



Brian Sandoval  
*Governor*

Ellen Richardson-Adams, M. Ed.  
*Chair*

# Interagency Council on Homelessness

## APPROVED MINUTES

*of the*

## INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

*Video and Teleconference Meeting on*

**January 9, 2015**

Meeting Locations:

Rawson-Neal Training Room  
1650 Community College Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
4150 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Room 303  
Carson City, NV 89706

Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)  
1010 Ruby Vista Dr., Large Conference Room  
Elko, NV 89801

### **I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, ANNOUNCEMENTS – ELLEN RICHARDSON-ADAMS** *“For Possible Action”*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., and a quorum was determined by roll call.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ellen Richardson-Adams, Chair  
Kathleen Sandoval  
Betsy Aiello  
Tony Ramirez  
Michael McMahon  
Kevin Quint (by telephone)  
Stephen Shipman  
CJ Manthe

#### MEMBERS ABSENT:

James “Greg” Cox  
Tyrone Thompson  
Michele Fuller-Hallauer

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MEMBERS PRESENT (continued):

Kelly Robson  
Pastor John Schmidt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Yeats Patrick – Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.  
Kelly Marschall – Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.  
Marka Turner – Nevada Rural Housing Authority (Pending ICH Member)  
Patrick Cashell – Volunteers of America (Pending ICH Member)  
Steve Fisher (Pending ICH Member)  
Cyndy Ortiz Gustafson – Strategic Programs  
Kathi Thomas-Gibson – City of Las Vegas  
John Collins – Department of Corrections  
Julianna Glock – Volunteers of America  
Jim Peckham – Friends In Service Helping “FISH”  
Katherine Miller – Nevada Office of Veteran’s Services (Pending ICH Member)

ASSISTING STAFF:

Susanne Sliwa, Senior Deputy Attorney General (Las Vegas)  
Anabel Ballard, Administrative Support (Las Vegas)  
J’Amie Frederick, Administrative Support (Carson City)

**Announcements**

Ellen announced that the Governor’s Office has received more applications for appointments, two of which are Mr. Steve Fisher, Administrator for Welfare, and Mr. Pat Cashell. Ellen said we are waiting for those to be finalized and approved and she will update everyone as more information is received.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ellen commented that the Annual Homeless Census Count is coming up this month. Clark County’s count is on January 28. Ellen expressed her appreciation to the people who work on getting these annual data numbers and the agencies who support their staff in order to make this happen.

Stephen Shipman discussed activities occurring as part of the northern Nevada point-in-time count, such as Project Homeless Connect and the youth and hotel/motel counts.

Ellen reminded everyone to identify themselves before speaking.

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**III. VOTE TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2014** *“For Possible Action”*

**MOTION:** Betsy Aiello moved to approve the Minutes with the noted corrections. John Schmidt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. UPDATE ON VETERAN’S HOMELESSNESS SUMMIT – KAT MILLER and CYNDY-ORTIZ GUSTAFSON** *“For Possible Action”*

Ms. Miller, Nevada Department of Veteran’s Services, began by saying she attended an event in Las Vegas about two years ago and there were a lot of folks there supporting the homeless in Las Vegas. Several months later, she went to another event and saw the same faces and equipment. She knew what they were doing was wonderful, but it did not seem like there was a lot of system change. About the same time, Kat said she was appointed the Director of the Agency and learned about the 25 States Initiative and what the Department of Veteran Affairs was doing to end homelessness. She did not know anything about this and wondered if her Agency even needed to be involved. Kat said she got into this with no other intent than what was going on within the community. At this point, Ms. Miller turned discussion over to Ms. Gustafson to talk about what they learned.

Cyndy Ortiz-Gustafson introduced herself as the DEO of the Department of Veteran Services and said when she and Kat first had these conversations, it came from a perspective that there was a lot of incredible work going on across Southern Nevada, Northern Nevada, the rurals, and in particular Clark County for their work around homelessness. They were interested in understanding how the Nevada Department of Veterans’ Services could leverage the state department assets, Interagency Council on Veterans’ Affairs, and its potential relationship to interface with the feds in a way that the local municipalities might not be able to do effectively. Cyndy discussed the 30 interviews conducted across the state, along with some ICH members, that helped to set the format for the convening in November, and the distinctions between the veteran homeless and homeless population, and the outcomes of the work groups from the November 6, 2014, Summit. [..\HANDOUTS\Veterans Homelessness in Nevada 1-9-15 Meeting.pdf](#) Cyndy said based on this feedback, the Director decided to move forward in 2015 with the next phase of the work which will be lay out, designing, and implementing a strategic change agenda. That component of the work has three pieces: (1) Take feedback from the group work, all of the interviews, the Landscape Analysis, and the participant feedback from the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and begin to build out a plan for the Nevada Department of Veteran Services at the state level and begin to prioritize over the next year. (2) Engage in statewide “task force” to address the policy and program and practice barriers identified in that convening. The goal of this group would be to leverage

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their expertise, their relationships and insights, and their departments to begin to make progress. The task force will include members from local government, philanthropic, and federal partners. We want to make sure we are communicating back to all stakeholders and begin to leverage the additional platform that brings about the network that exists. (3) Take a look at how they can leverage private and public sector funding to advance outcomes in veterans' homelessness.

