

MINUTES OF THE WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2015

Washoe County Senior Center, 1155 E. 9th Street, Reno, Nevada 89512
Game Room

1. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. – by the Acting Chairwoman of the Board, Connie McMullen.

2. ROLL CALL – Acting Chairwoman, Connie McMullen asked for roll call; Lisa Bonilla took the roll. There was a quorum present.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD PRESENT:

<u>PRESENT</u>		<u>ABSENT</u>	
Gary Whitfield	Marsy Kupfersmith	*Dr. Larry Weiss	
Connie McMullen	Donna Clontz		
Dennis Chin			
Wayne Alexander			
Victoria Edmondson			

*Excused absence

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Leslie Williams
Lisa Bonilla

3. *PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comments were made.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on December 2, 2015 – Dennis Chinn moved for the approval of the minutes. Gary Whitfield seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes from the Advisory Board Meeting on November 4, 2015 – Dennis Chin moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Gary Whitfield seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. *Update on Indigent Senior Housing Issues – Amber Howell and Ken Retterath, Washoe County Social Services – Mr. Retterath spoke about what is available for the homeless and made a PowerPoint presentation. CAC (Community Assistance Center) located on Record and 4th street. Comprised of three shelters: a men’s shelter that houses 158 men, A women’s shelter that houses 50 women and a family shelter that is comprised of 21 units (includes maternity shelter) can hold up to 108 people depending on the way it is set up and 20 beds dedicated to veterans. Triage center run by Westcare Volunteers of America and a shelter for children in transition children (CIT). Once referred, a check is made to see

if there is a bed available, if they have stayed in shelter before and if they have used up their days. (a client can stay for 90 days and after they have used the 90 days they have to wait 6 months) if they have children, if they are presently working with Social Services, if they get through process they then fill out the paperwork which consists of the rules, grievance procedure and daily schedule. Then the client meets with staff and the information goes into HMIS, (Homeless Management Information System) is a nationwide database that collects information on the homeless. This system is used to report to the housing authority, so money can come in. Once the paper work is complete, the client is assigned a Case Manager that meets with them within 24 hours and helps them get other services that they may need. Funds for the shelter come from a portion of City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County property taxes. This program targets those individuals on the street. The goal is to wrap services around the client and get them back on their feet. Crossroads, operated by Washoe County Social Services and Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada, is separate from the shelter and is a housing model, targeting homeless with drug and alcohol abuse problems. It has three campuses, containing 144 beds. Referrals come from the courts and the jail. Clients are not allowed to leave at night and they are expected to be there in the daytime and work or be in support meetings. Crossroads is full most of the time. Clients are given clothes, bedding, emergency food, assistance with getting on food stamps. They are assigned to a case worker and sign a lease with Catholic Charities and meet daily. There is no waiting list. Mr. Retterath gave a couple of examples of clients who have been assisted at CAC and Crossroads. Clients who have income are expected to pay a certain amount of rent.

Overflow survey – those with incomes don't use the shelter until their income is exhausted. People are brought over to the overflow shelter after eating, the location is challenging. The site has no impactful resources; good for short term overflow, but not good for long term assistance. Clients are there from 8 pm until about 5 am, because the building is next to a junior high school and the clients cannot be there during the day.

Average residence time asked? No data on that, but most come from California and Nevada. Ages of clients - 53% 40+, 33% 60+, 14% between 20-40, 2:1 male to female. Individuals have their own reason on why they are using the shelter, mostly food and shelter. Low income housing for seniors is getting harder to find and scarce in this area and rents are increasing.

Recreational marijuana impact in Denver was discussed and the upcoming potential of the impacts in the Reno Sparks area were brought up.

Reason for loss of stable housing – loss of job, loss of hotel/motel, high incidence of mental health, substance abuse.

Rate of hotel/motel disappearance – bought recently – 40-50 in the last couple of years, not including the ones by the University.

Concern voiced about people being released from hospitals after treatment in the emergency room (Utah), and the state is concerned about that happening to people with no support system.

Being homeless makes it hard to get out of that situation – nowhere for mail, no way to contact someone. Problems – loss of job, transportation, applying for SSD/SSI.

Residences have a support person

Income – 48% had some sort of income

28% have had involvement with legal system, mostly trespassing, open container, domestic battery,

Cities are trying to get people off camping on the river and into the programs, easier in winter than summer. Barriers – some people have dogs/pets, couple are not married so they have to go into separate shelters.

Looking into new programs - Trying to expand Crossroads program, develop an outpatient Crossroads program, implementing a 24/7 program to test people for drugs/alcohol twice a day that have a DUI-if they test positive they go to jail

How success is measured – the shelter – someone didn't freeze to death, had a warm place to sleep;

Federal funding is moving away from shelters and towards housing, like the Crossroads program.

Homeless Veterans services – housing voucher, 20 beds at Crossroads, veterans' resource, new clinic with 23 beds, Veterans Home being built

Mention of the fact that if someone is evicted it stays on their record for 7 years and the issues about evictions due to mental health concerns. Perhaps the Justice Court could come up with a mediation program to assist seniors who are about to be evicted. Problems with the Senior Legal Services being grant funded and what they are allowed to assist with. It's a real problem with seniors and lack of funds, cost of prescriptions, roommate who got them in trouble, and their lifestyle. Sometimes they go to the predatory lenders.

Assisting the homeless is more collaborative now than before; problem is how to manage the issue of homelessness.

Mental Health issue – why is the state not doing what they should be? Mental health services have been shifting to local jurisdictions and there is just not the funding locally.

Discussion on possible facilities, but funding needs to be found.

Kevin Schiller requested to go to #12 on the agenda

7. *Update on services at the Washoe County Senior Services Library Branch.

John Crockett, Manager for the Senior Center Library, spoke about how the library has been upgraded to 13 computers for the seniors to use and they will start offering computer classes in January, two hours twice a week. These classes are basic computer classes. They appreciate the assistance from Len and Washoe County Facilities, and the Library Systems Team. More upgrades and classes are on their way – starting January 6th they will be open Monday thru Friday 9-1. Senior Center has a Lucky Day Collection, a pilot project – some of the most popular items in the library are available on a first come, first served, no reservations basis. Not able to do anything at other senior centers at this time. Question – how do we make the other libraries able to have the informational resources that are available at the senior center? There are resources available on information boards at the libraries and online. Discussion on library materials being delivered with meals on wheels. Tech café on Wednesday afternoons for assistance with email and other tech devices. Friends of the Library paid for the majority of the upgrades.

8. Election of the Secretary for the Washoe County Senior Services Advisory Board – Connie McMullen

Marsy Kupfersmith was nominated by Donna Clontz, seconded by Gary Whitfield. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and possible action to approve a special meeting for new Board Members. – Connie McMullen

There are multiple applications for the vacancies on the board. Donna Clontz is looking to move in to the At Large post and Marsy Kupfersmith is looking to vacate the at large and move into the alternate post. A spreadsheet on candidates was in the packet. One alternate position is left. Two vacancies in District 3. Recommendations to go to the Commissioners - Vicki _____ in District 3, District 1 – no vacancies, Donna in the At Large. Starting over – Motion for Donna Clontz for the At large position by Marsy Kupfersmith, seconded by Wayne Alexander; motion passed unanimously. Motion for Marsy Kupfersmith for District 2 by Victoria Edmondson, seconded by Donna Clontz; motion passed unanimously. Motion for Vicki _____ for District 3 by Donna Clontz, seconded by Gary Whitfield; motion passed unanimously. Motion for Barbara Korosa for second vacancy in District 3 by Connie McMullen, seconded by Donna Clontz; motion passed unanimously. District 4 has no vacancies. District 5 vacancy left to the commissioners. Discussion of person for the alternate – all three are good candidates; motion for Stan Dowdy (?) by Connie McMullen, seconded by Marsy Kupfersmith; motion carried unanimously. Recruitment was closed on the 20th at 5 pm, if additional candidates are wanted a new recruitment would need to be done.

There was a discussion on holding a special meeting apart and separate from the joint meeting in January for orientation for new members. Per our DA it needs to be a noticed meeting. As soon as the Commission takes action and appoints the new members, then a special meeting will be scheduled for them and a refresher board orientation for existing members. The meeting may need to be longer than 2 hours, about 3 hours. Leslie was requested to schedule a date and inform the board.

