



Community Development Recommending Board Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Minutes:

CHAIR MILLER called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR MILLER (seated as Chair after Item 5) and MEMBERS KLEIN (seated as Co-Chair after Item 5), McKNIGHT (seated as Alternate Co-Chair after Item 5), WASHINGTON (excused until 12:09 p.m.), SAYLES (via teleconference), MARLON, HADDAD, HARPER, McKEE, BOX, PRADO, WHITTINGHAM and BURRIS

ALSO PRESENT: COLLEEN DUEWIGER, Grant Program Coordinator; ANNE KILPONEN, Neighborhood Outreach Specialist; STEPHANY COALEY, Grant Program Coordinator; MELANIE RILEY, Grant Program Coordinator; BRYAN SCOTT, City Attorney; CRISLOVE IGELEKE, Deputy City Attorney; and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, Deputy City Clerk

2. **Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and The Nevada Public Notice Website – notice.nv.gov

3. **Public Comment:** Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and 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.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2021

Motion made by Mack McKnight to Approve

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Sydni Sayles, David Marlon, Patricia Haddad, Wesley Harper, Jimmi McKee, Richard Box, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Trevor Burriss, David Klein; Excused-Erika Washington;

5. Discussion for possible action regarding the election of Chair, Co-Chair and Alternate Co-Chair

Minutes:

Sequentially, MEMBER McKNIGHT nominated MEMBER MILLER as continuing Chair; MEMBER McKEE nominated MEMBER KLEIN as Co-Chair; MEMBER HADDAD nominated MEMBER McKNIGHT as Alternate Co-Chair. Each member accepted their nomination as they were nominated.

Motion made by Mack McKnight to Approve his nomination of Member Miller as Chair

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Sydney Sayles, David Marlon, Patricia Haddad, Wesley Harper, Jimmi McKee, Richard Box, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Trevor Burris, David Klein; Excused-Erika Washington;

Motion made by Jimmi McKee to Approve her nomination of Member Klein as Co-Chair

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Sydney Sayles, David Marlon, Patricia Haddad, Wesley Harper, Jimmi McKee, Richard Box, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Trevor Burris, David Klein; Excused-Erika Washington;

Motion made by Patricia Haddad to Approve her nomination of Member McKnight as Alternate Co-Chair

Passed For: 12; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 1

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Sydney Sayles, David Marlon, Patricia Haddad, Wesley Harper, Jimmi McKee, Richard Box, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Trevor Burris, David Klein; Excused-Erika Washington;

6. Report by Colleen Duewiger, Grant Program Coordinator, regarding Housing and Urban Development (HUD) federal grants and allocation of federal funds

Minutes:

COLLEEN DUEWIGER, Grant Program Coordinator, reported that the City of Las Vegas' grant application process began on October 18, 2021, with the posting of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for agencies seeking program funding from the City's allocation of funds for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant funds for each of these programs were designated as two-year grants, which were designed to provide funds for selected agencies in fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Approximately \$2 million is available in HOPWA funding, \$177,000 in ESG funding and \$806,000 in CDBG funding. Interested agencies were asked to attend one of two technical workshops held on November 4, 2021. The RFP closed on November 18, 2021, and the Community Development Recommending Board (CDRB) received eligible applications for review on December 8, 2021.

Eligible applicants were asked to make presentations to the Board, and those were scheduled over the course of two days. Each program applicant will be allocated ten minutes, with five minutes allowed for presentation and five minutes to answer questions from the Board Members. This meeting includes presentations for HOPWA, ESG and CDBG grants.

MS. DUEWIGER asked for the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest with the presenting agencies for this meeting.

NOTE: Member Marlon disclosed that he is on the Board of Help of Southern Nevada and Vegas Stronger. Therefore, he would be abstaining on both of those applications.

CITY ATTORNEY BRYAN SCOTT introduced DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CHRISLOVE IGELEKE, who will be transitioning as advisor and representing the City Attorney's Office in the future.

CHAIR MILLER announced the arrival of MEMBER WASHINGTON.

7. Presentations regarding applications for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 submitted by: Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN): AFAN Housing; Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County: EOB HOPWA Assistance; Golden Rainbow: Permanent Housing

Placement & Supportive Services; The Just One Project: Just One's HOPWA Assistance; Women's Development Center: HOPWA

Minutes:

Prior to each applicant making their presentation, CHAIR MILLER explained they would be given five minutes to make their presentation, and the Board Members would have five minutes to ask questions. Additionally, immediately following each presentation, the Members who asked questions thanked the applicant for their work in the community and appreciated their valuable programs.

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) – AFAN Housing: JeKEISSA MOSLEY, Lead Case Manager; ANTIOCO CARRILLO, Director; and LINDSAY ATKENS, Finance Manager, were present. MR. CARRILLO thanked the Board Members for their consideration and advised that MS. MOSLEY could answer any questions regarding the program and MS. ATKENS could answer questions regarding the finances.

MS. MOSLEY said that AFAN has been providing services to the HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) community in Southern Nevada since 1984. Thanks to grants such as HOPWA, they are able to provide Ryan White Part A and Part B services, including medical transportation, mental health therapy, registered dietician services, housing subsidies and emergency financial assistance for clients. In addition, they have the Esperanza housing property, which can house up to 20 clients. There are 12 group living units and eight bungalow/single studio apartments. Currently, seven of the bungalows are occupied, as one person moved out due to a death in the family during the pandemic. Although he graduated from the program, help was still available if needed. AFAN also provides housing subsidies through its tenant-based rental assistance program, and they currently assist 13 individuals, which they would like to increase going forward because there is a great need for the services.

