

**COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020, 9:00am

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Bob Lucey, Member

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:03 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.

City Clerk Turney stated no general public comment was received prior to 4:00 pm on the business day before the meeting, which due to the holiday would have been Thursday, October 30th 2020.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.** Approval of the November 2, 2020 meeting agenda.

On motion by Member Lawson, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 5.** Approval of minutes of the October 5, 2020 meeting.

A motion by member Lawson, seconded by member Delgado, which motion duly carried on a 5-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 5 be approved.

**AGENDA ITEM 6.** Board update and discussion on the Built for Zero initiative - Dana Searcy, Washoe County

Clerk Turney stated no public comment was received on this specific item, however, a correction was made in regards to opening public comment. A general public comment was received from Lisa Lee, encouraging this body to attend the Council on

Homelessness to Housing meetings. That comment has been submitted to the body and is part of the record.

Dana Searcy, Washoe County, gave a presentation and update on the Built for Zero project.

The Built for Zero team is committed to changing the narrative in our community around people experiencing homelessness and to align our community efforts to address homelessness.

The Built for Zero team is working with The Outreach Coverage and Coordination Committee and the Data Systems and By Name List Committee to define areas of focus. The Committees currently have a biweekly meeting with representatives from Sparks Police Department, Reno Police Department, Sparks H.O.P.E. team, City of Reno's Clean and Safe team, Washoe County M.O.S.T. team, as well as the Karma Box Project.

Dana Searcy stated she would coordinate with the Reno Police Department, Sparks Police Department, and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to expand and schedule additional collaborative meetings regarding these support teams.

The Truckee River Fund Grant is a collaborative project with the Karma box project, Built for Zero, and Washoe County that has officially begun. This projects' two main areas of focus are cleaning up and removing trash along the river corridor and creating trust and relationships with those experiencing homelessness.

Dana Searcy stated the City of Reno is looking to expand the River Stewards Program by four River Stewards to continue the increased efforts within the community.

Dana Searcy shared Community Dashboard Monthly Reporting Data on the number of people experiencing homelessness in Washoe County. It was stated that the data is still in beta phase and is not perfect. Discussion ensued covering the various levels of data and reporting. Ms.Searcy indicated more data is needed before an accurate depiction of trends can be reported.

A second version of the Regional Homelessness Solutions Matrix was shared. This Matrix summarizes the work that is being done within the community, which agency is involved on what project, as well as the new ideas that are being presented.

Dana Searcy announced the Built for Zero Core team has expanded with the addition of Grant Deton, Karma Box Project. Additionally, Cynthia Esparza-Trigueros, City of Reno, has joined the Outreach team to help expand sub-committees and provide updates on the Reno Clean and Safe team.

The Built for Zero team is coaching and joining with other communities over the next six months to better understand how to structure outreach programs and share information between law enforcement and case workers.

Discussion ensued regarding the work that has been and is still to be done by the Built for Zero program.

Dana Searcy concluded efforts will continue to move forward with all teams and individuals involved in helping with the homeless population.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 7.** Discussion and update on regional law enforcement Truckee River corridor collaboration as it relates to addressing public health and public safety concerns

Chief Deputy Greg Herrera, Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), provided an update on the WCSO clean up efforts that are taking place within the community focusing on those experiencing homelessness. Chief Deputy Herrera stated that three new positions, two deputies and one supervisor, have been approved to help support the clean up efforts and should be filled by January 2021.

Sheriff Darin Balaam, WCSO, stated efforts are moving forward in collaborating with Sparks, Reno, and Washoe County to execute a regional team to focus clean up efforts along the river corridor.

Discussion ensued regarding the needs of a river corridor regional team being established.

Chief of Police Chris Crawforth, Sparks Police Department, provided insight on the Sparks Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement H.O.P.E team. Chief Crawforth stated that their H.O.P.E. team has been established for three months with two dedicated Sergeants. The team is establishing rapport within the community to better understand the needs of those experiencing homelessness. The team has had great

success by building relationships within the community and yielding the separation between services and the community.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits and need of a regional team similar to the preexisting H.O.P.E team. It was discussed that current efforts will need to focus on the river corridor but overall this regional team will need to work without boundaries and throughout the entire community wherever those experiencing homelessness are located.