Kat added that they are very excited about their next phase as they do their action plan.

Steve Fisher thanked Cyndy and Kat for their presentation and asked if there were states who were successful in leveraging private sector funding. Cyndy applauded Nevada, particularly Southern Nevada, for being part of the 25 Cities Initiative federally and nationally. Looking at models for how the private sector is engaged is part of the third component, and Cyndy does not think that has been done as well as it could be.

Kat said that she has looked at different states that have declared victory on veterans' homelessness and reviewed the outcome.

John Schmidt commented that this was an excellent report and presentation. Pastor Schmidt reiterated about having integration for these kinds of efforts and initiatives. At some point in time, the Council should start thinking through how to provide these connection points, adding, we cannot continue to expand the Council's membership. Ellen clarified that the Council does have limitations on the number of its Council members as set by the Governor.

There being no further discussion, Ellen thanked Kat and Cyndy.

**V. UPDATE ON COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS TO BENEFIT HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS (CABHI) STATE GRANT – MICHAEL McMAHON** *“For Possible Action”*

Mike informed the Council that the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals, better known as CABHI, is a grant from the federal government administered by the Department of Public and Behavioral Health. It targets individuals with co-occurring disabilities and homelessness. The primary purpose of forming a subcommittee is to provide a forum for the CABHI sub-grantees to have discussion on issues and ways to improve the process. It also provides another contact point for the federal representatives, as well as an opportunity to have a mechanism to generate reports or suggestions that may address gaps or opportunities. The CABHI Subcommittee had its first meeting on January 5, 2015, which was primarily organizational in nature. Mike said he was appointed Chair, and Kelly Robson of Southern Nevada, Vice Chair. The committee has a standing meeting on the first Monday of every month at noon. The key points for discussion at the next meeting is to look at the roadblocks to service within the CABHI sub-grantee arena and the coordinated intake process and how they might improve that process. Mike concluded his update and asked for questions.

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Ellen commented that there was some robust conversation at the January 5 meeting and added that this is the one subcommittee where they have a lot of community partnership and collaboration. Ellen thanked Mike's day-to-day work with CABHI.

**VI. BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION BY COUNCIL – STEPHEN SHIPMAN** *“For Possible Action”*

Stephen reported that, at the last Bylaws Committee meeting, the members reviewed the recommendations and how the CABHI language would be integrated in the bylaws. Betsy and John commented. [..\BYLAWS\Draft Bylaws ICH rev 1-5-15.pdf](#)

**MOTION:** Kathleen Sandoval moved to accept the Bylaws of the Interagency Council on Homelessness as written. Tony Ramirez seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.

Ellen thanked Stephen, the subcommittee members, Kelly and Sarah for all of their hard work on the ICH bylaws.

**VII. UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – MARKA TURNER AND MIKE MCMAHON** *“For Possible Action”*

Marka Turner introduced herself as the Nevada Rural Housing Authority and Chair of the ICH Strategic Plan Subcommittee. Marka said that since the last ICH meeting, the subcommittee met three times. The Strategic Plan document is getting thicker as more data is collected. [..\HANDOUTS\ICH Strategic Plan Template rev 1-2-15 1-9-15 Meeting.pdf](#) Marka then turned the meeting over to Kelly Marschall.

Kelly said they started with a template and the Strategic Plan Subcommittee initially began by framing out what structure they wanted the plan to look like. What the committee settled on was trying to focus on a choose approach to strategic planning, or defining critical issues in the state and then establish goals for them. The subcommittee also crafted a mission, vision, and guiding principles, and over the last two meetings, framed what looks like a needs assessment that could provide related data to veterans' homelessness, family homelessness, and chronic homelessness. There was lengthy discussion on the attached critical issues matrix. [..\HANDOUTS\Critical Issues Matrix 1-9-15.pdf](#) Kelly said, as the Strategic Plan facilitator, she recommended the following layout to organize the subcommittee: (1) Youth and Families – Prevention and Intervention; (2) Education – Cradle to Career; (3) Housing; (4) Wrap-Around Services; (5) Coordination of Mental Health and Medical for Children and Adults; (6) Long Term Planning; (7) Policy; and, (8) Coordination of data and resources. Discussion followed.