MS. MOSLEY noted that AFAN learned that landlords do not want to help with programs as much as before the rent moratorium because programs have restrictions, and the landlords are trying to catch up. So finding housing has been challenging, but the need is still prevalent. She requested continued funding so they can continue providing assistance.

In looking at AFAN's record of involvement with the City and grant funding, MEMBER HARPER was concerned about their inability to report consistently to the City's requirements and on schedule. MR. CARRILLO replied that the past two years have been challenging for all organizations, but more for them because they have not been able to put on revenue generating events, such as the annual AIDS Walk and the Black and White Party. In prior years, they have also had challenges due to program modifications, which led to less revenues coming in. He felt confident they will be receiving funding through a private donation. They are eager to start expanding their housing and emergency assistance projects.

MEMBER McGEE asked how many people within the City of Las Vegas AFAN assists with all of their programs. MS. MOSLEY replied that specifically with HOPWA funding, their goal for the year was to assist 119 clients, and they assist about 1,100 clients for all services combined for the year.

Regarding the application's question about an audit in 2018, MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered why corrective recommendations were not completed when AFAN responded that they would attempt to make changes and the audit was conducted three years ago. MS. ATKENS conceded that they have been two years behind in their audits, and they just completed implementing corrections as of July of 2021. They just finished the 2019 audit and they were getting ready to start the 2020 audit. MR. CARRILLO interjected that he previously spoke about the struggles in finishing the audits, but they are working directly with the City in completing those in a more timely fashion. They expect to start the 2020 and 2021 audits within the next two months, as they already received the letter of engagement. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM clarified that his concern was specifically with the response to "intend to complete" instead of "corrective action was taken." MS. ATKENS informed MEMBER WHITTINGHAM that they were in the process of finishing making corrections.

Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County – EOB HOPWA Assistance: TAMARA COLLINS, Director of Programs; NAMEER MAGNO, Finance; and RONNIE JOHNSON, Case Manager, were present. MS. COLLINS referred to flyers outlining their progress and success, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and she thanked the Board Members for being able to present. She continued and said that EOB has held the HOPWA grant since July of 2020, and they received an extension for 2020, given the delays caused by the pandemic.

However, in 2021, they were able to gain some ground in reaching out and enrolling clients. They are currently on target at 45 percent for spend down. EOB has expanded by forming partnerships, such as with AFAN and the UMC (University Medical Center) AIDS Office. These partnerships have made a significant difference in the number of people they have been able to serve.

She emphasized that it has been difficult to meet the requirements amid and post pandemic because landlords do not understand the specific needs. With the assistance of MR. JOHNSON, they were able to build their landlord base and help them understand the program and have been able to help seven homeless clients find employment. She feels they are not just helping clients find housing, but also find a job, stay employed and how to succeed in life. She wishes she could hire more case managers to help more clients. They have 35 clients enrolled, but only 21 are actively involved, and 11 are receiving permanent housing support.

MEMBER WASHINGTON asked for clarification on the struggle with finding supportive landlords. MS. COLLINS explained that landlords used to be very supportive about guaranteed funding, but they felt they were left out of the solution during the pandemic. Housing placement was made for families, but landlords did not get revenue replaced and many management groups were replaced. Unfortunately, many of the new landlords are owners. Evictions are now taking place, so there are more rental units available. However, property owners lost a lot of revenue, which she believes led to the persisting difficulty, but they are committed to reaching out to the landlords and being able to help their clients.

With five new landlords, MEMBER HADDAD asked if the requested grant is for 25 new clients, and MS. COLLINS said she anticipates it will be for continuation of an additional 25 families, as the remaining funds for this fiscal year should cover the housing needs. Their goal is to find permanent housing for the short-term housing clients. She noted that the process takes a lot of dedication and work. Additionally, MEMBER HADDAD asked if they have enough housing available, and MS. COLLINS said they are on par, as they can make modifications to the budget if necessary and use CDBG funds to find stable housing for clients.

GOLDEN RAINBOW – Permanent Housing Placement and Supportive Services: GARY COSTA, Executive Director, and DARNELL DUWYENIE, Client Program Coordinator, were present. MR. COSTA said that Golden Rainbow started in 1987 in response to the epidemic that was affecting people working on the Las Vegas Strip. Volunteers gathered with entertainers to put together fundraising shows to help individuals with HIV. They have continued their efforts successfully and have always met their goals. HOPWA funds are used for their move-in financial assistance program, and they have a project-based rental assistance program, as well as HIV support services.

MR. DUWYENIE said they have done a great job with their programs and with integrating the Coronavirus funding they received, of which they have about \$10,000 remaining to expend. Their project-based rental assistance program is nearing its first pilot year, and it has been very successful. Support services include housing placement and case management to clients to obtain Nevada ID, employment, etc.

MR. COSTA said they requested more funding because there is a higher need, and the cost of rental assistance has doubled due to moratoriums ending. Although they have Ryan White funding to help, this funding will help people get set up in a new rental unit and with at-home and medical care without having to worry about the instability of homelessness. In February of 2020, they closed escrow on a four-unit building for the PBRA (Project-Based Rental Assistance) program to help clients. However, the pandemic delayed the project and they only have been able to renovate and fill two units; the other two are under remodeling, as the tenants recently moved out. Many people are being priced out of the market and asking Golden Rainbow for assistance with first and last months' rent. He noted the importance of placing clients so they can keep taking their medications. He requested approval for the full amount.

MEMBER McGEE was confused about evictions in cases where the rental money was being paid. MR. COSTA said that many clients are being evicted because they did not pay the landlords for months because of the rent moratorium. Since it does not make sense for Golden Rainbow to pay for back rent, they want to use HOPWA funds to find a new location.

