

City of Las Vegas

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDING BOARD
CITY HALL, 495 S. MAIN STREET
CITY CLERKS 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY OF LAS VEGAS INTERNET ADDRESS: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

MINUTES

February 28, 2013
2:00 P.M.

ITEMS MAY BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ORDER PRESENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRPERSON. TWO OR MORE AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION MAY BE COMBINED; AND ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA MAY BE REMOVED OR RELATED DISCUSSION MAY BE DELAYED AT ANY TIME.

DUPLICATE AUDIO CDs MAY BE AVAILABLE AT A COST OF \$5.00 PER CD THROUGH THE CITY CLERKS OFFICE.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

CHAIR MILLER called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

Present: CHAIR MILLER and MEMBERS McCOY, JORDAN, PAPPAS, POWELL, AKER, HARTLEY, and GUERRERO

Excused: MEMBERS CERVANTES, McFADDEN, McGRATH, ASSELIN and DeSALVIO

Also Present: SHAWN BOLSTER, Grant Program Coordinator, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY TERI PONTICELLO and DEPUTY CITY CLERK ANGELA CROLLI

2. [ANNOUNCEMENT RE: COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETING LAW](#)

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; Grant Sawyer Building, 555 East Washington Avenue; City of Las Vegas Development Services Center, 333 North Rancho Drive.

3. [PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED](#)

Minutes:

None.

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4. [Report on Emergency Solutions Grant \(ESG\) application submitted by WestCare Nevada, Inc.](#)

Minutes:

SHAWN BOLSTER, Grant Program Coordinator, explained the meeting procedures for the applicant making the presentation.

KEVIN MORSS, WestCare Nevada, stated that the \$20,000 grant request will pay for food costs, utilities and rents for the shelter, which provides services to adolescences 10 to 17 years old. The shelter has been open since 1987 and it began with the local Juvenile Justice to provide services to local kids who are runaways, homeless and curfew violators. Originally, the facility was to reunite the youths with their families but through the years it was discovered that there were other options for these kids. So, when a child comes to WestCare, there is an initial intake to assess their needs, if they have family or if they are ward of the State. If the kids have behavioral or substance abuse issues, counselors and case management staff help them get into the resources they need. On average a child is in the center approximately three days before a place is found for them, but there have been kids who have been there for 6 months. Currently, WestCare receives a federal grant through the Administration of Children and Family which pay for a child to remain at the center for approximately 28 days. Last year the federal government made new regulations on nutrition for kids, thus increasing WestCares food costs, which was not budgeted last year. He introduced a past recipient of WestCares services, who indicated that she was homeless and was a substance abuser, but she now has a job and WestCare saved her life.

MEMBER GUERRERO pointed out that human trafficking is a big concern and asked what strategies WestCare has in place to mitigate this concern. MR. MORSS responded that WestCare is part of the Human Trafficking Task Force and a transitional living program called the Voyage Program helps human trafficking victims. Once they come to the shelter, their needs are assessed and counselors help them get through the trauma of human trafficking.

MEMBER PAPPAS questioned the recidivism rate and what is being done to keep the kids going back in the streets. MR. MORSS replied that WestCare is not a lock-down facility so, the kids leave but the same come back once they build their trust.

CHAIR MILLER asked what other agencies support WestCare partners besides Juvenile Justice. MR. MORSS indicated that WestCare staff handles the substance abuse, but the Health District and AFAN provide education about STD, Safe House and Safe Nest for domestic violence, Rape Crisis Center, and Three Square. WestCares motto is that they will do whatever it takes to help these individuals.

MEMBER AKER verified that WestCare has a open door policy and when individuals leave and dont come back, WestCare attempts to locate them, but they cannot be made to stay.

MEMBER POWELL verified that the food is cooked on premises according to the new federal regulations standards.

MEMBER GUERRERO discussed with MR. MORSS that the parents get involved and WestCare assesses the family dynamics to see if that family option is viable. The federal grant is a reunification grant specifically for reunifying with families. Approximately 80% is given back to the families and WestCare offers one-hour fee family counseling. WestCare also offers respite care where parents can bring the kids back at the facility if the situation at home is volatile. In response to MR. JORDANS query, MR. MORSS replied that WestCare has an open-door policy and the same child can come back as often as they want. The only time a child might not allowed coming back is if they have had an altercation with a staff member. Some kids have come back 10-20 times.

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5. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION: PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE LIMITED TO MATTERS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD. NO SUBJECT MAY BE ACTED UPON BY THE BOARD UNLESS THAT SUBJECT IS ON THE AGENDA AND IS SCHEDULED FOR ACTION. IF YOU WISH TO BE HEARD, GIVE YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD. THE AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION ON ANY SINGLE SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF TIME ANY SINGLE SPEAKER IS ALLOWED, MAY BE LIMITED

Minutes:

None.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes:

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Angela Crolli, Deputy City Clerk

Shawn Bolster, Grant Program Coordinator

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of disabled persons. If you need an accommodation to attend and participate in this meeting, please call the City Clerks office at 229-6311 and advise of your need at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. The Citys TDD number is 386-9108.

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