

MINUTES

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Standing Committee to the Laughlin Town Advisory Board
December 16, 2014
8:30 A.M.

Laughlin Regional Government Center
101 Civic Way, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

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

Members Absent:
Unexcused: Kathy Whitney

Others Present:
Lance Ross, Valley View Medical Center
William Rowerdink, U.S. Vets NV
Michael Goldberg, U.S. Vets NV
Justin Chavez, U.S. Vets Northern AZ

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 December 16, 2014 Agenda.

Cheryl Seipke moved **James Williams** seconded the approval of the agenda.
Motion carried 4-0.

- B. Approval of the November 18, 2014 Minutes.

James Williams moved **Pat Gutierrez** seconded the approval of the minutes.
Motion carried 4-0.

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**

Victoria Conely arrived at the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

- A. **Receive a presentation from Michael Goldberg and William Rowerdink, Family Services Outreach Specialists, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The discussion will cover the support services available for Veteran families in our area.**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Michael Goldberg and **William Rowerdink**, Family Services Outreach Specialists for United States Veterans Initiative gave a presentation of services for Veterans and their families in southern Nevada, which includes all of Clark County and Pahrump. SSVF is a non-profit organization that has been in operation for 22 years. It has 11 locations located in Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Texas, St. Louis, MO, and Washington D.C. Funding comes through grants from The Veterans Administration, which monitors SSVF.

The main objective is to assist homeless Veterans by providing access to permanent housing and case management services as guidance to other services. The organization “Helps the Worst of the Worst”, with the goal to help Veterans be successful. Case management services may include employment assistance – starting from the basics of how to dress, resume building, and interview assistance, substance abuse classes/counseling for alcohol, drug and gambling abuse, utility assistance, moving expenses, transportation, legal issues, child support assistance, security deposits, food, rental assistance, childcare, security deposits, clothing, medical help, and emergency supplies. The program assists temporarily with housing to help a person get back on their feet. If a homeless Veteran is disabled, either during active duty or not, housing assistance is

available with the Veteran having to pay 30% of their monthly disability payment. For a non-disabled Veteran that is homeless, the program will pay 1-3 month's rent (extensions are available in some circumstances) through preventative funding, assisting the person with case management services until they can gain stability with employment and are able to manage on their own.

The agency also assists incarcerated Veterans in prison, through Tele-communications. Nevada has the highest percentage of Veterans in prison, with 40% being sex offenders. Education and counseling services are offered as well as transitional living skills services for those coming out of prison.

From October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014, SSVF assisted 277 families in southern Nevada with housing. The VIP program (Veterans in Progress) served 340 Veterans. With all programs combined during that time period, 1100 families were served.

The success rate for gaining employment through the "Dress for Success" program is 70%. Statistics are not available for those staying gainfully employed.

This organization assists Veterans in southern Nevada which includes all of Clark County and Pahrump. **Justin Chavez**, Site Director, Northern Arizona Veterans Resource Center, based out of Bullhead City, AZ was present for those having questions in regards to homeless veterans living across the river in Arizona.

B. Committee to discuss specific goals for 2015.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Roger Burtraw suggests the committee revisit the changing of the by-laws in February 2015. The Laughlin Town Advisory Board will review their by-laws in February or March 2015, at which time the Social Service Committee can make changes.

C. 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 not present. **Cheryl Seipke**, Social Service Committee secretary, will forward minutes and handouts to **Julie** today.

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.

Lance Ross, Community Relations Manager, Valley View Medical Center, announces that Live Oak Family Practice is still open. **Dr. Chou** is no longer at the clinic. The clinic is staffed by **Crystal Voigt**, nurse practitioner, and **Dr. Etebar**. Live Oak Family Practice now accepts HPN and Sr. Dimensions insurance. **Mr. Ross** states that Sr. Dimensions does not list this practice as accepting these insurances, and asks if this committee can assist with getting this information out to the public.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** January 20, 2015, 8:30 A.M., Laughlin Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada. Agenda items due no later than January 12, 2015.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Gutierrez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 a.m., seconded by **James Williams**. Motion carried 5-0.

NOTE: *These meeting minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the January 20, 2015 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting.*