



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

### Workgroup #1 October 12, 2016

Via Teleconference with Public Access At:  
4150 Technology Way, Room 207, Carson City, NV 89706

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

CJ Manthe called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. A quorum was determined by rollcall.

##### Members Present

CJ Manthe  
David Paull  
Jeni Chavez  
Kelly Robson  
Tony Ramirez

##### Others Present

Arash Ghafoori  
Betsy Fadali  
Crystal Kleidosty  
Dale Hansen  
Kathi Thomas-Gibson

##### Staff Present

Vanessa Pickles

##### Members Absent

Michele Fuller-Hallauer  
Stephen Shipman  
Tami Chartraw  
Wendy Simons

Mr. Ramirez said the statewide Affordable Housing Forum will be held on October 19 in Las Vegas at the City Hall from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Also, the Rural Housing Forum will be held on October 25 in Fallon, Nevada from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### 3. Review and Approve the Minutes of September 7, 2016

Ms. Robson moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Chavez seconded and the motion carried.

#### 4. Discuss and Make Decision on Need for Collection of Data by Betsy Fadali

Ms. Manthe said Ms. Fadali is the economist for the Nevada Housing Division, and she will be updating the Workgroup on the annual housing survey.

Ms. Fadali said the Workgroup previously discussed if she should add transitional housing and other permanent supportive housing to her database of low-income housing and whether this Workgroup

would benefit most from the data or if Workgroup 4 might benefit more from the data. Ms. Fadali said she would like to contribute wherever she can but she needs to know what work is already happening in this Workgroup or other Workgroups so she can fill in the data gaps where needed.

Ms. Manthe said the Housing Division surveys nearly 25,000 units annually and they are able to gather information on special needs populations, seniors, the age of the properties, etc., to help understand where there might be gaps in housing. Ms. Manthe asked Ms. Fadali what the timeline is on when the Housing Division expects to start the survey, see the results and get the findings analyzed and published.

Ms. Fadali said the surveys have been sent out and the Housing Division hopes to have the data collected by the end of October, and they have a goal of drafting a report of the survey data by January. She mentioned the Housing Division did include a basic question which asks if the tax credit properties are working with any agencies helping to provide permanent supportive housing. Ms. Fadali said the Housing Division should have a draft complete in January and it should be finalized in February.

Mr. Ramirez asked Ms. Fadali if the Housing Division has reached out to any Continuums of Care (CoCs) in the state to see if they have inventory of permanent supportive housing and transitional housing. Ms. Fadali said she has not had a lot of interaction with the CoCs; however, she does have access to their Housing Inventory Count (HIC).. Mr. Ramirez said the CoCs are one of the true sources of data for those homeless populations and the Workgroup should acquire a point of contact from each of the CoCs to assist with the inventory.

Ms. Chavez said a member of her staff would be able to help with gathering data because she uses the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which lists programs available for the homeless population, including permanent supportive and transitional housing.

Mr. Ghafoori said if someone gives him contact information for a representative from the Workgroup he would pass it along to his CoC coordinator to send housing information relevant to the Workgroup's analysis. Ms. Fadali said she would give Mr. Ghafoori her personal contact information.

Ms. Manthe said the Workgroup will revisit the annual survey in January or February based off the expected timeline Ms. Fadali presented.

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

This agenda item was tabled.

**6. Discuss and Make Recommendations on Strategic Plan Timeframes and Needed Expertise**

Ms. Manthe said the Workgroup should start looking into the target dates in the Strategic Plan for 2017 and how to approach the goals and also to identify resources to help achieve the goals set forth. She referenced Goal 1 which states, "Preserve the existing affordable housing stock." Ms. Manthe noted the Workgroup is making progress on this Goal with the updates Ms. Fuller-Hallauer has been providing regarding the SWAP tool. Next, Ms. Manthe referenced Goal 2, Strategy 1.2.4, which states, "Improve access to federally-funded housing assistance by eliminating administrative barriers and encouraging prioritization of people experiencing or most at risk of homelessness." The Nevada

Housing Division is listed as a lead agency while also engaging the three CoCs and local housing authorities.

Ms. Robson said southern Nevada has developed a system called CHAT, which is a Community Housing Assessment Tool. She said they are preparing to rollout training for the mobile outreach teams and Clark County Social Services.

Mr. Ramirez said the Washoe County CoC recently met to reevaluate the centralized intake to ensure the people who need housing are prioritized and the people who no longer need assistance are moved out of the system.

Mr. Hansen mentioned a major issue occurring across the whole system in which individuals are placed on waiting lists despite having anywhere to house them. Ms. Robson agreed with Mr. Hansen and mentioned her agency, Help of Southern Nevada, has over 900 people waiting for housing.

Ms. Fadali asked if the majority of the people on waiting lists have financial support but have nowhere to go. Ms. Robson said the majority of the people have no financial support.

Ms. Manthe asked the Workgroup for suggestions on sub-goals under the broader Goal 2 which states, “Provide the resources necessary to further expand and develop the inventory by 2020.” Ms. Manthe added that additional housing units were needed to achieve this Goal.

Ms. Robson agreed with Ms. Manthe and added the bigger necessity is not only additional units, but also the funding needed to place individuals in the units. Ms. Fadali suggested vouchers for individuals and Ms. Robson agreed that vouchers would help tremendously.

Mr. Hansen said the Housing Authorities should be engaged for assistance in accessing those vouchers.

Ms. Robson said the Southern Nevada Housing Authority needs to just require what the federal government mandates to obtain the vouchers. She noted some of the current requirements are not feasible for some of the population that is seeking assistance.

Ms. Manthe asked if the Housing Authority prioritizes those that are homeless over others who are on the waiting list.

Ms. Robson said, other than the traditional Section 8 vouchers, the only other vouchers being dispersed by the Housing Authority are the VASH [Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing] vouchers.

Ms. Fadali asked if there is a set-aside for a certain number of vouchers for the homeless population. Ms. Chavez said the Rural Housing Authority does have a preference for the homeless on their waiting list and they are also hoping HUD [Housing and Urban Development] will open applications for their “Moving to Work” program which will help create a few demo programs for usage of homeless vouchers. She said she will have more information on that program as it becomes available.

Ms. Manthe asked what steps can be taken by the Workgroup to expand what is already being done in regards to federal assistance. Mr. Ramirez said there needs to be a conversation between the Housing Authorities and HUD to ensure the best use of resources.

Ms. Manthe asked Mr. Ramirez if HUD would be willing to take the lead on arranging the meeting. She also asked if it would be prudent to wait until the Executive Director is on board in southern Nevada. Ms. Ramirez agreed it would be wise to wait until a candidate is chosen.

Ms. Manthe stated the Workgroup's next action item would be arranging this meeting once the Executive Director is onboard. The purpose of the meeting will be how to best allocate resources in the State. She said she would assist with coordinating the meeting and asked Mr. Ramirez for his assistance as well.

Next Ms. Manthe referenced Goal 3 which states, "Systemically as a state, identify, standardize and promote all types of housing interventions in Nevada for subpopulations by 2017." The first Strategy under Goal 3 states, "Work with Bitfocus to utilize HMIS to develop a list of housing types available statewide." Ms. Manthe noted the Workgroup has already worked a lot on this Strategy. The next Strategy states, "Provide [a] list to providers and incorporate as part of centralized/coordinated intake." Ms. Manthe asked the Workgroup if any action has been taken on that Strategy.

Ms. Robson said Help of Southern Nevada uses the HMIS system to place all the housing stock information which contains a listing of all the housing, criteria and eligibility information needed to match individuals for programs.

Mr. Ghafoori mentioned there has been significant outreach done to the providers about the HMIS system which fulfills this Strategy. The Workgroup agreed providers in Southern Nevada have been well informed on coordinated intake.

Ms. Manthe asked Mr. Ramirez if the northern Nevada CoCs have resources listed in the system they currently use. Mr. Ramirez said, yes, they do have an inventory list and use it for matching individuals for services; however, one of the issues they are facing is getting more entities to provide information. Mr. Ramirez noted it is not necessarily the housing providers but more the social service/wraparound service entities failing to provide the information. Ms. Chavez noted the rural CoCs are using HMIS as well.

Next, Ms. Manthe directed the Workgroup to Strategic Issue #2 – Homelessness Prevention and Intervention and referenced Goal 2 which states, "Coordinate housing programs and agencies to provide housing mediation opportunities for individuals and families who are at-risk of being evicted." This Goal contains three sub-strategies primarily involving the local CoCs and ESG [Emergency Solutions Grants Program] recipients.

Ms. Robson noted in Southern Nevada the majority of the providers are already providing their clients with housing mediation services. She also stated a lot of community members rely on Nevada Legal Aid for mediation services.

Ms. Manthe said the Workgroup could coordinate outreach and work to ensure the services are offered in all areas of the State. Ms. Manthe suggested that Mr. Hansen, as the Workgroup’s ESG lead grant coordinator, work with the CoCs on this Goal and report back to the Workgroup in January on what was discussed. Mr. Hansen agreed.

Ms. Manthe next referenced Goal 3 which states, “Rapidly rehouse people who fall out of housing.” Ms. Manthe suggested contacting and coordinating with the local Housing Authorities on this Goal.

Ms. Robson said this issue is really important and added there are 535 people currently in their queue who scored for rapid rehousing. She said this number does not decrease very much. Ms. Robson added the funding they receive for rapid rehousing only allows them to house 11 to 12 people yearly. She said the Workgroup needs to figure out ways to increase funding for rapid rehousing.

Mr. Ramirez said the northern Nevada CoC is addressing the issue with housing trust funds and have also received extra General Fund money from the City of Reno that will be used for rapid rehousing as well.

Ms. Manthe asked Ms. Robson for an estimate on the amount of funding needed that would help support rapid rehousing. Ms. Robson said Southern Nevada needs to work on coordinating with the different jurisdictions and put all rapid rehousing funding together to be able to serve the most vulnerable in the community as a whole instead of the most vulnerable within the jurisdictions.

Ms. Manthe asked Ms. Robson if she would be able to coordinate that type of meeting between the jurisdictions in southern Nevada.

Ms. Thomas-Gibson said the City of Las Vegas is willing to discuss ways to collaborate more effectively as long as these efforts prove to make a measurable impact.

Ms. Manthe suggested the Workgroup place the rapid rehousing issue in Clark County on a future agenda for either the November or December meeting.

Ms. Manthe asked the Workgroup for suggestions on additional members that can help achieve the goals on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Ramirez suggested representatives from the Southern Housing Authority as well as the Reno Housing Authority.

Ms. Manthe asked who would be a good representative from the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority. Mr. Paull suggested Amparo Gamazo as a possible new member. Ms. Manthe asked Mr. Paull if he would be willing to reach out to Ms. Gamazo to ask if she would be able to join the Workgroup. Mr. Paull said he would. Ms. Manthe said if Ms. Gamazo is interested, this will be placed on the next agenda as an action item.

## **7. Discuss and Make Recommendations on Workgroup 1 Goals for 2017**

Ms. Manthe noted this agenda item ties into agenda item 6.

- 8. Discuss Next Meeting Date of November 2 and Approve Agenda Items**  
Ms. Manthe advised Members to email her, Ms. Robson or Ms. Pickles with any additional suggestions.
- 9. Public Comment**  
There was no public comment.
- 10. Adjournment**  
With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.