



## Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Strategic Plan Implementation Policies and Long Term Planning

### Workgroup #5 September 16, 2016 MINUTES

#### Via Teleconference with Public Access At:

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

#### 1. **Introductions, Roll Call, and Announcements**

Pastor Schmidt, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. A quorum was determined by roll call.

##### Members Present

Pastor John Schmidt  
Brooke Keast  
Tami Chartraw  
Tyrone Thompson

##### Others Present

Jennifer McClendon  
Merideth Spriggs  
Sarah Yeats-Patrick

##### Staff Present

Vanessa Pickles

##### Members Absent

Michele Fuller-Hallauer

There were no announcements.

#### 2. **Public Comment**

Sarah Yeats-Patrick stated Nevada was not chosen for the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) round-two funding. She also stated the CABHI funds were used to fund Social Entrepreneurs Inc. (SEI) to support the ICH. The last of the funding will be distributed to SEI on September 29, 2016. Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated beginning October 1, 2016, SEI's participation and support with the ICH will be reduced and more focused, and SEI will not be able to participate on the Workgroup calls moving forward, but they will continue to attend the full ICH meetings.

Pastor Schmidt advised the Workgroup that Mike McMahon would no longer be participating on the Workgroup.

**3. Review and Approve the Minutes of July 1, 2016**

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes of July 1. Ms. Chartraw seconded and the motion carried.

**4. Presentation on the Public Awareness Campaign to Remove the Stigma Around Homelessness Developed by Southern NV Continuum of Care (Strategy 8.2.2)**

Ms. Spriggs is the Chief Kindness Officer and founder of Caridad Charity, which does homeless outreach in Southern Nevada. She presented to the group the efforts she and her group have made to raise awareness regarding the homeless system in Southern Nevada.

**5. Presentation and Discussion on Updating and Possibly Revising the Strategic Plan (Strategies 7 and 8)**

Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated SEI met with Pastor Schmidt in August to plan which direction this Workgroup should go in regards to the goals that have been set. Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated this Workgroup is unique in that the strategic issues and goals that have been assigned do not have a quick turnaround time. Ms. Yeats-Patrick said this Workgroup's focus is on Policies (Strategic Issue #7) and Long Term Planning (Strategic Issue #8). Ms. Yeats-Patrick also pointed out that there has been movement on some of the policies listed on the Strategic Plan meaning that the group will need to update these particular sections. Ms. Yeats-Patrick asked Pastor Schmidt if this issue made it on the agenda for the full ICH meeting.

Pastor Schmidt stated he had not heard from Ellen Richardson-Adams regarding updating the strategic plan as a possible ICH meeting agenda item.

**6. Make Recommendations on Updating and Revising the Strategic Plan**

Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated the overall goal was to look at the Strategic Plan and put forth the recommendation to the ICH at the full meeting to either revise or strike items that are no longer relevant. She first referenced Strategic Issue #7 – Policies. The first goal states, “public and private partners who provide services to prevent and end homelessness will coordinate policy to ensure that barriers are eliminated and goals of the strategic plan are achieved.” Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated Ms. Spriggs' presentation on her efforts to build relationships between agencies is a good example on how to achieve this goal. Ms. Yeats-Patrick then led the Workgroup through the Goal 1 Strategies. These strategies include: identifying the agencies that provide services to prevent homelessness, gathering these agencies together so the Council may provide training and technical assistance on homeless policies, research and implement initiatives such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to help or prevent homelessness, and implement Medicaid program changes to improve behavioral and physical health care delivery and supportive housing. Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated the timeline set forth for that particular strategy is 2017 which may need to be readdressed to a more realistic timeline. The final strategy is the Council would provide four annual trainings to state personnel dedicated to Social Security determinations. Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated this strategy references the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) model, and Clark County Social Service employs a statewide SOAR coordinator who provides training.

Ms. Chartraw referenced Goal 3, which states, “break the cycle of incarceration that leads to disrupted families, limited economic prospects and poverty, increased homelessness or at risk of

homelessness, and more criminal activity.” Ms. Chartraw asked if Ms. Yeats-Patrick knew of any agencies that could eliminate the barriers and break the cycle associated with incarceration.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick stated the plan lists two strategies associated with this goal and the ICH can only do so much to break the cycle of incarceration and the Council needs to rely on collaborating with agencies such as the Department of Corrections (DOC). Ms. Yeats-Patrick noted the group did add a representative from the DOC, Brooke Keast.