10. *Primer (briefing) for the Board of the legislative session – standing item – Connie McMullen & Donna Clontz

Connie stated that she had nothing to discuss except oxygen in a bill coming up and signatures need to be collect for it to get on the ballot. Legislative subcommittee for the Commission on Aging has a meeting coming up to discuss what they are going to do, as does the Personal Care Association.

11. *Director's Update- Kevin Schiller and Leslie Williams

- a. **Discussion of orientation of new Advisory Board Members**
- b. **Update on Senior Services Transition Plan – Kevin Schiller**
- c. **Washoe County Strategic Plan Goal Team #2 Update – Kevin Schiller**
- d. **Senior Services Budget Update – Kevin Schiller**

Regarding Daybreak Medicaid billing our billing processes have been enhanced, we have increased the revenue from \$183,000 in 2013 to \$286,000 this year. We anticipate that it will increase next year with the addition of another public health nurse. Medicaid funds about 46% of the Daybreak program and our goal is to increase that to 50% in FY2017.

- e. **Grants and projects update**

f. Status of program waitlists

There is only one waitlist currently. The Homemaker program waitlist is down from 120 to 65, there is one social worker dedicated to this. We anticipate that this list will continue to decrease.

g. Other updates

12. *Member Items.

Kevin Schiller –

Grady Tarbutton has retired. There will be a proclamation soon, honoring him for his accomplishments. Mr. Schiller will keep the board informed

The Advisory Board will be receiving a monthly standardized report regarding Senior Services budget at the next meeting. Current highlights on integration – integrated financially close to \$750,000 this year. At end of last fiscal year – temporary staff had to be brought in to cover staff shortages which brought up costs and the cost for meals and number of meals increased. There was no contingency fund, so access to the indigent fund was sought. A presentation to the board on needed services is coming up. We want to target the top items necessary to move ahead. The Board has adopted the Strategic Plan so we want to target the priority areas where we can make a difference.

The County Manager has appointed Kevin Schiller Acting Director for Senior Services pending the code changes in January and approval of the Board on 12/8/15.

The budget currently is on track with projections. Reimbursements are up and we are looking for ways to increase revenues, and no major bills coming up. With the integration we need to figure out where to leverage more dollars so that we can continue to expand.

Strategic Goals – prioritize what those goals are – meals,

Also, a research division for the County so when grants are being pursued there is a data center where the information is gathered. Crossover to the university, to the City of Reno. We want to expand our general fund and not rely mostly on grants. We are continuing to work on how to improve services. Try to create more interaction between liaisons to programs and the board. Working on making the board more active on advocating for seniors to improve services.

Gaps in programs – need to assist people coming out of jail or another immediate need for assistance. Adult Social Services has been responding to emergency items because the funds are available. Comments made about how well the social workers, legal, the court system are collaborating.

Member Item –

At a meeting at the Sparks Senior Center with some of the Sparks seniors who are concerned about the programs. They mentioned there was \$5,000 in Senior Services budget that they could access to improve the center by requesting it from the staff. Can

this be added to a future agenda? Does Sun Valley have access to a similar budget? The city has funds that can be accessed through the Senior Citizens Advisory committee to help seniors in that jurisdiction. Could the Advisory Board do the same thing for the various centers? This would allow the board to further the needs of seniors, since the board does not have a budget.

Dennis Chin asked –

Can the meetings move to the different centers? Only the Reno and Sparks centers have access from 3-5 pm. Some of the meetings would need to be mornings to rotate through the different centers.

Meetings are set on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10-11 for Sparks Special Seniors, Sun Valley Special Seniors meet on the 3rd Thursday from 9:30-10. Our intent is to roll them out to the Reno Center and the Cold Springs Community Center

13. ***Board Member Agenda items for the next Board meeting.**

Joint meeting in January

For February meeting – Legislative update; Budget update; Older Americans Month, Candidates Forum, more to be added at the Executive meeting,

14. ***Public comment.**

Chris and Connie did a great job at the health fair at Baldini's ; probably do another during Older Americans Month.

Would be nice to send a thank you to Karen Davis for all her hard work

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Dennis Chin, seconded by Gary Whitfield; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.