



Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Strategic Plan Implementation Education and Workforce Development

Workgroup #2 November 10, 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**

Mr. Perea, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Perea noted a quorum was present.

Members Present

Cynthia Carstairs
Dennis Perea
Ellen Richardson-Adams
James Dzurenda
Kelly Marschall
Mike Walker
Steve Fisher

Others Present

Chelsea Amaria
Wendy Nettleton
Kim Riggs

Members Absent

Tyrone Thompson

Staff Present

Vanessa Pickles

There were no announcements.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. **Review and Approve the Minutes of October 20, 2016**

Mr. Fisher moved to approve the minutes, Ms. Carstairs seconded and the motion carried.

4. **Develop Decision Making Guidelines for ICH Strategic Plan Strategies and Make Recommendations**

Mr. Dzurenda opened the discussion and asked the Workgroup on action steps needed to accomplish the goals listed in the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Perea stated that the portion DETR [Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation] is responsible for is either being currently worked on or he knows representatives who would be helpful to invite to participate on the Workgroup. He suggested bringing someone from U.S. VETS to assist with the Veteran portion of the goals as he said they have done a lot of work in southern Nevada to aid Veterans.

Mr. Fisher said DWSS [Division of Welfare and Supportive Services] serves the at-risk and homeless population by providing cash, food and welfare assistance to these groups. He said DWSS is also working on building a bridge between their agency and others such as DETR and other workforce systems to get individuals into workforce training programs.

Mr. Perea said he would get information on the work being done by DETR for the different goals listed in this Workgroup's Strategic Issues. He added he will also identify the workforce organizations currently making progress and he said he will include a brief description of exactly what is being done by these agencies to assist.

Mr. Dzurenda asked Mr. Perea if he would be prepared to present the information at the full ICH council meeting in December. Mr. Perea agreed and asked Mr. Fisher to present on DWSS's role as well. Mr. Fisher agreed and stated the Workgroup also needs to identify work being done on the education portion.

Mr. Walker said he works with the rural Nevada CoCs [Continuum of Care], and there are not many servicers helping entire families as opposed to the individual homeless population. He also stated that as soon as a child is identified as homeless they automatically qualify for free-reduced lunch.

Mr. Perea said it would be beneficial for schools to open up communication with homeless students in an effort to reach their parents either through direct contact or through information given to the school districts to give to parents.

Mr. Walker agreed and added there is a stigma associated with homeless families. He said elementary-age children will communicate to teachers their homeless situation, but once students reach middle-school age they become embarrassed and ashamed to do so making it harder to identify those who are homeless. Mr. Walker said it is important for schools to build those trusting relationships with students.

Ms. Carstairs referenced Goal 2 Strategy 4.2.2 which states, "Identify at-risk or homeless children ages 0-5 and coordinate with early childhood programs and child service providers to enroll 100 percent of those children in early childhood programs annually." She said there are Cabinet staff also on the call from early education and development who can write a brief description of what they are currently working on.

Mr. Dzurenda requested everyone send their write ups to Ms. Pickles. Ms. Pickles will to distribute to Mr. Dzurenda and Mr. Perea so they can make a draft to present at the next ICH meeting.

Mr. Perea confirmed those who will be writing the reports. He will write DETR's portion, staff from The Children's Cabinet will write the report regarding early childhood education, Mr. Walker will write the Department of Education's portion and Mr. Fisher will write DWSS' portion.

5. Discuss and Identify Additional Collaborators Needed to Meet Strategic Plan

Tabled.

6. Discuss Date of Next Meeting Date of December 15 and Approve Agenda Items

The Workgroup changed the next meeting date to December 13 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Perea called the meeting to adjourn at 10:28 a.m.