Ms. Chartraw stated the HUD [Department of Housing and Urban Development] released a guideline in April 2016 that suggested not using criminal history to discriminate for housing assistance and suggested this Workgroup implement goals and strategies to work toward those efforts. Mr. Thompson stated he pre-filed his bill regarding that issue and suggested the Workgroup place a discussion of the bill on the next agenda.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick redirected the Workgroup to Goal 1 and asked everyone if they had any suggestions on possible changes that should be presented at the next ICH meeting.

Pastor Schmidt stated the overall focus of the Workgroup is to maintain the current level of services available at state and local levels and to also expand those services. He asked the Workgroup for their suggestions on what should be altered on the Strategic Plan to effectively address those focus areas.

Mr. Thompson stated the most important goal the Workgroup should focus on is communication between agencies that currently offer assistance, such as the DOC, as these agencies may be working on new things the Council is unaware of.

Ms. Chartraw agreed and stated the Workgroup needs to build achievable and accountable goals and objectives.

Mr. Thompson referenced Strategic Issue #7 - policies and some of the examples listed. The document mentions using TANF money to help families find and keep permanent housing. Mr. Thompson suggested the Workgroup meet with such agencies to initiate action to meet the goals put in place.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick agreed and mentioned the Workgroup needed to address the issues other workgroups and taskforces are currently working on so this Workgroup does not duplicate efforts. Ms. Yeats-Patrick mentioned the Medicaid program changes listed and noted Workgroup 3 had already made a lot of progress on that strategy, and suggested the Workgroup remove that task from the Strategic Plan. Ms. Yeats-Patrick also referenced under Goal 1, “Provide four (4) training(s) annually to state personnel dedicated to Social Security determinations that benefit the most vulnerable people.” She stated these trainings are already being conducted regardless of the ICH, so this may also be something the Workgroup should look at removing.

Next, Ms. Yeats-Patrick referred the Workgroup to Goal 2, which states, “Close the gap between available and needed appropriate credentialed health professionals statewide.” She mentioned the

Governor has a taskforce that is currently looking into this goal, and suggested the Workgroup confirm and remove to prevent duplication of efforts.

Mr. Thompson suggested instead of removing items from the Strategic Plan, the Workgroup place an “update” under each strategy such as “accomplished.” He stated the Workgroup does not necessarily need to complete each task but rather ensure the work is being done.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick said she would update the Strategic Plan and provide updates under the items she knows are currently being addressed and send a draft to Pastor Schmidt; however, any further changes would need to be delegated to someone else as SEI will not be able to participate on any Workgroup calls moving forward. Ms. Chartraw agreed to assist Ms. Yeats-Patrick with the updates.

Mr. Thompson mentioned he, as a Legislator, is able to address Strategic Issue #7 – Policies. He stated he is currently thinking of legislation to address Goal 3, and it is up to the Council to determine if they would want to support the bill, remain neutral or oppose the bill. He suggested the Council gain confirmation from the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) on whether this is allowed. Mr. Thompson also mentioned it is a state law that individuals who are released from incarceration cannot be released to homelessness and several institutions are not in compliance with this law. Ms. Keast stated the DOC has completely changed their mission with rehabilitation being their main focus.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick directed the Workgroup to the next Strategic Issue #8 - Long Term Planning. Goal 1 states, “The strategic plan document is re-assessed and updated at least every five years to prevent and end homelessness.” She stated this is standard practice and not much needs to be changed concerning this goal. Goal 2 states, “Public outreach and education is conducted to create awareness to remove the stigma around homelessness.” Ms. Spriggs’ presentation was facilitated to show examples of how this goal can be achieved. The Southern Nevada Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is developing public awareness, and the goal is to expand their efforts statewide. Ms. Yeats-Patrick suggested adding an update stemming from Ms. Spriggs’ presentation, which she stated she is currently teaming the southern, northern and rural CoCs to expand awareness.

Mr. Thompson suggested teaming with the CoCs and proposing a dedicated month towards homelessness awareness.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick said this Workgroup needs action steps on how to achieve the goals and strategies in place. She said she could put together a simple template for the Workgroup to utilize to plan those action items.

Pastor Schmidt confirmed Ms. Yeats-Patrick’s next step which is to team with Ms. Chartraw to update and add comments that were discussed into the existing plan.

## **7. Approve Next Meeting Date of October 21 and Propose Agenda Items**

Pastor Schmidt proposed to keep the scheduled meeting date of October 21 at 2 p.m. All workgroup members present agreed on the set date and time.

**8. Public Comment**

Pastor Schmidt reminded the Workgroup the next ICH meeting will be October 21, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

**9. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, Pastor Schmidt called the meeting to adjourn at 3:18 p.m.