

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Summary October 4, 2018

Committee Members Present: Cherina Kleven, Erika Marquez (By Phone), Esther Langston (By Phone), F. Gerald Mackin, Lavonne Lewis, Patrick Smith, Wendell Williams

Committee Members Absent: Nancy Brune, Nora Luna, Taurus Duncan

Clark County Staff Present: Michael Pawlak, Gina Olivares, Ariana Saunders, Jasmine Cook

- **Call to Order**
 - By Patrick Smith at 11:36 a.m.
- **Introduction of All Members**
- **Public Comment**
 - None
- **Approval of August Meeting Summary**
 - F. Gerald Mackin motion to approve, Patrick Smith second.
- **Announcements from Members/Social Service Staff**
 - Michael Pawlak – There were a few handouts provided to you. I just wanted to get these items on your radar. We have the 2nd Annual Youth Summit that will be held at the Sands Convention Center on November 2, 2018. It is an all-day event, partnered with Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, UNLV, HelpHopeHome, and the CoC. It is an information-driven, part policy working effort to develop an action plan for ending youth homelessness. There will be many good speakers presenting data and information. The second half of the day will be breakout sessions focus on policy and action steps. It is a free event, if you are interested it's a pretty exciting event to participate in.

The second item is Project Homeless Connect, which is sponsored by the Nevada Homeless Alliance with participation from Social Service and the CoC. It will be held on November 20, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year, the event will no longer be held at Cashman Field. It is moving to The Champion Center on East Bonanza. You are all invited to participate in that day of connecting to the homeless.

I also want to announce that we put out a save the date notice on Monday that the Outside Agency Program application will open up October 15, 2018. You may recall that is a grant program run by Social Service, whereby we make available about \$3 million on an annual basis to local non-profit organizations. It is very broad and encompasses a lot of different organizations. It is an opportunity for many smaller organizations, which may not be competitive for federal funding to come in and obtain general fund money. We usually have about 80 grant awards on an annual basis that receive that funding.

After many months we have finally received approval to recruit for our Assistant Director position. That position has been posted and will be open until the end of October. Hopefully, we will get some very good candidates that will come in and help us continue our work here at Social Service.

- **Department Update**

- Michael Pawlak – We were supposed to bring back today a discussion of our online services, but I did not get enough lead time. I will bring that back at the next meeting. I do have a few timely related issues that we are bringing forward today. The first one will be a presentation by Ariana Saunders, our Behavioral Health Coordinator. She is going to discuss her role with Social Service and how she supports the newly created Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board and tie that into upcoming legislative items. We hired her through a grant to support that work. After her presentation, Gina will give an update on the legislative process and how Social Service interacts with all the BDR creation and how we will review those and interact with the CAC in terms of how that affects us and this group.
- Ariana Saunders – At the 2017 legislative session, AB366 was passed. It introduced the development of Behavioral Health Policy Boards. Nevada is divided into four regions. Each region has a Behavioral Health Coordinator. A policy board will represent each region. I am the coordinator for the Southern Nevada region which consists of Clark, Nye and Esmeralda counties. Each policy board consists of 13 members (a total of 52 members statewide). The major responsibility of the boards is to evaluate the behavioral health system from a regional perspective, and give that feedback up to Nevada Department of Health & Human Services, Nevada Department of Public and Behavioral Health and the Behavioral Health Commission. We make recommendations in terms of what priorities we think are important for our region, funding recommendations in terms of where we think funding should be focused or directed in our region. As well as the ability to submit one Bill Draft Request (BDR) in each legislative session per region, so four in total.

The goal of the coordinator is to support the development of an effective behavioral health system of care. The coordinator serves as a liaison between the community, state and the respective policy board.

- Gina Olivares – As you know, the legislative session starts in February. Preparation has already begun; Administrative Services and the lobby team in the County Manager’s Office have already created a list of BDRs. To date there are 1,200 that have been submitted, and 513 of those have already been entered into the system. So those 513 have been sent to the departmental liaisons. Administrative Services has requested we go through all 513 BDRs and determine which ones we would like to track for possible impact to our department. In the meantime, they have also identified BDRs that they think will be of interest to our department. Of the 513, there are 35 that the lobby team has identified of interest to Social Service; 9 of the 35 pertain to Community Resource Management. Within the next three weeks we will receive another list of additional BDRs that have been entered into the system. As we review them we will send the ones we want to follow and track back to the County Manager’s Office. Once the session begins, we will have our own list of BDRs that we will follow throughout the session. We conduct weekly meetings with our Deputy District Attorney and a group in the department that comprises the legislative bill review team that reviews the bills. We continue to track them, and enter our position into the system. There is constant communication between us and the Administrative Services Inter-governmental Affairs team until the session ends. At the next meeting, I will bring a list of the BDRs that we are tracking as of that date.
- Michael Pawlak – I just have a few minor updates. Since our last meeting, we have been actively developing grants and we try to apply for those that seem relevant. We have been noticed of two grant awards that we received last week. We have one that is a three-year, \$150,000 grant that will create a special outreach team for homeless youth. This will be in partnership with HELP of Southern Nevada and Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. They will replicate our mobile crisis intervention team, that serves as our eyes and ears on the ground and that tries to engage all the encampments and identify any newly homeless individuals. The youth team will do that, plus deploy more unique strategies to find homeless youth and use some peer navigators and other tools.

The second grant is a technology award. We call it TIPS, Technology to Improve Program Services. It builds on our FUSE system that we have been working on for a while. We have been working with the Clark County Detention Center, to identify the overlap of people going into detention that are chronically homeless. We built out a partition model that does matching and it was starting to work. What we discovered was that the definition of chronically homeless does not match with those showing up in detention. Although we were seeing people that were in detention and in our HMIS system, they were not meeting the criteria for chronically homeless so we weren't getting matches. The new grant program will help us to build out the data partitioning tool to go out to the other local jails, hospitals and hopefully to Medicaid. So we can broaden the frequent user funnel, and match it to our homeless management system and better identify the people who are high users of services and also homeless.

We were noticed that we are not recipients of a grant through SAMHSA that would have helped us to link our crisis intervention workers with emergency responders and Metro. We did, however, get good feedback, so we will use that feedback to try again.

- **Membership**

- Gina Olivares – At the last meeting we talked about new recruitments, we currently have five open seats. We went back to review the applications on file, we have a protocol that we have been keeping applications on file for one year; all the applications on file have expired. The only active application we have is the application submitted by our chairman for Shameika Amin. I also sent out an email to this committee with the application and a process document that you could use that to recommend any new members. Since then, I received an email from the County Manager's Office outlining a standardized recruitment process for all CACs and TABs of the County. We would have to announce that we have openings, give a certain time frame, and at the end of the time frame, we would close the window. When that is complete, we will take vet the submitted applications internally and then make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. There's a timeline that's attached to the new process, in which they would be ratified by the board and serve on the CAC. They are trying to standardize and formalize these processes. Our department was chosen as a pilot to try this new process. We do want to address the application we have on file. We will definitely include her in this process.

While we participate in this pilot program, I will email you as I take each step to keep you updated on the process. They are expecting us to provide feedback.

- **Public Comment**

- Cherina Kleven – The Asian Community Development Council will be hosting a Family Day at the RIO Hotel on October 14, 2018. We will provide flu shots, health screening, and citizenship workshop.

Also, I will provide lunch at the next CAC meeting. If you have any requests, please let me know.

- **Adjournment**

- By Wendell Williams at 12:59 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at Clark County Social Service located at 1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada.