

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF

THE NEVADA INTERAGENCY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

February 20, 2024

The Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Subcommittee for Technical Assistance was called to order by Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer at 1:03 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This meeting is being conducted virtually. This meeting was noticed in accordance with Nevada Open Meeting Law and posted on <https://dwss.nv.gov/Home/Features/Public-Information/> the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services website.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Manager, Clark County Social Services

Nolga Valadez, Benefit Services Outreach Manager, Three Square, Nevada

Dr. Pamela Juniel, McKinney-Vento Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education, Nevada

Lorena Lemus, Case Management Services Coordinator Northern Nevada Hopes, Reno Nevada

Chris Murphey, Grants Manager, Churchill Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs DBA: New Frontier, Nevada

Cristy Costa, Human Services Director, Northern Nevada Community Housing

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Brooke Page, Corporation for Supportive Housing Director, Southwest, Nevada

Karen Van Hest, Director of Reimbursement and Compliance at Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada

Scott Benton, Emergency Shelter Director, Nevada Cares Campus

Austin Pollard, State Housing Manager for United Healthcare

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

NEVADA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – February 20, 2024

Niani Cooper, Manager, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Samantha D’Ambrosio, Coordinator, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Jonet Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Homeless to Housing, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada

Ryan Sunga, DAG, Nevada

**Agenda Item I.** [Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call]

**Niani Cooper:**

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Governor's Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing Technical Assistance Subcommittee. This meeting has been publicly noticed and compliance with Nevada's open meeting law. Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer will call the meeting to order.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Good afternoon, it is 1:03 p.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I’d like to call the meeting of the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness Subcommittee for Technical Assistance to order. Will the moderator please call roll?

**Niani Cooper: [Roll Call. We Have Quorum.]**

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Thank you. Let’s go on to item number two.

**Agenda Item II.** [General Public Comments]

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Item number two on our agenda is public comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised until the matter has been specifically added to the agenda. Comments are limited to three minutes. If you are making a public comment via phone, please call 1-775-321-6111, ID number: 847312658#. We are now open to public comment. Please unmute yourself and state your name for the council. Do we have any public comment? Seeing none, hearing none, I will close this item and we will move on to agenda item number three.

**Agenda Item III.** [For Possible Action – Discussion and Possible Approval of Minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance Subcommittee Meeting]

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

This item is for possible action, discussion, and approval of minutes for the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024,

Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance subcommittee meeting. Do I have a motion to approve or discuss the minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024?

**Pamela Juniel:**

I'd like to make a motion to approve the minutes.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

We have a motion for approval of the Minutes for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. May I have a second?

**Nolga Valadez:**

I second the motion.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor, please indicate by unmuting yourself and saying “aye”.

**Pamela Juniel, Nolga Valadez, Lorena Lemus, Chris Murphey, Cristy Costa:**

Aye.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Any opposed, please unmute yourself and indicate by saying “nay”. Any abstentions? Please unmute yourself and indicate by stating you abstain. Motion carries. Let’s move onto agenda item number four.

**Agenda Item IV.** [For Possible Action – Discussion and Possible Vote on the Language in the Letter that the Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness Technical Assistance Subcommittee Will Use for New Membership Recruitment. Discussion on Current Vacancies for the TA. View the DWSS Website Link]

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

We had a small group that agreed to look at the language. Thank you very much for working with Niani and her team to clean up the language for our recruitment letter. Niani, would you mind taking us through the recruitment letter?

**Niani Cooper:**

The recruitment letter states the Technical Assistance Subcommittee to the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness provides advice and information to assist the ICH in developing the statewide strategic plan for addressing homelessness. For more information regarding the Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing Strategic Plan, please visit the link.

The technical assistance committee may include, without limitation, representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, providers of services, religious organizations, persons involved in the sale or lease of housing and members of the public.

The subcommittee is recruiting additional members to join, with a preference for new members who work in the field of addressing homelessness, or have lived experience pertaining to homelessness, if applicable.

To qualify, prospective candidates must be willing and available to meet at least once a month to develop and update the statewide strategic plan on homelessness. The areas being addressed: Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Intervention, Wraparound Services, Education and Workforce Development, Coordination of Primary and Behavioral Health, Coordination of Data and Resources, Policies, and Long-Term Planning.

