

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Standing Committee to the Laughlin Town Advisory Board
November 18, 2014
8:30 A.M.

Laughlin Regional Government Center
101 Civic Way, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

Members Present: Victoria Conely
Roger Burtraw
Cheryl Seipke
James Williams
Kathy Whitney
Pat Gutierrez

Members Absent:
None

Others Present:
Bill Caron, VA Southern NV Healthcare System
Julie Fairman, Laughlin Times
Steve Haur
Christi O'Brien, Southern NV Transit Coalition
Seth Cockrell
Clint Mitchell
Chuck Minerman, American Legion
Fred Doten, American Legion
Deborah Murray, Laughlin Town Manager's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A.** Conformance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- B.** Agenda items may be taken out of order if deemed necessary.
- C.** The Social Services Committee may combine two or more agenda items for consideration.
- D.** The Social Service Committee may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

- A.** Approval of the November 18, 2014 Agenda.

Kathy Whitney moved **Pat Gutierrez** seconded the approval of the agenda.
Motion carried 6-0.

B. Approval of the October 21, 2014 Minutes.

James Williams moved **Victoria Conely** seconded the approval of the minutes.
Motion carried 6-0.

3. **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** *This is a period devoted to comments by the general public about items on this agenda. If you wish to speak to the committee about items within its jurisdiction but not appearing on this agenda, you must wait until the “Comments by the General Public” period listed at the end of this agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.*

Please step up to the speaker’s podium, clearly state your name and address and spell your last name for the record. If any member of the committee wishes to extend the length of a presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the committee by majority vote. The committee retains the discretion to take additional public comments during times other than during a Public Hearing or during the Public Comment Sessions. In all other instances, a citizen may speak on any matter before the committee for consideration, after receiving recognition and consent of the Chairman of the committee.

4. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

A. Receive a presentation from **Mr. Bill Caron, the Associate Director for the Veteran’s Administration (VA) Southern Nevada Healthcare System. The discussion will cover current access issues affecting Veterans in Southern Nevada, the Laughlin Clinic and the scope of services for future needs of Veterans in the community.**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Bill Caron, the Associate Director for the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System began his discussion with his background and how he became involved with the VA.

The audience asked questions in regards to the VA Clinic that is planned to open at 3650 S. Pointe Circle in Laughlin. **Bill** states that due to American Disabilities Act (ADA) federal regulations the opening has been delayed.

The following are not in compliance: ramps, rails, slopes and/or elevations, as well as issues with lack of parking and an elevator which is located at an adjacent property not owned by the lease holder. **Bill** adds that when contracts have been signed between the lease holder, the contractor, and the VA legal department stating when the compliance improvements will be finished, the lease can be activated. It will take approximately 30 days to open from that point.

The VA will usher patients to the clinic until improvements are finished.

The mobile VA Clinic located behind The American Legion on Bruce Woodbury

Drive recently increased their days to 5 from their previous 3 days per week since hiring a permanent physician **Dr. Chwa**.

The mobile clinic currently sees approximately 500 patients. Audience members state that it takes up to two months to get in for an appointment at the mobile clinic.

Another mobile unit maybe added if there are continued delays in opening the permanent clinic. Once the new clinic opens it is expected to serve up to 3600 patients, staff members will increase exponentially.

The clinic will provide basic medical needs which include lab work, and social, mental and behavioral health services.

The clinic will not have walk in/urgent care services, radiology service or an on-site pharmacy.

As the population of the clinic grows these services may be added, along with women's health care, and possibly a permanent VA building. When asked if a person with Tricare insurance will be able to be seen at the clinic, the answer is no. **Bill** explains that Tricare is under the Department of Defense, the clinic is under The Veterans Administration.

An example is given of how medical clinics only accept certain insurances, and the patient must seek a provider that takes their insurance. There are measures being taken currently working towards a memorandum of understanding between the Department of Defense and the VA for Tricare members to be seen at the VA.

The VA is also working towards traveling veterans being seen someplace out of their network. Due to time restraints this meeting came to a close. **Bill** encouraged audience members to meet with him in the hallway if they had additional questions.

B. Committee to review revisions to the Social Service Committee Purpose Statement.

This item is table to the December 16, 2014 meeting.

C. Committee to discuss specific goals for 2014.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

This item is tabled to the December 16, 2014 meeting.

D. Committee to discuss public service information that may potentially be submitted to the media and take any action deemed appropriate.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Julie Fairman, Laughlin Nevada Times, is present at today's meeting and will make a report in the local newspaper. **Julie Fairman** states that information must be submitted by noon Friday to be included in the following week's edition.

5. **COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC:** *This is a period for the Public to comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Social Services Committee, but not appearing on this agenda. If any member of the committee wishes to extend the length of their comments, this will be done by the Chairman or the committee by majority vote. When speaking during a specific item or during the Public Comments sessions, please step up to the speaker's podium, clearly state your name and address – please spell your name for the record – and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No vote may be taken on any matter not listed on the posted agenda.*

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2014, 8:30 A.M., Laughlin Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada. Agenda items due no later than December 8, 2014.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**
Kathy Whitney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m., seconded by **Pat Gutierrez**. Motion carried 6-0.

NOTE: *These meeting minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the December 16, 2014 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting.*