

Citizen's Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 4, 2016

Committee Members Present: Bonnie Chu, Ernesto Perdomo, Lavonne Lewis, Nancy Brune, Patrick Smith, Taurus Duncan (By Phone), Vida Lin, Wendell Williams

Committee Members Absent: Esther Langston, Robert Torres

Clark County Staff Present: Bobby Gordon, Gina Olivares, Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Teresa Etcheberry and Jasmine Cook

- **Call to Order**
 - By Wendell Williams at 11:40 a.m.
- **Introduction of All Members**
- **Public Comment**
 - None
- **Approval of August and October Meeting Summaries**
 - Patrick Smith moves to approve Meeting Summaries, Bonnie Chu seconds. Motion carries.
- **Announcements from Members/Social Service Staff**
 - Bobby Gordon – We will be hosting our Annual Black History Month Luncheon on February 25, 2016. All members are invited to attend. You can purchase tickets for \$10.
 - Ernesto Perdomo - This Friday will be the grand opening of the Downtown Crown English Pub in the Arts District in Downtown Las Vegas.
- **Department Update**
 - Bobby Gordon – A few meetings ago we began talking about the VIVO housing project. We are moving closer to actually putting that project into action. I have Teresa here to give us an update on what the VIVO housing project is. We now have approval to hire staff and are in the process of standing this program up.
 - Teresa Etcheberry – The Vivo Project funded by the Federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, Grant for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals-Services in Supportive Housing (GBHI-SSH) and Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals – Supplemental (CABHI-S), by-way of the State of Nevada provides Intensive Case Management, evidence-based treatment, and critical supportive services to homeless veterans with severe mental illness and chronically homeless individuals, and families with mental illness or co-occurring mental health and/or substance use disorders. The target population is 100 “super-utilizers” of emergency, hospital, and law enforcement services in Clark County with the goal of helping them achieve stability and wellness.

We currently have a contract with WestCare who will be providing the service part of the VIVO housing project. We also have approval from our Board of County Commissioners and County Finance to fund positions.

- Michele Fuller-Hallauer – Functional Zero for Veterans Homelessness has been reached in our community. What that means is that we have adequate housing to accommodate veterans should they choose to be housed. It does not mean that you will not see homeless veterans on the streets; they have to choose to be housed. We have a goal to end Chronic Homelessness by the end of this year. There is some discussion at the federal level about extending that deadline to 2017 as well, but our community is really pushing to get to functional zero for our homeless population. There is a goal to by 2020 to end Youth Homelessness, Family Homelessness and chart the course towards ending all homelessness.
- Bobby Gordon – At our last meeting, we talked about having promoted two new managers, Anthony Malone, who you met at the last meeting and Michele Fuller-Hallauer, who was unavailable to attend. I asked Michele to come in today so you could meet again. She has given a presentation before to the committee, but there are some interesting things going on in the homeless arena that we need to bring you up-to-date on because as we march towards meeting the deadline for those other populations, you always ask ‘what can we do to help you’. There are going to be some things we will be asking help with. Unlike the funding for veterans there are not a lot of monies that have been put up to house those other populations, obviously we get the 14 million dollars from HUD, but there’s a lot more funding that’s needed. We used up the 14 million already and we have a community queue of almost 900 people waiting for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing and rapid rehousing. As a community, in order to declare functional zero for those populations, we are going to have to do some more things in order to reach functional zero, other communities have had large dollars from the philanthropic community. We don’t have that here. So we are going to have to try to figure out a plan to reach functional zero for the other populations.

We are going to talk a little bit about the definition of chronically homeless. As of January 15, there is a new policy that was instituted based upon direction from HUD that talked about how we consider someone to be chronically homeless; and they put in new requirements that they did not require before in terms of how we have to now seriously document that person’s homelessness. Michele is going to talk about the new requirements and briefly on the old process.

- Michele Fuller-Hallauer – Historically, chronically homeless by federal definition was a person or household who had a diagnosable disability and was either continually homeless for a year or longer or had four episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years. The definition has changed in that they still need the disability but instead of diagnosable, it’s a person with a disability. The language changed but essentially they still have to have a disability. A person who is living in a place not meant for human habitation - on the street, in a car, in a camper, an abandoned building those types of things, emergency shelter or transitional housing - the change with this definition is it doesn’t include transitional housing anymore.

Also, it still states the ‘year or more of continuous homelessness’ and it still has the ‘four episodes in the last three years’. The difference here is the combination of those four episodes in the last three years have to equal 12 months and a break between the

occasions of those episodes of homelessness, there needs to be a break of at least seven nights that they were not housed. The institutional stays for clients that are in a hospital or mental hospital, physical hospital or incarcerated, if they were not in there 90 days, that is not considered a break in their homelessness so they will continue to maintain that homeless status. So clients that are in institutional care for fewer than 90 days still maintain their status. For head of household for a family, they have to meet the same criteria as an individual, we are still getting clarification on if there is a child that has a disability and the family meets the definition of chronic homelessness whether that will meet the criteria as chronic because they might have the length of homelessness of one year or more or the four episodes equaling a year but one or more of the children have a disability. It is not clear in the rule whether that means the family is chronically homeless, so we are asking for clarification from our HUD partners.

Along with that, there are more strict requirements on documentation of that chronic status. We now have to have documentation not only of the disability but documentation on where the client was while homeless. The first thing is to go the HMIS system and if there is documentation in HMIS that the client has had contact with outreach teams or emergency shelters we can use that as documentation of their homeless status.

PIT Count – PIT Count includes an unsheltered count and a sheltered count. The sheltered is emergency shelters, safe havens and transitional housing. The sheltered count is taken out of HMIS system. All homeless providers are entering their data into HMIS for the people that are being housed. The unsheltered count has multiple components to it, we do the canvassing where we take our whole community, the whole Clark County and it is broken up into census tracts and we identify deployment station areas throughout the community where we deploy volunteers. We separate our counts by urban and rural count.

- **Membership**
 - Bobby Gordon – At the last meeting, we talked about the five openings on the CAC and I requested member recommendations. We received a nomination for the CAC’s consideration of Nora Luna from Nancy Brune.
 - Nancy Brune makes a motion to approve nomination of Nora Luna as a member of the CCSS Citizens Advisory Committee, Bonnie Chu seconds that motion. Motion carries.
- **Public Comment:**
 - Wendell Williams – Would like to submit a token of appreciation from the MLK Parade committee to Mr. Tim Burch for his participation.
- **Adjournment:**
 - By Wendell Williams at 12:36 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at the Clark County Social Service office located at 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Submitted by: J Cook