Interested candidates are requested to send a letter of interest to [DWSSH2H@dwss.nv.gov](mailto:DWSSH2H@dwss.nv.gov) that includes your name, title, the organization you work with, and contact information. Please include any experience you have personally or professionally in homelessness, mental health, substance use disorder service delivery, and any skills or knowledge you will be able to contribute to the subcommittee.

Prospective candidates will be scored and evaluated by the ICHTA with a scoring sheet utilizing a Likert scale. The council will take into consideration an applicant's expertise, knowledge, skill, involvement in the field, and other relevant factors that may be contributed that will assist in the council's endeavors to end homelessness in Nevada. Once scoring has been completed, the ICHTA will vote on potential members as needed to fill vacant positions.

We set a deadline but that can be changed. The deadline to respond is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, due to the recent opening of the subcommittee. However, we will accept applications beyond this date for future considerations. All applications will be kept on file for one year.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Thank you Niani. Any thoughts?

**Pamela Juniel:**

I think it is clear and well stated. Thank you to everyone who worked on the language and updating this document.

**Chris Murphy:**

I agree with Dr. Juniel's comments. In the paragraph we're talking about preferences for new members. Do you think that would exclude the representations of federal, state and local agency? Are our preferences going to be exclusive to those individuals?

**Pamela Juniel:**

Is there any way we could put a connection to instead of a preference? To open for people whether they are part of the state or other agencies.

**Chris Murphy:**

I would like to change it to connection versus preference.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Are you talking about the sentence that says the subcommittee is recruiting additional members to join?

**Chris Murphy:**

Yes, that's correct.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

The subcommittee is recruiting additional members to join. We are seeking persons with lived experience pertaining to homelessness. Potential recruits may have a connection to, and/or work toward efforts addressing homelessness. How are you feeling about that paragraph Chris?

**Chris Murphy:**

I like it. It looks good.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Any other concerns? Any thoughts about that paragraph or the rest of the letter? Thank you all. Niani, can you please talk us through the website?

**Niani Cooper:**

Yes, Madam Chair. The website is [dwss.nv.gov](http://dwss.nv.gov) which has a link to Homeless to Housing. Once you click on the link, it will take you to a landing page. It gives a brief discussion on the Interagency Council on Homelessness and the link to apply to serve on the technical subcommittee. The application will ask for basic information and is linked to our email address. The application mimics the exact application if they were to apply for any of the other boards under the governor's office.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Thank you. It does not allow us to attach the recruitment letter or for us to ask specific questions, correct?

**Niani Cooper:**

Correct. We could send the letter requesting additional information once we received the applications.

**Pamela Juniel:**

Once they submit the form, will it route directly to us?

**Niani Cooper:**

It is routed to the email address.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Will it be a two-part process where they would need to fill out this application and we will follow up with a letter? How do we get the background that we are asking for to make the decisions but not make it cumbersome for the folks that are applying?

**Nolga Valadez:**

It was mentioned that this form is used not just for this group but for others as well and nothing can be added, correct?

**Niani Cooper:**

Correct.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Niani, I think you mentioned that we could link this form to ListServ.

**Niani:**

Right. We could link this site to ListServ. Once we receive the application, we will send the letter

requesting additional information. This application will remain open to anyone who wants to apply. But that doesn't mean there will always be vacancies.

**Pamela Juniel:**

Are we removing the link after a certain date?

**Niani Cooper:**

No. The link will stay on the DWSS website.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Do we need two letters? One for the initial recruitment for ListServ? And the second one confirming that we received their application, and we need more information from the applicant?

**Nolga Valadez:**

I like the idea. Niani, once we're not accepting applications, will somebody in your team let them know that we are not actively seeking new membership?

**Niani Cooper:**

Yes, we can. We can put it together and you will vote on it.

**Chris Murphy:**

I like the idea of being able to continue to gather possible recruits. This will give us a bank of people that we could reach out to next time.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Our next scheduled meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup>. If we move forward with having the responses to these applications come back close to the 19<sup>th</sup>, we won't be able to vote until our April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Pamela Juniel:**

When does the follow up request for the additional information go out?