Ellen asked for a motion to set the issues as outlined by Kelly Marschall. Kelly had further discussion concerning Policy 1915 I, and possible policy changes, strategies, or goals under each of the other headings.

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**MOTION:** Betsy Aiello moved to adopt the eight (8) critical issues. CJ seconded. Tony initiated discussion. There being no further discussion, Ellen returned to vote on the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ellen complimented the Strategic Plan Subcommittee and thanked the Council as a whole for their feedback and support. Marka informed the Council that the Strategic Plan Subcommittee will meet again via teleconference this Monday, January 12, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**VIII. PRIORITIZE FUTURE PRESENTATIONS BASED ON SUB-POPULATIONS/TOPICS – ELLEN RICHARDSON-ADAMS** *“For Possible Action”*

Ellen commented that at the end of the last ICH meeting, there was a brainstorming session about presentations and information they would want to know about to help strengthen their role and to help with the Strategic Plan. Ellen reviewed the 15 topic headers as follows: (1) Clark County Social Services – The Tri-Cities presentation and coordinated intake; (2) DETR Workforce Development; (3) Education Department Title 1 and educationally homeless impact; (4) DFS and DCFS – YAR Grant and collective impact; (5) Youth in Transition; (6) DOP – Jail Re-entry, ID’s, and community transition; (7) The Elderly and impact of homelessness; (8) Medicaid Expansion – home health, homelessness, and problem solving; (9) HELP – Providing housing and home health care support for Hospice; (10) Housing Authority and opportunities; (11) Discharge Planning – challenges and barriers with lack of permanent housing; (12) Rural Perspective – impact of no or limited available housing; (13) Affordable Housing and impact to the statewide spectrum; (14) Potential partnerships with revitalization zones {i.e., Downtown Las Vegas and Reno}; and, (15) Summary and report from the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council.

Mike noted Carson’s three priorities are: (8), (10), and (13). Ellen thanked Mike and asked Pastor John for his feedback. John thought, because of the significance of the Governor’s Council on Behavioral Health and Wellness, we should hear from someone on that Council soon. Ellen agreed.

Ellen recapped the stated priorities: (8) Medicaid Expansion to include home health and homelessness; (10) Housing Authority and opportunity; (13) Affordable housing and impact to the statewide spectrum; and (15) Report from the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council. Ellen asked for a motion.

**MOTION:** Kathleen Sandoval moved to accept items 8, 10, 13, and 15 as discussed. Stephen Shipman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Attorney David Figler said he has been attending these meetings as a representative of the Fremont Street Experience. Mr. Figler explained that the Fremont Street Experience is a collective of the businesses in downtown Las Vegas. His employer tasked him with assessing what is out there and where they can contribute most. He discovered there are scores of people who are concerned and compassionate and they are trying to alleviate the critical homeless issue that is occurring. David said he is glad someone brought up the issue of transportation to get the people to the services they need and provide regular transportation for the homeless population when they are transitioning out of homelessness. That seems to be a critical issue and roadblock. The other issue identified was data sharing, because there is also a disconnect with the jail. In closing, Mr. Figler said there are many people in the community who are doing feedings on a regular basis, maintaining food banks, providing shelter, and doing other services that are not being coordinated. It would be prudent to have someone assess all of the resources and energies that are off the grid insofar as helping to solve the homeless issues. The business community is primed and ready to participate. The main flaw is trying to find the right directive so that the business community can see their own interests in addition to their compassionate interests being served. David said he is looking forward to hearing more from this Council and participating in a level that he can.

Jim Peckham with FISH, or Friends In Service Helping, said they are a regional non-profit that provides multi-faceted support to the families and individual in need. Mr. Peckham complimented the Council on the mission, direction, and progress that is being made. He echoed the comments of the last speaker with the coordination of data and communication, which is critical. Jim would encourage some ongoing thought toward allowing uploads of Excel spreadsheets using Clarity. His agency currently spends an inordinate amount of time of duplicating entries and recommended streamlining the entry process for both non-governmental and governmental entities to make it more effective with the information that is shared. Ellen thought that was good feedback and something to be considered.

Ellen commented that it was important for this Council and everyone to try to use first person language, such as saying, “the individual who is homeless” instead of “the homeless individual.” Ellen then shared a personal experience.

**X. SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING AND DISCUSS FUTURE TOPICS – ELLEN RICHARDSON-ADAMS “For Possible Action”**

Discussion on agenda items included the Medicaid Expansion, Housing Authority, Affordable Housing and Impact, and the Summary from the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council, as well as the regular placeholders on updates from the Strategic Plan and CABHI Subcommittees. Discussion then followed on the date and time of the next meeting.

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**MOTION:** Tony Ramirez moved to approve the next ICH Quarterly Meeting on March 13, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. CJ Manthe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ellen Richardson-Adams adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

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Diane Dempsey,  
Recording Secretary