MEMBER HARPER asked about the response to Question 27 in the application about experience in effectively utilizing the funds, which he thought was probably an oversight. MR. DUWYENIE said they were acknowledging

the federal Ryan White and HOPWA funds received. For Ryan White funds, it involves extra funds they would consider. They use HOPWA funding for permanent housing placement, PBRA and supportive services.

The Just One Project – Just One’s HOPWA Assistance: BROOK NEUBAUER, Founder and CEO; CASEY FLAIR, Chief Operating Officer; and MARISA CERVANTES, Grant Acquisition Director, were present. MS. NEUBAUER said she founded the project in 2014 to connect the community through giving back and volunteerism. In 2016, they created a food-for-all program for food insecure individuals and they started a housing program, Operation Home, in conjunction with Clark County.

MR. FLAIR commented that they are known mostly for having Nevada’s largest food pantry; however, they started Operation Home last year with the assistance of 12 other agencies, through which they have been able to house 40 individuals with a case management team of four. They are in the top 10 percent of all the agencies. Their goal is to remove all barriers to provide access to food and housing for all demographics.

As a first-time HOPWA applicant, MS. CERVANTES said they have successfully operated a program for many years. The requested funds will allow them to provide tenant-based rental assistance up to 12 months for 20 individuals living with AIDS and short-term rental assistance for up to five months for 40 families with two full-time case managers. The case managers will meet regularly with the clients and connect them to services and resources. They also have a budget line item for grocery assistance, and they are the largest grocery distributor in Southern Nevada. In consideration of their clients’ health needs, they want to be able to meet their dietary needs. They will also provide transportation assistance and intend to connect clients to resources to help them earn and maintain an income that will help them sustain themselves.

MEMBER HADDAD was impressed with the volume of clients the organization has been serving. With rental assistance being limited for five months, she wondered how they make sure the clients remain housed. MS. CERVANTES replied that it is challenging, but they use HOPWA funding to assist with up to five months and utilize their partners, as well as work with the landlords to help plan beyond the five months. The plan includes helping the clients gain employment and providing resources to help them grow their income. If necessary, they help with rental assistance.

After discussion with MR. FLAIR that they have added 24 employees since 2019–2020, MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked why the salary jumped in 2020 from \$252,000 to over \$2 million. MS. CERVANTES explained that they received a \$2.8 million grant in 2020 through the COVID CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security) Act, and they hired about 34 temporary employees for 90 days and some for an additional three months to help with the pandemic. All were aware that it was only temporary and left. However, since then, the organization and funding sources have grown to maintain a staff of 30 people.

MEMBER MARLON asked why this would be a good fit for the funding, and MS. NEUBAUER replied that their organization is unique because they consider the client’s experience above all else. They believe in a strong foundation to help clients become self-sufficient by providing community-connect classes.

Women’s Development Center – HOPWA: JILLIAN PONTONI presented on the continued support for their HOPWA program to provide more permanent housing options, as they are getting many clients who are homeless due to loss of jobs. The majority of the clients were working on the Las Vegas Strip prior to losing funds, so they worked with these individuals prior to being evicted by working with the landlords in addition to providing rental assistance to avoid any issues with other landlords. They have been in business for about three decades, and the majority of their clients are single with families. She cited the example of a single father with three daughters who pulled his life together, and his oldest daughter graduated from high school and from UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas).

The pandemic made people realize having a house provides safety. This put a lot of pressure on the program, but they were still able to serve 43 individuals and families, and many of them were able to get jobs, which left money to help other people. She requested approval so they can help people with AIDS get housing so they can stay on track with their medications and stay healthy.

MEMBER McGEE asked how they find clients, and MS. PONTONI said the majority of the clients are referred by doctors, the UNLV Medical School and the Southern Nevada Health District.

MEMBER HARPER asked how the Center engaged in broadening its funding sources. MS. PONTONI replied that some of it is through tax credit, which is a cumbersome, necessary process, and through partnerships and other funding sources. They used to have some others, but they learned that writing checks was not working, as over 75 percent of the people were in no better situations after five years. Therefore, the goal is about acquiring properties and rehabbing them so that they are not taken out of the housing market, as well as to provide case management.

MEMBER WASHINGTON asked for the average age and race of their clients, and given the number of clients with credit issues, she asked if the Center is helping them clear their credit report. JESSIE CONSTANTINE said the average age of their clients is 35. About 60 percent of the clients are African-American, with Hispanic and Pacific Islander progressively declining. MS. PONTONI added that anyone with credit issues is referred to get legal assistance to help them resolve the issues. Unfortunately, some of the people just want to ignore their financial issues. They also try to provide guidance on how to save money and make an effort to send payments.

8. Presentations regarding applications for Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 submitted by: Caridad Charity: Caridad Gardens Housing; Caridad Charity: Caridad Gardens Preventing Homelessness; El Shaddai Refuge Homes Community Development Corporation: El Shaddai Independent Living Housing; Salvation Army of Nevada: Rapid Rehousing

Minutes:

Prior to each applicant making their presentation, CHAIR MILLER explained they would be given five minutes to make their presentation, and the Board Members would have five minutes to ask questions. Additionally, immediately following each presentation, the Members who asked questions thanked the applicant for their work in the community and appreciated their valuable programs.

Caridad Charity – Caridad Gardens Housing: MEREDITH SPRIGGS, Chief Kindness Officer, and ANNA CEDRO, Grant Gal, were present and submitted a copy of a PowerPoint presentation for the record. They started their work in the City of Las Vegas in 2013, and they believe in finding solutions to end homelessness and avoiding duplication.

MS. CEDRO said the \$50,400 request will help them assist people find temporary or permanent housing and to avoid becoming homeless. According to Rentcafe.com, monthly rent for an average one-bedroom unit is costing \$1,400, which means people might have to come up with \$3,500 to pay for the first and last month. She referred to the information in the presentation for their experience, an explanation of their organization and budget.

MEMBER HARPER wondered if the program will provide permanent or transitional housing, and MS. SPRIGGS replied that both would be provided, because they help the clients get full-time jobs after the people in the program have obtained their identifying documents. They are placed in dorms, which is subsidized housing. MEMBER HARPER asked if they can stay permanently, and MS. SPRIGGS said they can stay in housing and pay on a graduated scale based on their income.

Caridad Charity – Caridad Gardens Preventing Homelessness: MEREDITH SPRIGGS, Chief Kindness Officer, and ANNA CEDRO, Grant Gal, were present and submitted a copy of a PowerPoint presentation for the record. MS. SPRIGGS said their proposal includes a partnership with the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) to hire students to help navigate resources for clients and try weaning them off the 9-1-1 system. Unfortunately, there is a lack of beds, and emergency services is having difficulty transporting people because they have to wait. She regards this proposal as a concierge approach to health and staying in housing.

LUZ CASTRO commented that CSN started a partnership with the City of Las Vegas under the HEALS (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Leadership in Southern Nevada) to train community health workers through an eight-week program with the goal of placing them to provide support and appropriate services. Partnering with Caridad Charity will allow them to support the community given that not all of the community health workers are able to get a clinical internship.

MS. CEDRO deferred the Members to the supplemental information submitted for more information.

MEMBER MARLON asked how they help house clients with substance abuse disorders, and MS. SPRIGGS replied that they have partnerships with Help of Southern Nevada, U.S.VETS and The Salvation Army for case management and housing, for which a sobriety test is not required.

MEMBER HARPER questioned the structure of the program, as he did not believe it matches the City of Las Vegas' structure, noting that the City has to provide the results of abating homelessness for the federal funding they received. MS. SPRIGGS explained that they use the same system to enter all data, and the City can access all records because they have the confidentiality waiver. MS. CEDRO added that the goal will be met by having community health workers work with clients and prevent them from becoming homeless, which meets the requirements of the RFP (Request for Proposal). Many of the clients have mental health, substance abuse or anger issues.

MEMBER BOX wondered about the type of housing a client could get for the cost of \$1,400 in monthly rent. MS. SPRIGGS replied that they are now operating Hebron, 1150 S. Las Vegas Boulevard, to place people. They also offer a shared community kitchen with Three Square, and they help clients apply to receive food stamps.

El Shaddai Refuge Homes Community Development Corporation – El Shaddai Independent Living Housing: ANGELA BEAL, Vice President, and TIMOTHY LOVELACE, Chief Financial Officer, were present. MS. BEAL said that in November of 2017, they started working with homeless youth and families displaced by domestic violence. They now have seven homes out of which they offer the Clark County Step Up program and Department of Family Services (DFS) to youth ages 18-21. They are requesting funding to help youth who cannot qualify for Step Up because they no longer fit the age requirement, but they are still living in the homes because they have nowhere else to go. They try to find apartment units for these individuals in order to accommodate the 18-year-old youths on their long waiting lists and help them obtain living skills to transition into housing. Many of their referrals are youth turning 18 and are no longer allowed in Safe Haven.

MR. LOVELACE added that they want to be able to help youth who are 17 years old, as well as those turning 21, with finding permanent housing. Many of them have a job but cannot afford to pay for the cost of first and last months' rent or the extras of getting into a new rental.

MEMBER MARLON asked how many clients they expect to be able to serve this grant year, and MS. BEAL and MR. LOVELACE replied that they anticipate helping about 20 clients. The Member also asked if clients with substance abuse issues receive assistance, and MS. BEAL said they have not had any clients identified as having substance abuse issues, because the case managers do not refer them to them since their specialty is housing.

MEMBER HARPER clarified with MR. LOVELACE that the program goal is to assist 22-year-olds with moving into shared housing and to assist 17- to 21-year-olds transition from foster care to self-sufficiency.

MEMBER McGEE discussed with MS. BEAL that as part of their other program, they help the youth making the transition obtain skills and find jobs, and MS. BEAL added that this is a requirement of the program. MEMBER McGEE said that she would have liked some of the clients sent to her when she had her company to train them; therefore, she suggested reaching out to small businesses, some of which are really struggling.

Salvation Army of Nevada – Rapid Rehousing: ANTHONY BARNES, Clark County Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Southern Nevada, said it was a privilege to stand before this body and make a presentation. He recalled the life of a young girl who would have benefitted greatly from the type of programs this Board funds and to whom he is now married. Their requested funding will assist at least 20 families experiencing homelessness, but they also want to ensure that they will have a way to sustain themselves going forward. Unfortunately, many homeless individuals are dealing with chronic health issues, which makes it even more difficult for them to find housing. Their program will provide assistance with rent, move-in deposits and utilities. Understanding the types of challenges their clients face, such as barriers with background checks, they intend to provide intensive case management, to link their clients to resources, to teach them life skills and to help them put their lives together to transition into self-sustainability. Realistically, they hope to provide 9-12 months of assistance within the City limits. One of the biggest challenges is the many clients who need mental health resources, and they hope to raise funding to provide licensed therapy.

Given the number of organizations providing similar services, MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if the Rapid Rehousing program uses a system to prevent duplication of services. MR. BARNES replied that they use the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) to avoid duplication or immediate overlapping in order to use their resources well.

Observing that the amount requested exceeds the amount available, MEMBER HARPER asked if there would be a benefit to receiving a partial award. MR. BARNES said they would appreciate any amount of funding, and they will make adjustments accordingly and help as many people as they can.

CHAIR MILLER announced that CPLC Nevada for Courtyard Workforce Services was rescheduled to February 8, 2022, from 12:15 p.m. to 12:25 p.m.