**Chris Murphy:**

Is a week enough or should we leave it in two weeks?

**Lorena Lemus:**

Maybe a week is too rushed. I think two weeks is reasonable. If we are trying to push it for March, then it's a little bit of a time constraint. If the deadline is April, I think three weeks would be fine.

**Pamela Juniel:**

I'm okay with giving additional time.

**Nolga Valadez:**

I think to give them and us time, April looks best.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

What I'm hearing is we are pushing to give any prospective applicants sufficient time to apply. For us to review the applications, and their subsequent letter to make solid decisions for the April meeting.

**Pamela Juniel:**

That is correct.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Niani, if we go on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, will that work for us to do what we need to do and to be able to post for the April meeting?

**Niani Cooper:**

If I'm hearing you correctly, 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the initial application. Then we will reach out and send the additional letter. We will distribute the responses to you guys by the 20<sup>th</sup>, correct?

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Or the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Niani Cooper:**

We will distribute that to you guys in an email with the scoring matrix. Then we would have the names and the letters. We must redact them so there's no personal information. We could get all of that posted for the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Pamela Juniel:**

The March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting would be a great time to check the status of things.

**Niani Cooper:**

Yes, we could do a check-in.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

I think we need to vote. Do I have a motion?

**Pamela Juniel:**

I move that we accept the letter we adapted and adjusted. I move that we accept the discussed dates for application submissions, the acceptances as well as the letter distributions in accordance with our meeting schedule.

**Chris Murphy:**

I second the motion.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

We have a motion on the table, and we have a second. All those in favor, please unmute yourself and indicate by saying "aye".

**Nolga Valadez, Chris Murphy, Pamela Juniel, Lorena Lemus, Cristy Costa:**

Aye.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Any opposed, please unmute yourself and indicate by saying "nay". Any abstentions? Please unmute yourself and indicate by stating you abstain. Hearing none, seeing none, the motion carries. We will move on to agenda item number five.

**Agenda Item V.** [For Information Only – Champions Report (Status Update) from CoC and TA Subcommittee Members Regarding Their Progress in Developing Content and Language to be Included in Their Assigned Sections of the Nevada Strategic Plan on Homelessness. Updates will be Populated During the Meeting]

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Until we have any updates, shall we just start at the top?

**Nolga Valadez:**

We have reached out to all those that were interested in volunteering to collaborate with us. To make sure we come up with the wording and that we're covering everything that we think wraparound services should look like. When I sent the original email, less than half of those on my list replied. The deadline for them to reply whether they're still interested or not was last Tuesday. Some emails are invalid. I will send another email to those who said yes. I will be sharing the document that we originally started. They can put their idea on what they think wraparound services should be and what they want to see as a group. How we can get it finalized. Once I get Karen's feedback, I'll go ahead and send the email.

**Pamela Juniel:**

For education and workforce development, I received the feedback I requested from Nolga and Karen. Thank you to Niani and other members for updating the strategic issues, leads or champions. I got less than half of the responses from the email I sent out. So, I sent another email with two questions. One is "Are we focusing on education and development for those experiencing homelessness as part of coordinated entry?" The second question is "Do we have a clear picture of organizations who provide education and workforce development resources in our state?" I had a couple of good responses.

With the first question, one of our volunteers said that they think education about homelessness may be just as important not just for those experiencing it, but for those who are misunderstanding who these folks are. What leads to dire situations in which they find themselves too many times not to the fault of their own. We need to create a context with accurate and useful information that is available to the communities. We need to build our own capacity and remove stigma. When we are providing services, whether it be partnered with wraparound services, what would that look like? We're going to continue having those conversations. There is no real clearinghouse to see what some people are doing. We need to foster more of an environment around education and workforce development that is not siloed but more collaborative.

**Chair Michele-Fuller Hallauer:**

Can you clarify the question about the coordinated entry?



