



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

WORKGROUP #1 MINUTES March 02, 2016

Via Teleconference with Public Access Located 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 9:00 a.m. A quorum was determined by roll call.

Members Present

CJ Manthe
Kelly Robson
Michael McMahon
Michele Fuller-Hallauer
Tony Ramirez

Members Absent

Stephen Shipman
Wendy Simons

Staff Present

Meg Matta

Others Present

Betsy Fadali
Connie Johnson
Kathi Thomas-Gibson
Kelly Marschall
Mike Mullin
Sara Yeats Patrick
Soni Bigler

Ms. Manthe announced the Housing Division has received information on an award to the State from the National Housing Trust Fund anticipated to be in the amount of nearly three million dollars to fund the creation and preservation of affordable housing needs in Nevada. The Housing Division is in the process of updating their action plan on the intention for using the funds. Internal discussions to date have been to dedicate those funds to a goal that will be compatible with the ICH Strategic Plan. An agenda item for a future ICH meeting will be proposed to gather feedback from the Council on what the highest priorities are. This will include identifying what populations would be the most vulnerable, or the needs at the top of the list to be met. According the Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the narrative and allocation plan has to be finalized by May 15th, 2016 for it to be included in the Action Plan for 2016. There needs to be an allowance for public comment by April 1, 2016. The National Housing Trust Fund is at the federal level and is being funded by the guarantee fees paid by Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. It appears Nevada will be available for the minimum level of funding; which is calculated to be somewhere in the neighborhood of three million dollars. HUD will not reveal the final numbers until this Spring. The highest priority for this funding is for individuals with lower income levels.

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approval of February 3, 2016 Minutes.

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

4. Update on Crosswalk Between H2 Action Plan and ICH Strategic Plan

The Housing and Healthcare (H2) Initiative is a federal initiative. Nevada was chosen to receive HUD technical assistance (TA) for H2 to identify the intersection between housing and healthcare. It works to identify the gaps in each system for those experiencing homelessness in a housing crisis, and those experiencing health care issues and homelessness, including those living with HIV/AIDS.

Over a year ago, key people in our State, counties, and communities as well as managed care organizations convened to discuss housing and healthcare issues statewide. It was the first convening in the nation, so it was an exciting time for Nevada to highlight the positive outcomes. The reason for discussing the H2 group here is due to Ms. Fuller-Hallauer's recognition of the similarities between the two groups, and a desire to begin merging all the various initiatives and work being done throughout the State into the State's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). The ICH is in the position to inform the decisions made in the State Legislature and in the Governor's Office; can ensure they are informed on all the various work being done, and engage their support for ongoing strategic, purposeful and targeted efforts.

Ms. Yeats-Patrick provided an overview of the cross-walk between ICH Strategic Plan goals and strategies, and the H2 goals and strategies. In some cases, H2's goals align with several of ICH goals without duplication. Both are focused on the expansion of the 1915(i) waiver; securing additional transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and affordable housing units; increasing access to funding from federal, foundations, grants or private sources for additional case management, habilitative services, wraparound services and supports; integrate primary and behavioral health care services with homeless assistance programs, managed care organizations (MCOs) and housing providers; and meeting the resource gap to support innovative treatment and housing partnerships. The H2 Initiative additionally identifies the target population to include people living with HIV/AIDS.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer speculated that the TA from HUD may end around June, and the H2 will need to merge with another group to continue its work. Most of the people in the leadership of the H2 are already working with the ICH workgroups, but there are additional people who could be brought in.

After some discussion, Ms. Fuller-Hallauer moved for ICH Workgroup #1 to recommend to the ICH to adopt and integrate the Goals and Strategies from the H2 Initiative into the ICH Strategic Plan; and for the Chairs of each of the affected Workgroups to collaborate with the H2 Leadership to develop a transition plan for ongoing H2 work to continue under the ICH at the point in time when technical assistance is no longer provided by HUD. Ms. Robson seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Discuss Inclusion of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Programs In Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer said that in southern Nevada, the Veterans Administration (VA) referral center and their VASH case managers have been active in getting all those people who are currently receiving HUD/VASH into the HMIS system. Going forward, that information may be pulled out of