9. Presentations regarding applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 submitted by: Caridad Charity: Crisis Intervention Program; Caridad Charity: Downtown Las Vegas Alley Ambassador Program; El Shaddai Refuge Homes Community Development Corporation: Homeless Youth & Young Adult Job Training Program; The Just One Project: No Cost Community Market; The Salvation Army: The Career Corner; Boys Town of Nevada: LIFT Together with Boys Town; Bridging the Gap - Adult Sickle Cell Foundation of Nevada: Its TIME (Transitioning into a more Mature Era in Life); Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada: Meals on Wheels; CORE Powered by the Rogers Foundation: CORE Academy; CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada: Courtyard Workforce Services; Family Promise of Las Vegas: Navigating Families Home

Minutes:

Prior to each applicant making their presentation, CHAIR MILLER explained they would be given five minutes to make their presentation, and the Board Members would have five minutes to ask questions. Additionally, immediately following each presentation, the Members who asked questions thanked the applicant for their work in the community and appreciated their valuable programs.

Caridad Charity – Crisis Intervention Program: MEREDITH SPRIGGS, Chief Kindness Officer, and ANNA CEDRO, Grant Gal, were present and submitted a copy of a PowerPoint presentation for the record. MS. SPRIGGS said this request pertains to funding for two employees to support their Crisis Intervention Program. Currently, they partner with community Silver State Molina and Anthem Medicaid, as well as with Cross Road and WestCare for detox. They hope to fill in the gap and concentrate on after-hours and in Downtown Las Vegas, as they do not believe in duplicating services. They are currently as best capable, but would like to expand the services to help the business owners and stakeholders who contact her for assistance.

MS. CEDRO said the funding request is for \$71,600 to help them expand services in and around the area of Las Vegas Boulevard and Charleston Boulevard and Carson Avenue and 6th Street. She said that in many cases it is just a matter of de-escalating situations to prevent having to call 9-1-1. MS. SPRIGGS added that the funding will help pay for basic training for safety and de-escalation tactics they use

MEMBER HADDAD asked if the business owners are calling for assistance, and MS. SPRIGGS said that because of the relationships she has developed under the Veterans Initiative, people have her telephone number and often contact her directly. They even receive calls from the Medical District area for assistance to avoid calling the police. When they respond, they conduct a housing and triage assessment to determine the type of assistance needed, or if they need referral to a detox facility.

Given that the application indicates that a good outcome is a reduction in 9-1-1 calls, MEMBER HARPER asked how the City would measure and report the benefit of the money received to the Federal Government, noting that it would seem more a benefit to the police. MS. SPRIGGS said they work closely with Fire and Rescue and share reporting data, as well as use the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) to track every individual they encounter. Moreover, they are working with a new service provider to help track people who have moved on to ensure they are doing well and are no longer a burden on the community.

MEMBER WASHINGTON questioned the types of benefits their employees receive to do this type of difficult work. MS. SPRIGGS indicated that depending on the skill level, they offer full-time employment with health insurance and free crisis care and therapy, because the work can be emotionally taxing. MS. CEDRO added

that Caridad pays the health insurance benefit fully. The salary is set to \$58,000 with fringe benefits, and they will pay for 50 percent from this grant and the remainder from another grant.

Caridad Charity – Downtown Las Vegas Alley Ambassador Program: MEREDITH SPRIGGS, Chief Kindness Officer, and ANNA CEDRO, Grant Gal, were present and submitted a copy of a PowerPoint presentation for the record. MS. SPRIGGS said they started the Alley Ambassador Program last year in conjunction with the alley businesses. These businesses pay into the program to help hire homeless individuals to keep the alleys clean and to take the trash to a centralized dumpster area. They would like to expand the program, and they currently hire any homeless individual who wants to work, even if it is on a per diem basis for those individuals who have no identifying documents. However, they do try to help those that want assistance beyond this program, including getting identification, finding full-time work and housing, although she conceded that some people will never be placed in full-time work. They try to get them work experience in their hydroponics farm to obtain a food handlers card for referral to partnering restaurants. If not, they continue to help these individuals.

MEMBER HADDAD discussed with MS. SPRIGGS that they receive referrals from business owners, community stakeholders and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

El Shaddai Refuge Homes Community Development Corporation – Homeless Youth & Young Adult Job Training Program: ANGELA BEAL, Vice President, and TIMOTHY LOVELACE, Chief Financial Officer, were present. MS. BEAL said that they noticed how difficult it has been for youth coming out of the program to find employment because they lacked needed documentation. Therefore, they started looking at ways to help them and decided to open the retail store, Gems 4 U Discount Clothing Store, to help the youth obtain skills to build their resume. The youth also learn e-commerce skills. One of their youths was featured in the Las Vegas Review-Journal as a foster care success story.

MR. LOVELACE explained that the request for \$75,000 will help fund a small stipend, training, uniforms and transportation to get to work. The individuals in the program sometimes feel intimidated when it comes to applying for jobs, so they want to help the youth prepare and learn organizational skills for their future.

MEMBER McKEE questioned the age-limit cut-off for this program, and MS. BEAL replied that they assist youth ages 18-24 and sometimes individuals as young as 17. They also assist moms with children of any age. They have two programs, but this program is for youth to young adult.

MEMBER WASHINGTON asked if they have MOU's (memoranda of understanding) in place or if they are working with specific industries. MS. BEAL said they are looking for partnerships and they attend job fairs, but they really train the youth at the store and help with areas the youth feel comfortable training in. They also partner with Goodwill and One Connect.