**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

As much as we attempt to have a strong coordinated system within Nevada, we are not there yet. As a homeless service system, we've started with housing instability. The homelessness component is to get people into housing first, then wraparound services. A healthy coordinated system would be looking at housing access assessments, referral workforce development, education, behavioral and physical health. We would have a data system that will help us get people connected to all those systems. It is important to have a strong strategic and action plan to help us develop a healthy system for our struggling clients.

**Chris Murphy:**

We are a coordinated entry site and our HMIS system no longer tracks people being employed. The questions on education are no longer collected as a coordinated entry. It is important to have our own separate evaluation to help a person that is homeless to become successful. But our present system isn't collecting this information. A strategic plan needs to be collected to truly help these individuals.

**Lorena Lemus:**

We had a meeting 2 weeks ago about the coordination of behavioral health and primary care. We went over each goal and asked for feedback. We discussed health homes from other states on how we can bring those over. We also discussed collaboration with different agencies. We talked about how we can better use centralized information from systems such as HMIS and HIE to better connect with different services for patients. We also talked about the changes coming to Medicaid. Our next meeting will be on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Shannon Couk:**

We got through our three goals for the policy subgroup. We discussed funding to construct and preserve low income and affordable housing units. We came up with looking at a dedicated funding source. We also came up with looking at requirements to keep units' low income for a longer period. We are looking at thirty to fifty years and a government buyback.

Our next goal was supporting local policies that modify or expand zoning to create affordable housing. We looked at AB213. We are waiting on how the local jurisdictions are utilizing it. We discussed the Reno plan. We are looking at a possible developer roundtable. We will see what barriers they must use these zoning options. We will try to work with them to increase the number of developers that are interested in developing low income.

Our last goal was with policies around ending veteran homelessness. We thought more inventory was needed. We are looking at how to coordinate between housing and other homeless services for veterans. We are looking at outreach to that population to increase their willingness to utilize the services. Our next idea is to get it to the members of the workgroup for them to check and reach out to their network.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

I've had conversations with some targeted people about what are the processes that we need to connect to various systems of record. What it looks like and how to break it into a language into an action plan. We discussed having checks and balances with pulling out and developing data.

We've been meeting every month for long term planning. We have seven goals in our strategic issue. We found that there's a lot of work happening across the state toward the goals we identified in our strategic plan. The CoC is doing a great job of monitoring and auditing their CoC funded programs. However, there's no mechanism for non CoC or ESG funded programs. There is no consistent monitoring of programs' efficacy. We think this will impact on other work teams. We need some conversation about creating consistency and efficacy for outcomes. Tracking those outcomes across programs, agencies and across the state. Persons with lived experience should be implemented and implanted in every aspect of our plan. We also had a conversation on the outcomes of your action plans so we can add it to ours.

Any other questions and comments for our strategic plan? Our first draft will be by the end of March. Anything else on this agenda? Hearing none, seeing none, we will close agenda item number five and we will move to agenda item number six.

**Agenda Item VI.** [For Information Only – Discussion of Agenda Items for the Next Meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024]

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

This is for information only. This is the discussion of the agenda items for the meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I think we need to continue our discussion on where we are on the strategic plan. That will be a standing item. Can we ask for an update from Niani and her team on how many applicants we have through the portal? How many emails were sent out for follow up?

**Niani Cooper:**

Yes Madame Chair. We will have that agendized.

**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

Is there anything else we want for the next agenda? Seeing none, hearing none, we will close agenda item number six and let's move on to agenda number seven.

**Agenda Item VII.** [General Public Comments]

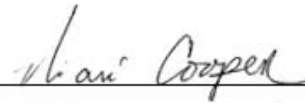
**Chair Michele Fuller-Hallauer:**

No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If you are making a public comment via phone, please call 1-775-321-6111, ID number: 847312658#. We are now open to public comment. Please unmute yourself and state your name for the record. Do we have any public comment? Seeing none, hearing none, it is now 3:16 p.m. on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. I will adjourn this meeting of the Technical Assistance Committee of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing. Thank you all. Thank you for your time today. Have a great day.

**Agenda Item VIII.** [Adjournment: 3:16 PM]

NEVADA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – February 20, 2024

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



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Niani Cooper, Committee Moderator

APPROVED BY:



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Michelle Fuller-Hallauer, Chair

Date: February 27, 2024