the system. Ms. Marschall said that she and Mr. Ramirez met with a representative from the VA in northern Nevada and the Reno Housing Authority. They were informed by the Housing Authority does not have sufficient resources to input information into HMIS, although they understood the importance of doing so. The VA also said their lack of participation was a resource issue. Ms. Marschall and Mr. Ramirez further explored the possibility of using the Clarity Card to input to the system. They contacted Ms. Weisman from the City of Reno and was informed they had applied for a Clarity Card Scanner to use for inputting the VASH data. Mr. Ramirez added the Clarity Card seemed to be the most expedient point of entry, and was used at the Housing Authority as well. The clients going forward will be entered, but the existing tenants will need to be input. The VA said all of their existing clients have the Clarity Card, so it will be a matter of getting all the clients back into the office to scan their cards. The Clarity card automatically updates for the service provided, but a person has to enter the remaining fields for updating HMIS. The main constraint is staffing.

6. Updates and Discussion on Recent Data Trends

Ms. Fadali provided updates on the Annual Housing Progress Report – Washoe and Clark Jurisdictions. The report is available on the Nevada Housing Division Website:

<http://housing.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/housingnv.gov/content/Public/2015AHPFinal-Unsigned.pdf>

Ms. Fadali successfully received more data from the jurisdictions on rental assistance and supportive housing arrangements, including activities with the homeless. One of the largest areas of activity reported by the jurisdictions was homeless support such as casework; 3,092 individuals or households were reported. Over 900 households were provided with rental assistance, which was reportedly came mostly from the National Housing Trust Fund. The number of units added to inventory was larger than last year by 50%. Although an additional 1567 units are currently being renovated or are under construction, the inventory suffered a net loss due to over 900 units going into the private market in 2015. Most of the housing units are intended to be supported by state and federal funding, yet the state and local governments have been shrinking on a per capita basis, especially since the housing collapse. City of Reno and Clark County have shown a sizeable decrease in tax revenues over the past 10 years, so they lean heavily on federal funding.

For the Rent and Vacancy Survey, there was participation from 89% of the tax credit properties. Vacancy rates have dropped to 4%. The gap between Las Vegas vacancy rates (4.3%) and Reno vacancy rates (3.5%) narrowed in 2015. The vacancy rate for senior/disabled housing (2.6%) was lower than for family housing (5.1%). Of the units that have rental assistance available, 100% have a waiting list.

Ms. Manthe summarized the report by stating that while new inventory was added, other units came out of the restriction period and went back to market rate. There is not enough inventory in the state to meet the demand for affordable housing.

7. Discuss Strategic Plan Timeframes and Needed Expertise

Ms. Manthe said one of the most immediate goals with a June 30, 2016 target date was to evaluate the System Wide Analytic and Projection (SWAP Tool) has been determined by the Workgroup to be effective and will be recommended for adoption by the ICH. The group has also worked extensively with Bitfocus to utilize HMIS to develop a list of housing types available statewide. There were no further suggestions to this standing item at this time.

8. **Discuss Date of Next Meeting and Propose Agenda Items**

The date of the next meeting is April 6th, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda items suggested were:

- Affordable Housing Survey – Published Version for Follow-up Discussion/Action
- Update of VASH Program and Progress with Reno Housing Authority
- National Housing Trust Fund

9. **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)**

Mr. Ramirez provided information on the Nevada Affordable Workshop Forum in Reno on April 7th. It will focus on a housing overview as well as identification of partnership opportunities to bring housing providers together with service providers and financiers. There will be an overview on financing mechanisms, utilization of the bond program, and other innovative financing options. The Workshop will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 7th. The following day, April 8th, there will be a tour of existing affordable housing projects and land that may be suitable for development.

Ms. Fuller-Hallauer announced Clark County received the Gaps analysis for their homeless services which had been contracted to Home Base. Once it is released to their Board, she will make it available to the ICH.

10. **Adjournment**

There was no further business to come before the members. Ms. Fuller-Hallauer moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Ramirez seconded, and the motion carried. Ms. Manthe adjourned the meeting at 10:17 a.m.