

# Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary August 2, 2018

**Committee Members Present:** Cherina Kleven, Erika Marquez, F. Gerald Mackin, Lavonne Lewis, Nancy Brune (By Phone), Patrick Smith, Taurus Duncan (By Phone), Wendell Williams

**Committee Members Absent:** Ernesto Perdomo, Esther Langston, Nora Luna, Robert Torres

**Clark County Staff Present:** Michael Pawlak, Gina Olivares, Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Jasmine Cook

- **Call to Order**
  - By Wendell Williams at 11:33 a.m.
- **Introduction of All Members**
- **Public Comment**
  - None
- **Approval of December Meeting Summary**
  - Patrick Smith motion to approve, F. Gerald Mackin second.
- **Announcements from Members/Social Service Staff**
  - Michael Pawlak – At the last meeting we were announcing the opening of Patriots Place, the veterans affordable housing development. Since then that property has opened.
- **Department Update**
  - Michael Pawlak – We wanted to bring to you the overview from the 2018 Homeless Census. We have Michele Fuller-Hallauer who has an executive summary, she will take us through that presentation and then she will be able to answer questions that you may have.
  - Michele Fuller-Hallauer – The Homeless Census is an annual event to identify the number of people experiencing homelessness in our community, and some of the details around why they are experiencing homelessness that really helps us as a community to develop programs and identify what we need to address their homelessness. Our report was released two weeks ago, it was released on HelpHopeHome.org. It is a 220+ page report, if you are interested in reading it.

As a reminder, the Point in Time (PIT) Count is a snapshot of who is experiencing homelessness at this particular date and time. HUD, our largest funder, mandates that we do a PIT Count in the last 10 days of January. We do it in conjunction with the rest of the state, there are two other Continuum of Care's (CoC) in the State of Nevada and we coordinate it at the same time in the event that we need statewide data. The methodology is that we look at the entire County of Clark and utilize the census track breakdown used by the United States Census. We deploy volunteers on the night that we do the census to literally drive, walk and canvas, and mark who they see that's homeless in each area. We have specialized teams that go into the tunnels to count the people that live in the tunnels under the city. We also have specialized teams to count our youth because youth are typically found in different areas than the adults. We have partners that help us in the outlying areas, and areas that cannot be reached by car or may not be safe to go into. Metro uses their helicopter to fly over those uninhabited areas with an infrared gun and they identify if folks are out there so we not only count those folks, but send outreach teams. We follow up the count over the next two weeks with a survey.

There was a slight change in the methodology this year, which was guided by HUD. Because the information for those in a shelter or transitional housing program is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), HUD requested we pull data out of the system for the folks that were sheltered. As a result, the surveys we did were only for the folks that were unsheltered. We also work with the school district to understand where homeless students were sleeping the night of the count. (Presentation is attached.)

- Michael Pawlak – At our last meeting, we told you we were applying for a fairly robust nationally competitive grant for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Grant Program. We applied but were not one of the seven collaborations recommended for funding. Hopefully, next time, we will be able to submit a more robust application and win that grant funding in the future.

Also, there has been an announcement that the County has rehired Tim Burch, who used to be the Director of Social Service, as a Human Services Administrator. We don't know exactly what that will look like as of right now but we do anticipate some linkages between Social Service and Family Services. The idea is to build a bridge between the two departments, however, no major changes will take place in the immediate future.

- **Membership**

- Michael Pawlak – The last time we had some vacancies on the board we were looking to fill, we were getting ready to go back to the commissioners to give them an opportunity to put forth anyone they would want to recommend for the CAC. Gina was also going through the list of application to purge the ones that were so old that they would come off of our list. We also heard from both Ernesto and Roberto that they would not like to renew their term, which will expire in September. This means that we have five vacancies now and we don't have a list sufficient to support those vacancies, so we need to do another concerted outreach to identify some potential members that we might want to recommend to the board. We will also go back to the Commission and ask for recommendations, we would like to sort of fast track this and bring recommendations back to the next meeting in hopes of filling the vacancies by the end of the year.
- Gina Olivares – We have one recommendation from CAC Chairman Wendell Williams: Shameika Amin. We have her application on file. At present, she is the only active applicant at this point. We have eight applications that are more than a year old. We previously called and verified whether they continued to be interested in being considered. We keep applications on file for one year, so that also plays a role. As Mike mentioned, we will go back to the County Commissioners for recommendations from their districts and we will try to pull those together for the next meeting. If we can get those applications in before the next meeting we can bring them back to be approved by this board. I will send out a reminder email to you all with the application and instructions that you can forward on as you see fit.

- **Public Comment:**

- Wendell Williams – This committee receives a tremendous amount of information, the mission of this committee is to advise the department and the Board of County Commissioners on things that can help improve the lives of the people that receive Social Services. We have never made one single recommendation since the committee has been in existence. So, to receive information from the department, I think we need to start talking about things that can impact the community. I would like to encourage everyone to think about this.

One idea that I had, was to incorporate Social Workers as first responders in the community. I think Social Workers should not come after the incidents that they should be on site for immediate assistance for people that is non-police or fire.

- Cherina Kleven – The fire department has what they call Citizens Fire Academy, perhaps what you (Wendell Williams) are saying is that Social Service may have some similar group of volunteers.
- **Adjournment:**
  - By Wendell Williams at 12:46 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Clark County Social Service located at 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada.