.

Members Present

CJ Manthe
Jeni Chavez
Kelly Robson
Michele Fuller-Hallauer
Stephen Shipman

Others Present

David Paull
Sarah Yeats-Patrick
Crystal Kleidosty
Cloyd Philips
Maria Castillo-Couch
Betsy Fadali
Dale Hansen
DeAndrea Ceccarelli

Staff Present

Vanessa Pickles

Members Absent

Tami Chartraw
Tony Ramirez
Wendy Simons

Public Comment

2. Ms. Manthe made an announcement regarding the Affordable Housing Forum in Las Vegas which will be held on October 19, 2016.

Betsy Fadali asked if the Workgroup would like her to continue her efforts in collecting data on transitional housing and other types that are not included in her database and also if there is any other action that needs to be done.

Ms. Manthe stated the Workgroup will consider that as an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting in October. She stated the group will discuss the overall need for data in this group, or if the information and data should be shared with Workgroup 4.

3. Review and Approve the Minutes of June 1, 2016

Ms. Robson moved to approve the minutes of June 1. Ms. Chavez seconded and the motion carried.

4. Approve Proposed Names for Membership: Jeni Chavez of Nevada Rural Housing Authority; Tami Chartraw, Olmstead Plan Project Coordinator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health; and David Paull, Nevada HAND [Housing and Neighborhood Development]

Ms. Manthe stated both Jeni Chavez and Tami Chartraw were voted in at the June 1 meeting as written in the minutes. She stated at the last meeting the Workgroup discussed the need for someone to represent the affordable housing development community, and David Paull represents that being with Nevada HAND.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer moved to add David Paull to the Workgroup. Mr. Shipman seconded and the motion carried.

5. Update On the Progress of the State Wide Analytic and Projection (SWAP) Tool as Used in Southern Nevada

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated the correct name for the tool is “*System* Wide Analytic and Projection Tool,” although this is something they would like to potentially adopt statewide.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer first explained to everyone what the tool is and what it does. She stated it is a robust set of excel spreadsheets that collect data from multiple sources including housing inventory charts, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and budgets from all the projects in the community. She continued stating it is designed to rewrite the homeless system keeping in mind Housing and Urban Development (HUD) policy priorities and local interests to effectively address homelessness. It was developed through Focus Strategies, which was contracted with the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer also stated the SWAP tool was designed to localize data so that communities could understand their current system and what their system is accomplishing and to model when happens when there are systematic or programmatic changes in the community. She continued by stating the program was designed to reduce homelessness for up to a five-year period. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated southern Nevada chose to adopt the SWAP tool and that it is more time-intensive to gather the data needed than what was initially thought as they have several providers who were resistant to give their full budget data. However, they will move forward without that information if necessary.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer presented the data gathered so far beginning with the report of “HMIS Data Quality Utilization.” She stated the data helps them to determine which providers are utilizing HMIS to collect data on all of their beds and which providers are not. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer also stated the data will go to their monitoring working group as well as to their HMIS working group to act as a check-and-balance system to assess utilization with HMIS. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer then led the Workgroup through the remaining reports of data collected thus far which included HMIS data charts regarding Quality Households Served, Project Cost Data, Unknown Answers, Length of Stay, and Project Performance.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer concluded her presentation stating they hoped to have better projection analytics; however, this will not happen until they have full budget data made available from all their projects.

Ms. Manthe stated she noticed on a couple of the reports a utilization rate above 100 percent and she posed a question to Ms. Fuller-Hallauer on the reasoning for that data. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer explained with emergency shelters, for example, generally they are serving more than what they are funded to serve. With rental assistance providers, especially Continuum of Care (COC) funded programs, when they renew their projects they are encouraged by HUD to renew with the number of clients they were originally contracted to renew. Many of the housing providers are able to get rent lower than Fair Market Rents (FMR) therefore, they have an excess of rentals and are able to serve more clients than they are contracted to serve.

Ms. Manthe asked if Ms. Fuller-Hallauer and her team have an expected timeline on when they will get the additional data needed to take the project to the next level.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer replied that they needed to fill in the missing data with the full budget data from all their providers because that was the piece that delayed the project. She is hoping by October they will have better data information made available.

Ms. Manthe suggested the Workgroup place an update on the SWAP tool for the November meeting and Ms. Fuller-Hallauer agreed at that time they should have more robust data to present.

Ms. Manthe asked Ms. Fuller-Hallauer if there is anything the Workgroup can do to support the project.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated everyone could help her team's efforts by using their connections with the directors or upper management with the non-profit providers in the southern Nevada area and encouraging them to submit their full budget data.

6. Discuss Strategic Plan Timeframes and Needed Expertise

Ms. Manthe stated this is a standing agenda item and mentioned the group has added a couple new members to gather additional expertise. She acknowledged in the minutes from the June meeting it states Tony Ramirez also identified a potential new member to be considered which is the Executive Director from the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. Tony also suggested that the Executive Director could give us a presentation either at the Workgroup or to the entire Council. Ms. Manthe stated she feels this should be put on a future agenda to consider adding that potential membership and expertise to the group. Ms. Manthe then opened a discussion for the group to offer any ideas or identify any gaps in the group's expertise or knowledge in order to tackle the strategic plan.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated she thinks the group needs to identify some prevention and diversion opportunities that may be available in the state that the group may not be tapping into and expand that component to the efforts to end homelessness.

Ms. Manthe asked if Ms. Fuller-Hallauer could provide an example of some of the prevention efforts she had in mind and any potential groups that might represent those activities.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated she has suggestions for the type of activities but she is not sure who could provide the expertise. She mentioned things like preventing evictions. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated she

knows there are credit repair services in the community, but that it is not just credit repair that is necessary for prevention. She mentioned “flexible dollars” that would help prevent individuals from entering into homelessness. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer continued stating these are the individuals who have exhausted their “safety net” either by a bill or because they have become unemployed and are not eligible for any state or federal mainstream programs. She posed the question what can we tap into to prevent those folks from tapping into the homeless system? Ms. Fuller-Hallauer stated the diversion portion would be directed toward folks who have just entered homelessness and possibly reunifying them with their families, repairing a relationship with a landlord or paying a bill in order to help folks be immediately diverted out of the homeless system.

Ms. Manthe then asked the group if anyone had any recommendations on which programs might be able to provide those types of services and suggested a resource such as a financial guidance center.

Ms. Chavez mentioned that in the state of California the Welfare Department has a program to provide folks with assistance with a one-time expense such as a vehicle repair to keep them from becoming unemployed and keep them out of the homeless and welfare system. She asked the group if anyone knew of such a program in Nevada.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer replied that Nevada does not have such a program, but that we do need that.

Ms. Manthe mentioned the Housing Division does provide some funds to different county welfare departments, but she was not sure if that would be an eligible activity of their funding. Ms. Manthe also asked if that was something the COCs have discussed at their level.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer acknowledged that is something missing from the southern Nevada continuum, and they have placed an informal bid for a gap analysis to identify the gaps in prevention and intervention and identify practices from other communities southern Nevada can potentially adopt.

7. Discuss Date of Next Meeting and Approve Agenda Items

The next regular meeting was scheduled for October 5, but the meeting was moved to October 12 at 9:00 a.m. Agenda items include:

- Betsy Fadali’s data request
- Needed expertise for the Workgroup – identify names to expand membership
- Take a more intense look at goals for Workgroup 1 (2017 goals)

8. Public Comment (No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken, five (5) minute limit)

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Chavez moved, and Ms. Fuller-Hallauer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m.