Deputy Chief Oliver Miller, RPD, stated RPD has committed four outreach officers along with a Sergeant everyday of the week to address the concerns involved with the river corridor.

Additionally RPD has the Community Action Office officers. A team of four additional officers and one Sergeant who help on larger clean up operations.

Chair Jardon inquired about having a presentation on a program or training model coordinating the resources, staffing, and responsibilities for this regional team and how it will operate.

Deputy Chief Miller stated he would get with his counterparts from Sparks and the County to provide the framework of what the program will look like by the December CHAB meeting.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

Commissioner Bob Lucey present at 9:19am.

**AGENDA ITEM 8.** Board update and discussion on the winter overflow shelter - Kate Thomas, Washoe County

An update was given by Kate Thomas, Washoe County, on the search for a permanent overflow shelter. Efforts in obtaining the DMV and Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS) campus were unsuccessful due to tenant improvements beginning for Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) at that site as of October 21, 2020.

Kate Thomas stated while they are continuing to pursue efforts in locating a permanent shelter site efforts are being made to best prepare for the upcoming winter months.

Chair Jardon inquired about the potential use of the Reno Nevada Livestock Event Center for an overflow shelter site.

Kate Thomas stated the Reno Nevada Livestock Event Center is unavailable this winter season due to preexisting volleyball tournaments and other events. She is looking at whether or not the Exhibit Hall is available.

Lawson stated he believed the Exhibit Hall was scheduled to be torn down due to safety concerns.

Commissioner Lucey stated both the Exhibit Hall and the Armory building have both been demolished and clarified he believes Kate Thomas is referring to the Junior Livestock Arena. Chair Lucey also stated all the remaining Halls located on the Reno Nevada Livestock Event Center site are occupied and the Halls or buildings that were scheduled for demolition have all been demolished.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.** Board update and discussion on shelter sites and related funding - Arlo Stockham, City of Reno

An update was given by Arlo Stockham on the acquisition of the Governor's bowl site. The preliminary approvals and appraisal has been completed for the site. The final approval is scheduled for the November State Transportation Board Meeting. The expectation is for the purchase of the Governor's Bowl site to be completed in November.

Member Lawson inquired as to what was the agreed upon appraisal price.

Mr. Stockham stated the appraisal price is \$1.7 million for the 5.15 acre portion of the Governor's Bowl site.

Further overflow shelter needs were discussed. A permanent site has not been established. It was discovered that other Cities are implementing fireproof dividers to increase shelter occupancy and practice social distancing. The City of Reno has begun construction of fireproof dividers that will increase occupancy up to 80%. These fireproof dividers will provide more bed spaces while a permanent facility is being built.

Chair Jardon inquired how many bed spaces, with COVID-19 restrictions, are expected to be added to the temporary structure located on the Governor's Bowl site.

Mr. Stockham stated the current 4th street tents have 21,000 sq ft. of space. This structure will be taken down and replaced with the sprung structure, which has 46,000 sq ft of space. This increases the floor space by 25,000 sq ft and will accommodate for about 850 beds with fireproof dividers.

Member Dahir inquired how much the fireproof dividers will cost.

Arlo stated the prefabricated dividers were exponentially more expensive than compared to purchasing the material and building the dividers. The total for the material and labor for all the dividers is estimated to cost under \$100,000.

Jardon inquired what the time frame is for the construction of the dividers.

Arlo stated within one week capacity will begin to increase and the dividers should be completed within two weeks.

There was no public comment and no action was taken on this item.

Dahir absent at 10:26am.

**AGENDA ITEM 10.** Board members announcements, reports, and updates, including future agenda items requests.

Chair Jardon mentioned Kate Thomas' presentation at the Business Improvement District strategy meeting last month and would like an update on that at a future meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 11.** Public Comment

City Clerk Turney stated public comment received after 4:00pm the business day prior to the meeting, which due to the holiday was Thursday, has been placed in general closing public comment.

Public comment was received from Jay Colbet-Klausell who is interested in Items 8 and 9 concerning emergency winter shelter needs.

**AGENDA ITEM 12.** Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Lawson, seconded by Member Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 5 - 0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.