The Just One project – No Cost Community Market: BROOK NEUBAUER, Founder and CEO; CASEY FLAIR, Chief Operating Officer; and MARISA CERVANTES, Grant Acquisition Director, were present. MS. NEUBAUER said this is for a senior specific grant. In 2018, they opened their first pantry doors to address hunger among seniors. Additionally, they wanted to figure out how to combat senior isolation and assist with getting groceries, and they have been able to get five delivery drivers. With their amazing program, Volunteering is Golden, they are able to engage seniors.

MS. FLAIR indicated that in 2021, they served over 280,000 clients, with over 100,000 of them being seniors. Their goal is to remove barriers, especially to food insecurity. They have added multiple programs to their list to be able to get groceries to seniors, who can choose their own food through their market.

MS. CERVANTES stated that their request is for their No Cost Community Market to help serve 200 seniors within the City of Las Vegas. The market is unique, child friendly and is set up like a small grocery store. They offer a variety of food and try to be mindful of the demographic populations they serve. Additionally, they provide case management so that clients receive wrap-around services and connection to available resources, even if those are outside of their program. They also connect their clients with daycare services for those who have grandchildren and need a respite from taking care of them.

MS. NEUBAUER shared the story of one of her volunteers who thanked them for being selected as volunteer of the month and for valuing her, which MS. NEUBAUER regarded as a testament to how they operate.

MEMBER HADDAD asked if providing transportation is one of the ways of maintaining the dignity of some of the seniors. MS. NEUBAUER explained that when a client contacts them, they can decide how they can best serve their transportation needs, through a bus donated by the Regional Transportation Commission or a Lyft pass.

Regarding projected expenditures, MEMBER WHITTINGHAM questioned the three areas categorized under other (non-specific), which totaled approximately \$284,000. MS. CERVANTES said that the application venue did not allow them to make a change to reflect what that figure covers. The highest expenditure is for vehicle costs for their Food For All program. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM insisted that there were three categories, one for \$173,000, for \$57,000 and for \$5,000, and he wanted them itemized. MS. CERVANTES indicated that the \$173,000 amount is for auto expenses, and the other two are for program expenses that did not fit any other category, such as for large refrigeration units, walk-in refrigerators and other needed equipment.

The Salvation Army – The Career Corner: ANTHONY BARNES, Clark County Coordinator for the Salvation Army in Southern Nevada, said their vocational program is very successful. The requested funding will support increased utilization of their Vocational Services Program at their larger shelter campus, located on Owens Avenue, for individuals who meet the standards set by HUD (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development). It helps everyone, regardless of race, creed, religion or sexual orientation, to transition to self-sufficiency. Their client assessment provides the opportunity for their career specialist to identify vocational needs and aptitude to help them gain full employment. Through intensive case management, they help transform lives by providing job training, resume building and interview etiquette guidance for employment success, as well as provide assistance with other needs to restore health, confidence and hope. Case management includes helping clients find a job. Once a client gets employment, they can work together on getting into long-term housing and eventually transition to independent living.

MR. BARNES commented that they have about 69 apartment units to utilize for transitional housing to provide a realistic experience of independent living and to gain skills for self-sufficiency. Clients can remain in this program for up to one year while contributing 30 percent of their income for saving and budgeting, in preparation for transitioning to permanent housing. Each client is case managed to ensure they are following the plan. If all works well, participants achieve self-sufficiency, stable and reliable employment, housing and basic needs, thus becoming productive members of society. MR. BARNES noted that their graduating clients are able to save enough money to purchase a vehicle, to put down required deposits for housing and utilities, and some have applied for a down payment to purchase a home.

MR. BARNES emphasized that he is very proud of the training and case management opportunities they provide to help participants succeed in life, as well as of the relationships and partnerships they have with organizations and companies to help their clients obtain job training. He thanked the Board for current funding, which has helped them change lives over the last two years. He acknowledged a deficiency, and explained that it was due to the removal of three clients from the grant-funded portion of the program because they were outside of the City of Las Vegas limits. Regardless, they found a way to cover those three individuals, and they are on track toward success. MR. BARNES felt confident that with the requested \$200,000 grant, they will be able to serve 100 clients, and the \$2,000 investment in each participant will result in clients exiting the program and earning an annual income of \$40,000, which is a significant impact.

MEMBER HARPER was concerned about not meeting the program's accounting and reporting requirements of the City. He hoped that the Salvation Army can do better and get reports turned in promptly. Moreover, he asked if a partial award would benefit The Career Corner program and if they would continue to seek the same goals of helping as many people. MR. BARNES replied that they will work with the funding received, and they would seek to find ways to meet the program goals, although there are certain expenses outside of housing they might have difficulty with. Regarding the requirements, MR. BARNES promised to do a better job.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked MR. BARNES if they conduct client satisfaction surveys, and how they address any concerns brought up. MR. BARNES said the largest client concern is that the initial employment obtained turns out to be different from what was envisioned upon entering the program. Occasionally, clients want a job in a certain field without having the necessary qualifications. Consequently, they try to help clients understand the experience of having consistent employment and that they need to work toward a higher level of

employment. For example, a person cannot go into a senior management position with the experience of an entry-level position. Clients sometimes do not have realistic expectations and sometimes do not understand they cannot get into permanent housing immediately; they have to transition into it, as they offer a tiered housing program.

Boys Town of Nevada – LIFT Together with Boys Town: JOHN ETZELL, Executive Director, SHELBY HENDERSON, Director of Education Services, and JESSICA SASSO were present. MR. ETZELL submitted a flyer, a copy of which was attached for the record, and said they were excited to be applying for funding and partnering with the City in an effort to continue to strengthen and diversify revenue streams for their program, which is a multi-component program provided within the CCSD (Clark County School District). It includes wrap-around services, educational training and immediate behavioral assistance at several schools they operate in. This year their program has expanded by 24 schools.

