

COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, 9:00am

PRESENT:

Neoma Jardon, Member (via Zoom)
Marsha Berkbigler, Member (via Zoom)
Oscar Delgado, Member (via Zoom)
Kristopher Dahir, Member (via Zoom)
Ed Lawson, Member (via Zoom)
Bob Lucey, Member (via Zoom)

ABSENT: None

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:01 a.m. via Zoom webinar online. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

AGENDA ITEM 3: Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Approval of the September 14, 2020 meeting agenda.

On motion by Member Berkbigler, seconded by Member Delgado, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Approval of minutes of the July 20, 2020 and August 3, 2020 meetings.

On motion by Member Lucy, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Board approval of the CHAB 2020-2021 meeting calendar - Cynthia Esparza, City of Reno.

Discussion ensued on various dates for the upcoming year's proposed meetings. On motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Member Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 6 be approved.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Board update on Our Place, women and families shelter, and current projects - Ben Castro, Reno Initiative for Shelter & Equality

Jennifer Cassidy and Benjamin Castro conducted a presentation for Our Place. Our Place is mostly open and has space available for approximately 100 women. There are currently 15 beds open. Construction is still underway for showers and areas of the shelter. COVID has created challenges with visitors to the guests/clients of Our Place. Safety is crucial first and the organization is looking forward to the future

when visitors and volunteers are once again permitted on site.

Additional items were presented on COVID precautions and concerns of upcoming winter season.

Chair Jardon suggested a standing item for the winter issues be on future agendas as we are always struggling to find capacity and space for those experiencing homelessness. Chair Jardon also clarified the bed space available, Ms. Cassidy stated every woman who has asked for a bed at this point has received shelter but she anticipates the remaining beds will be filled quickly.

It was further discussed that Our Place was originally intended to be an emergency shelter, but that is not necessarily the case and some individuals are returning to Record Street Shelter.

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Board update on the Community Assistance Center (CAC) and current projects - Pat Cashell, Volunteers of America (VOA)

A presentation was given by Pat Cashell, identifying the different properties VOA manages. Mr. Cashell discussed the updated figures of homeless services and the increases due to COVID. The Reno Events Center (REC) allowed for additional capacity for overflow from the CAC, as was needed due to social distancing requirements.

From March through August, the REC served 1,274 people. August 18 was the last day in the REC and transitioned the tents on 4th street.

Leo MacFarland, VOA, discussed how VOA is fundraising on behalf of programs in the community. Last year, we received \$406,000 in cash and \$901,981 of in kind donations, total donations \$1.3 million in donations. Mr. MacFarland further discussed the donations and where these funds were allocated.

Member Dahir inquired about case management and how the resources are allocated. Pat Cashell explained case management is not included in the current budget and believes further resources are needed to provide better services to homeless individuals and hire more staff.

No action was taken on this item.

Items 11, 12 and 13 were taken out of order, and together as they are corresponding items.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Board update and discussion on the interim East Fourth Street Shelter, shelter site acquisition efforts, and the Community Homelessness Task Force - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno

Arlo Stockham gave an overview on East 4th Street and the expanded use of the CAC. He explained we are having issues with capacity and will not be sufficient for winter. The Governor's Bowl land acquisition is moving forward. The space is smaller than is preferred at four or five acres. When wrap around services are added, the space will be tight. The transaction will not be completed in time to build the larger shelter before winter comes. The City of Reno has no other properties that are sufficient for space needs.

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Presentation and discussion on a regional cost share agreement related to shelter facilities and operations - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno

The cost sharing of the shelter was discussed and a tentative arrangement has been made between the three organizations. Mr. Stockham further discussed costs of over \$9 million for the emergency facility expenses. Reno will cover half based on the CARES Act distribution proportion.

Additional costs and services for operations were discussed. The cost is increasing each day and there is currently enhanced case management at the emergency facility. The cost sharing for this portion is split based upon previous contractual allocation between each entity for property tax formulas.

The next steps will be moving forward with the contract for VOA if there is support for the conceptual cost sharing arrangement as discussed. Each jurisdiction will need to bring forward the VOA contract for approval.

Sparks City Manager Neil Krutz spoke to concerns of additional funding needs from Sparks for operational expenses for the shelter. Chair Jardon agreed funding is tight for all jurisdictions and reminded the board that the shelter has been the number one location for calls for the Reno Police Department for the past 10 years.

A motion was made by Member Dahir and seconded by Member Delgado to move forward with approval for the conceptual cost sharing agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Presentation and discussion on a Community Homelessness Advisory Board resolution of support for the Governor's Bowl Park site acquisition - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno

Mr. Stockham gave a brief presentation on the acquisition of the Governor's Bowl Park site for future shelter operations. He requested formal support from this board to request each respective jurisdiction to support a resolution to proceed with the acquisition.

A motion was made by Member Lawson, and seconded by Member Delgado to request each entity bring forward a formal resolution of support for acquisition of the Governor's Bowl. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Board update and presentation on the Hopes Springs tiny homes project - Sharon Chamberlain, Northern Nevada HOPES

Sharon Chamberlain gave a brief presentation on Hopes Springs, which is on file with the City Clerk for review. Hopes Springs is bridge housing targeted for mental health homeless individuals. The location provides for safety and privacy and will serve between 30 and 60 people per year. There are 30 individual shelters that are heated and furnished. Additionally there is an area for community areas and a dog parks and kennels.

Fundraising is currently occurring, with a match from the Pendleton Foundation.

Member Dahir complimented Hopes Springs an encouraged private businesses to assist in the fundraising efforts.

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Board update and discussion the Built for Zero initiative - Dana Searcy, Washoe County

Senior Management Analyst Dana Searcy conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reviewed slides and discussed the BFZ is establishing a resource that has quality data to identify the limited funds and resources in our community.

The website is live and the first two months of data have been collected. The work from August has continued and Ms. Searcy identified the outreach coordination team. The County is beginning a partnership with Grant Denton and the Kharma Box Program and the Truckee River Fund Committee. They have submitted a grant and are hopeful the grant will be approved soon. The goal is to assist in river clean up.

The data from the website includes all committees, monthly data, and the BFZ action plan. The preliminary data is helpful but four months are needed before we have a better look at the success of this resource. The next steps include increasing the by name list (data reporting for each individual and the services they are utilizing as well as their particular homelessness indicators), as well as outreach and community inventory to identify gaps in the existing system.

Chair Jardon discussed the Downtown Reno Partnership has indicated they have seen an increase of 64% country wide in COVID related issues for those experiencing homeless. Member Berkgigler expressed appreciation for Grant Denton and discussed some resources the City of Reno and Washoe County are allocating for those efforts.

No action was taken on this item.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Public Comment

City Clerk Turney stated public comment received after 4:00pm the business day prior to the meeting will be placed in general closing public comment. Comments received prior the cut-off will be heard in opening general comment, or with their corresponding item.

Public comment was received from Laura Smith with concerns on the cost of purchasing tents versus renting the items.

Barbara Graffius is concerned about a homeless encampment near the railroad tracks on McCarran and Keystone.

AGENDA ITEM 15. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Member Delgado, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.