MS. HENDERSON said that the LIFT model focuses on the wrap-around support schools have been asking for, and it offers a menu of services that the schools can choose from to fit their culture and community. Services are embedded in schools to help school support specialists focus on behaviors. Tiers 2 and 3 students need the most support, but there is not a lot that exists and works on keeping them in the school system. They try to help by reaching into the home and working directly with teachers and parents to help the student on all levels, which really causes a behavioral change to help students be successful in school and the community.

MS. SASSO said they are seeking to collaborate with Western High School and provide community based services to work in the homes with the parent, while providing an assistant on campus to support the needs of students.

In looking at expenditures for direct client services, MEMBER WHITTINGHAM observed the application reflected zero allocations, and he questioned this. JASON MISHIMA, Finance Officer, explained that the request is for \$91,723 to cover one school support specialist, .03 of a care coordinator consultant and .03 of an in-home service consultant, and it includes costs for estimated benefits, salaries and taxes. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM persisted that the operational budget indicates a zero allocation for direct client services. MR. ETZELL was perplexed about this, because they have seen an increase in client services since 2019. He indicated he would have to look into it further, and MEMBER WHITTINGHAM said a copy of an updated budget would be helpful to the Board.

MEMBER HARPER questioned the unspent awards for the period of 2018-2020, and MR. ETZELL explained that the award was for their care coordination services. Determining eligibility is challenging, as they were working with the homeless population, which tends to be transient, making it difficult to make contact. In some cases, they were able to make contact with 40 families, but unfortunately, they were only able to get about four families set up in the program during a 16-week period. Consequently, they made an adjustment and focused on the LIFT program with the schools.

As the application mentioned improvements in behavioral incidents, suspensions and attendance, MEMBER BOX asked if this was for students in the program or school wide. MR. ETZELL responded that they were improvements made school wide due to training they provided in the school, noting that they typically see the best results with students when they have administration involvement. MEMBER BOX said that families are a big part of the success. Regarding policing in the schools being negative, MEMBER BOX wondered if there is any level of coordination with the school police. MR. ETZELL said it is a coordinated effort and often situations can be de-escalated without the involvement of the school police, and they have been able to accomplish this with having the school support specialist being the first responder to work directly with the student to re-teach, train and have the student make an apology. Certainly, they have to work with school police, juvenile services and CCSD officials. MS. HENDERSON added that they decided to partner with Western High School because the school committed to have staff undergo training and follow up quarterly to ensure teachers are continuing to use their model, and this training will extend to hall monitors, school police and office staff in the fall of 2022.

Bridging the Gap – Adult Sickle Cell Foundation of Nevada – It's TIME (Transitioning into a more Mature Era in Life): PAMELA WHITE, Founder and CEO, said she has been involved with sickle cell disease for 40 years, as she is the mother of two children suffering from the disease. She first experienced difficulty with her daughter because there was no information available, and she could not get assistance locally. Twenty years later, she was able to get assistance for her son from the Pediatric Cancer Clinic, which is now Cure for the

Kids, and the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation. Through these entities, she was able to go to the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America in Baltimore, Maryland, to see how victims of this disease were being helped, and to obtain education and answers about the disease. She was able to bring back all that knowledge to Las Vegas, and she realized there were not a lot of resources for adults with the disease. She then decided to raise awareness of the disease. Because people with this disease are living longer, more victims need assistance, especially afflicted people between ages 18-23, many of whom are dying. This is probably due to their inability to transition into an adult care setting, which is where Bridging the Gap is helping.

Since their official start in 2019, they have instituted a monthly virtual support group that provides subject matter from experts all over the United States. They hold several community awareness and educational events through the year, and their transition program was established to focus on education about the disease, career choices, self-advocacy, holistic medicine, employment, financial literacy, social relationships and mental and emotional stability for people in this age group with the disease. Their goal is to make the It's TIME program as successful as the John Hopkins SCULPT and Got Transition programs, which they have studied. Funding by the City will help them continue their efforts to serve an underserved population. The organizations they have partnered with have helped immensely in providing a better understanding and insight for those suffering with the disease.

MEMBER HADDAD asked how individuals will be connected to their services, and MS. WHITE replied that they receive referrals from Sunrise Hospital, Summerlin Hospital and Health Plan of Nevada, as well as from DR. NIK NIK ABDUL-RASHID, Hemostasis and Thrombosis Center of Nevada, and word of mouth.

MEMBER WASHINGTON observed the services locations on the application and wondered if they would have issues providing services for people within the City of Las Vegas limits, and MS. WHITE replied affirmatively and added that they have the use of a church and will rent space within the City limits if necessary to provide services to anyone within the City.

MEMBER SAYLES appreciated this service because she has family members with the disease who had to go out of town for help because they could not get treatment locally and were regarded as drug addicts.

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada – Meals On Wheels: NICOLE ANDERSON, Director of Social Services, and KRISTEN SULLIVAN, Lead Grant Writer, were present. MS. ANDERSON humbly requested funding of \$150,000. She said Catholic Charities has been around for 80 years and is the largest Meals On Wheels provider in Southern Nevada and has the largest food and shelter operation in the region. With the senior population projected to make up to 93 million of the entire population within the next decade, 22 percent of Nevada's population are seniors and 17 percent are food insecure.

Their Meals On Wheels program provides seven nutritionally balanced meals to 2,400 seniors weekly that are planned by a registered dietician, given that many of their clients are challenged in preparing meals due to their illnesses. The program is designed to provide reliable food access, and their delivery staff makes sure they are doing okay. Due to the pandemic, it has been difficult to visit with the seniors and many of them are lonely, so they look forward to seeing a familiar face, as about 41 percent of seniors live alone. She cited the case of EMMA and JOSEPH, who are in their 80's and are very grateful to receive meals because EMMA is the caregiver and does not want to leave JOSEPH alone.

MS. SULLIVAN said the funds will support 50 qualifying clients. Last year, they served 503 individuals within the City of Las Vegas limits, 35 percent of which identified as persons of color.

MEMBER PRADO questioned the missing eligibility documents, and MS. ANDERSON replied that they addressed the problem by hiring more staff. MS. SULLIVAN added that they also lowered the projected number of clients.

MEMBER HARPER understood the difficulty in making wellness checks and identifying any issues within the household due to the pandemic, so he wondered if that was still taking place. MS. ANDERSON said they still perform wellness checks, but it is more of a visual wellness check. If something comes up, they try to dispatch the same driver for observation. If they notice something, they report it. However, they cannot do the checks to the same level.

CORE Powered by the Rogers Foundation – CORE Academy: LINDSEY HARPER, Executive Director and Founder, and RENISHA O'DONNELL were present. MS. HARPER explained that CORE Power is small but they hope to grow, and it is a non-profit foundation. Their long-term program works with children and their families on campuses that need them the most, starting with either 6th or 9th grades. They look at all the needs of the family and cater to those needs through partnerships in the community. The program is evidence-based, meaning that they have seen its effectiveness in other cities.

MS. HARPER provided some history on how she founded the program in 2006. When she was working locally for the I Have A Dream Foundation, which focuses on tutoring and mentoring, she realized that it was not enough, and that they needed to focus on more than the students by involving the parents and families in order to help students improve. After that, they established the program in schools, and then they based their program at West Preparatory Academy. Fortunately, thanks to BARBARA MOLASKY, the Rogers Foundation toured the Academy, discovered the program and offered to enter into a management agreement partnership to cover all the money needed for fundraising and operations so that every dollar donated could be applied directly to helping kids and families. This is a unique model.

Since then, they have been working at West Preparatory Academy, and they meet with the kids and their families to identify their needs in order to be successful, and the programming is created around those needs.

MS. O'DONNELL added that the program tailors support to the families and students, and they are required to complete 50 hours of community service in order to learn about giving back. They have a 100 percent graduation rate, and the graduates reported they feel secure and ready to enter the world outside of high school. The program focuses on career readiness rather than on college; therefore, they do a lot of exploration and try to help the students become self-aware and figure out their direction in life. Additionally, they help families connect to community resources to help them with their goals. She mentioned some of their partners.

As a product of CCSD, MS. HARPER said she saw what students were going through, so she was able to use that and look at creating a program to help students thrive.

MEMBER HARPER questioned the funding request, which is for bringing additional capacity. Therefore, he wondered if a partial award would still help, and MS. HARPER said they would seek additional funding to help meet their goals if necessary.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked for the number of paid employees, and MS. O'DONNELL replied that between part-time and full-time employees working directly with families, they have about 10, and they have a very strong social work team to ensure they can support the families. They also have part-time support for academics and mentorship. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM observed that according to the budget items, almost 100 percent goes toward salary and benefits, so he wondered why there was no budgeted amount for client services. MS. HARPER explained that they rely on partnerships for direct service costs, which is the reason for the cost being so low. A majority of direct service costs are covered through in-kind donations. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM was confused and verified with MS. HARPER that the cost of client services is borne by other agencies.

MEMBER BOX asked if they have received any feedback from alumni, and MS. HARPER said that they have an alumni network to follow the students after graduation to ensure their program has been helpful. They have received feedback that CORE has become like a family to them. MS. O'DONNELL said several alumni who have graduated from college or a vocational program give back to the community and feel supported.

Family Promise of Las Vegas – Navigating Families Home: TERRY LINDEMANN, Executive Director, thanked the City of Las Vegas for its support over the years. She explained that for 24 years, they provided congregate shelter through collaboration with churches, mosques and synagogues, despite not being a religious organization. This all changed in 2020 due to the pandemic, so they revised the program to provide sheltering through Siegel Suites and others. They developed the new program, Just Neighbors Support Network, through which they increased capacity of families to serve by 400 percent. Their goal is to take families with children and conduct a coordinated assessment to place them in the housing queue. Through this assessment, they can identify the challenges and how to help families return to self-sufficiency and into an apartment. Records show that 88 percent of the families they have helped in the last two years obtained independent housing. Approximately 62 percent of the families they serve are from the City ZIP codes of 89101, 89102 or 89106.

Funding received from the City will be used for staff salaries. They have been successful with receiving in-kind donations and support from private funders for the program. A recent audit showed that 90 percent of all revenue received for the last fiscal year was used for program services. In order to build capacity and to move forward with a new navigation center within approximately two years, they need to strategize adding new staff. MS. LINDEMANN said they work closely with the City and its Courtyard, as well as with other similar organizations.

MEMBER HARPER verified with MS. LINDEMANN that their goal is to serve 60 families in one year, not two years. MS. LINDEMANN added that they were on track to meet that goal in half a year. MEMBER HARPER asked if changes were made to make it easier for the City to obtain reports on time, and MS. LINDEMANN said that they lost their administrative person in June, but they have been submitting the paperwork on time. MELANIE RILEY, Grant Program Coordinator, added that there was an issue in 2021 with the reports being off, but they were returned and resubmitted, which was noted on the risk assessment. MS. LINDEMANN explained that it happened because there were two people working on the reports, so she asked MS. RILEY to open the system to make corrections.

10. **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, come forward and 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.

11. **Adjournment**

Minutes:
The meeting was recessed from 1:04 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., from 1:42 p.m. to 1:48 p.m., from 1:57 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. and was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk

Colleen Duewiger, Grant Program Coordinator

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:
The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov
The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor