



## Community Development Recommending Board Minutes

### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

CHAIR MILLER called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: CHAIR MILLER and MEMBERS WASHINGTON (excused until 9:27 a.m.), McKNIGHT, SAYLES (via teleconference), MARLON, HADDAD, HARPER, McKEE, BOX, PRADO, KLEIN, 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; CRISLOVE IGELEKE, Deputy City Attorney; and CHEYENNE LARANCE, 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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov); and The Nevada Public Notice Website – [notice.nv.gov](http://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. 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), the 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. The approximate amount of funding for HOPWA is \$2 million, the approximate amount of ESG funding is \$177,000, and the approximate amount of CDBG funding is \$806,000. Interested agencies were asked to attend one of the 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. Over the course of two days, the CDRB will hear presentations from applicants who met grant eligibility requirements. Ten minutes were allocated for each

program, which broke down into five minutes for the presentation and five minutes to answer questions from the Board. She said this meeting will consist of presentations for the CDBG grant program. At the conclusion of today's presentations, Board members will reconvene on February 28, 2022 for deliberations and award recommendations for each agency.

MS. DUEWIGER then asked all Board members to disclose any potential conflicts of interest with the presenting agencies. MEMBER MARLON disclosed he was a Board member for HELP of Southern Nevada for 15 years, and a founder and Board member for Vegas Stronger. He said he is no longer with either organization.

5. Presentations regarding applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 submitted by: Foster Kinship: Enhanced Kinship Navigator Program; Get Active Foundation: Growth & New Development (GANG); Get Active Foundation: Veterans Assistance Network (VAN); Goodwill Industries of Southern Nevada: Workforce Development Services; HELP of Southern Nevada: Shannon West Homeless Youth Center; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.: Bus & Volunteer Transportation; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.: Congregate Meal; Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring: Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring; Jewish Family Service Agency: Senior Lifeline Case Management; Nevada Health Centers: Las Vegas Outreach Clinic - Housing Assessment; Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth: Safe Place: Youth Outreach & Intervention Program; The Culinary Academy of Las Vegas: This Way Ahead - Culinary Academy Youth Hospitality Training; St Jude's Ranch for Children: Community Foster Home Recruitment & Training; There is no Hero in Heroin Foundation: Alternative Peer Group Expansion; Vegas Stronger: Intensive Case Management; Vegas Stronger: Intensive Outpatient Program; YMCA (The Young Men's Christian Association) of Southern Nevada: Durango Hills Early Childhood Education

Minutes:

**Foster Kinship: Enhanced Kinship Navigator Program** – ALI CALIENDO, Executive Director, said this grant has funded over 200 relatives throughout the last five years. Foster Kinship is the only organization in Nevada that provides support to relatives who are raising children when their parents are not able to do so. They make sure when children cannot be with their parents, they can stay with family instead of entering the traditional foster care system. Unfortunately, most family members do not have what they need to care for the child when they are called upon for support. Foster Kinship's Navigator Program is now evidenced-based, and they make sure the family member gets connected to resources and provide ongoing support. Over the past 10 years, MS. CALIENDO said she has been listening to the 7,000 families they have served, and they have asked for a break. As a result, Foster Kinship has made adjustments to their core model and incorporated respite care and a Kinship Resource Center. They have also started providing in-home services and housing support to help stabilize these families. She noted that Foster Kinship has seen twice as many children come in due to death, and many are related to COVID-19. There have also been increases in domestic violence, substance abuse and murder-homicides. In closing, she expressed that it is urgent that Foster Kinship continue providing support to these children to keep them safe and out of the foster care system.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noted a potential discrepancy in Foster Kinship's budget, and MS. CALIENDO said the funds for the enhanced program may look different in a budget layout because they will be wrapped up with the personnel. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM made reference to the program supplies line item of \$35,000, and MS. CALIENDO said \$20,000 is for housing support, and the remaining \$15,000 is for supplies that are brought to the client's home such as diapers, cribs, car seats, fire extinguishers, etc.

**Get Active Foundation: Growth and New Development (GANG)** – DIZZELL TURMON said their mission is to support families and enhance the quality of life through empowering households with education, entrepreneurship and life skills. Specifically, they plan on teaching about financial literacy, career readiness, health and wellness, home economics, college preparation, and technology courses. The funds would be used to support these programs and the essential items that would be necessary to conduct the programs such as cooking and cleaning supplies, hygiene products, etc. She said they want to address the entire household and give them the resources needed to make well-educated decisions. They have recently secured a physical location that needs to be maintained, and MS. TURMON said she would like to compensate the volunteers.

**Get Active Foundation: Veterans Assistance Network (VAN)** – MS. TURMON spoke of the intake form that each person fills out, but noted that veterans require a bit more assistance because so many of them do not have basic life skills, reading literacy, access to transportation, etc. She said veterans are the fathers of the

community, and the money will go to their building, programming and volunteers. In closing, she said they are trying to unite a community by empowering entire households and not just individuals.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked for a more in-depth explanation for the conference and computer budget line items. MS. TURMON said they need computers or laptops in order to teach online skills. She is seeking instructors to teach classes along with materials to be sent home. She reiterated that this foundation has been around for 10 years, but it has not gained a lot of traction. They have since established a Board and created organizational charts, and they will continue to grow.

MEMBER MARLON asked what services are delivered besides the initial assessment. MS. TURMON said the assessment determines which resources they will provide such as job employment outsourcing, housing, assistance with reading literacy, obtaining a driver's license, etc.

MEMBER BURRIS referenced their risk assessment that had incomplete information. He said their goals are good, but the messaging lacks the clarity needed for the Board to make an informed decision. He asked if any applications were pre-reviewed before final submission, and whether or not staff provides any feedback that can be used for future grant cycles. MELANIE RILEY, Grant Program Coordinator, said there is no review before submittal, and it is up to the agency to accurately and fully complete the entire application. She has been working with a few agencies and giving them time to submit the missing materials to her before deliberations. Otherwise, specific feedback is not provided with the notification of non-funding, but the agency is welcome to contact staff and ask any questions. MEMBER BURRIS recommended that MS. TURMON work with City staff and provide more clarity on her applications in the future, to which she said they have been trying to clean up some of the discrepancies.

**Goodwill Industries of Southern Nevada: Workforce Development Services** – BONITA FAHY, Director of Career Services, and DONTAE WILSON, Career Center Manager, explained they are asking for \$100,000 to support services for victims of domestic violence. Their current funding does not cover the training, and they would like to upscale some of the women they have been working with. MS. FAHY provided a success story of a woman named KATIE, who enrolled in their CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) program. She was a third-generational resident of the Southern Nevada Housing Authority, and she was surviving off of her son's disability funds. After completing the CNA program, she received an offer letter from the Centennial Hills Hospital, and expressed her excitement for becoming a role model for her children. Goodwill of Southern Nevada is creating generational change, and they want to repeat this success story. MR. WILSON said according to the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence, 2020 saw 21,000 first-time victims, and there were 14,000 in Clark County alone. He said 71 percent of those were experiencing physical abuse, and 95 percent were experiencing emotional and verbal abuse. He explained the domestic violence hotline gives an individual resources to shelters, support groups, residential and non-residential services, and legal representation, and Goodwill would like to be one of their resources for employment and training opportunities. MS. FAHY said KATIE'S training cost \$5,000, and 50 percent of the funding they received last year went towards salaries. Because staff is only there part time, they were not able to meet with many of the women, and their schedules were not conducive. This funding will allow them to hire a full-time Mobile Career Coach that will visit the local shelters, meet with women and get them enrolled as soon as possible. She added that Shade Tree and SafeNest have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted their enrollment numbers, but they are actively recruiting and there have been 10 enrollments this week.

MEMBER HARPER said Goodwill's programming is fantastic, but he wondered if the City's protocols for reporting could be cleaned up. MS. FAHY said they are working on it, but they have been challenged by the pandemic and the City's scheduling is not conducive to their enrollment and expenditure schedule. MEMBER HARPER said the City is in a difficult situation because this is dictated by the federal government, but he recommended that Goodwill increase their communication with the City.

MEMBER WITTINGHAM noticed a significant gap between the projected funding and projected expenditures in their budget, and MS. FAHY explained that Goodwill is a social enterprise, and they have matching funds to cover the gap. They have received various grants from other sources, and she noted that their stores committed \$1.3 million to mission services.

MEMBER HADDAD asked if there was any ongoing support for those that finish the program, and MS. FAHY said they follow participants for a year. KATIE, for example, received childcare assistance, and

they purchased her uniform, shoes and other supplies that were needed. The new Chief Mission Services Officer has changed their philosophy to Goodwill for Life, and now any program participant may come back and receive even more training.

**HELP of Southern Nevada: Shannon West Homeless Youth Center** – FUJALA RILEY, President and Chief Executive Officer, SHELLY TORRES, Chief Financial Officer, and BRIDGET CLARIDY, Grants and Compliance Manager, appeared representing HELP of Southern Nevada, and said the City has a long history of supporting their programming. The Shannon West Homeless Youth Center is a 150-bed facility for 16- to 24-year-olds that find themselves homeless or at risk of being homeless. Youth can stay there up until the night before their 25th birthday as long as they make progress on their individualized service plan. Their request for \$120,000 would be used to serve 112 youth, and she explained that their daily operating expenses have increased. They have also encountered the need to increase salaries in order to retain staff, and the pandemic caused them to pay a lot of overtime. MS. RILEY said they still provide all of the same services, although some operations had to change.

MEMBER HARPER was impressed with their contribution to the community. He said some of their reports needed to be corrected after they were sent in to the City, and he confirmed through MS. RILEY they would be working to improve that. He understood that the request was mostly about salary, and he wondered if a partial award would still be beneficial to the organization and/or if it would affect the number of youth they would be able to serve. MS. RILEY said their previous allocation did not cover the 112 that were served last year, and their current request is what will be necessary.

MEMBER WASHINGTON wondered why the salaries and benefits budget line item was lower than last year's, and MS. TORRES explained they were conservative with the 2022-2023 budget due to a lot of one-time funding and a \$5 million donation that was received. MEMBER WASHINGTON said it is important to be conservative at times, but they should always ask for what they need in order to do their jobs successfully.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if they had any specific data related to runaways in Las Vegas. MS. RILEY said they do, but she did not have it readily available. MS. CLARIDY said during the last homeless count, there were 489 unsheltered youth, but she pointed out that those capturing the data do not ask the youth if they were runaways. This year's count was postponed due to the pandemic, but it should be taking place at the end of February.

**Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.: Bus and Volunteer Transportation** – MARCIA BLAKE, Executive Director, said they have been providing services to local senior citizens for 21 years. This program has 127 CDBG eligible recipients, with 41 on a waiting list, and it will allow for transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and other personal errands. Many seniors are healthy but cannot drive, and this program helps those seniors to continue living at home independently. She added that many other seniors used to live in more urban areas and never learned to drive because they utilized public transportation before moving to Las Vegas. Overall, they have served 625 seniors with six ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant vehicles that are driven by professional drivers. This is also a shared ride system, which gives the seniors an opportunity to socialize with each other.

MEMBER HARPER pointed out that not all of the funds were spent during the last grant cycle. MS. BLAKE explained the organization had an issue with reassessment dates, and it was discovered that case managers were not following the correct income qualification procedures. A new program director has been hired since they last received funding, and the reporting issues have been fixed. She added that two agencies were merging last year, and funds were not used out of an abundance of caution.

**Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.: Congregate Meal** – MARCIA BLAKE, Executive Director, explained this Congregate Meal program would be located on the west side of Las Vegas. Currently, seniors that want to participate in this program have to travel to North Las Vegas or Henderson, and they want to make sure seniors elsewhere have the opportunity to enjoy a free meal and socialize. During the pandemic, they found that many seniors were suffering in silence and did not want to ask for help. Groceries were offered to those individuals, but staff members realized that many were experiencing difficulties preparing their own food. Meals on Wheels did not have the capacity to deal with all of the extra seniors in need, so Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc. started a home-delivered meals program. The plan is to take those clients and invite them to participate in a congregate meal, which will allow them to socialize with others. They will be working with Elior, a

company based in California who has run many congregate meal programs, and they will be purchasing the building and providing the food. Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc. will run the program and assist with the meals that need to be delivered to seniors without transportation. MS. BLAKE estimated that 50 percent of the clients will be CDBG eligible, but she will not be certain until the program is up and running.

**Jewish Family Service Agency (JFSA): Senior Lifeline Case Management** – LISA POPOVSKY, Director of Senior Services, said they are requesting \$140,000 to support Senior Lifeline Services. These services have been operating for over 15 years, and it is a comprehensive network of senior services designed to keep seniors independent and living in their own homes. All services are leveraged through a Case Manager that helps the senior get enrolled in their programs which include: homemaking, transportation, medical and prescription assistance, senior companionship and food delivery. Case Managers also work collectively in the community to connect seniors with resources outside of JFSA. In the past three months, they have taken over the State homemaking program, which brought an additional 150 clients. Historically, they have spent all of their funds and always exceeded the number of clients served. There are about 185 clients on the waiting list, and she estimated that about 35 percent of those clients are CDBG eligible. Audits have always been exemplary, and she requested that the City continue funding their program.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM pointed out that the audit for 2019-2020 showed significant differences, and he asked for more information and what was done to address it, and MS. POPOVSKI did not think there were any significant deficiencies in their audit. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noted that JFSA'S application referenced senior suicide, and he wondered how their program impacts those numbers. MS. POPOVSKI believed that many services provided to seniors do not include intensive case management like theirs. Each senior is assigned their own Case Manager, who stays in contact with them and visits the home every six months, and a bond is created during that time. During the pandemic, they saw many seniors were isolated and Case Managers spent a lot of time simply talking to the seniors. She added that the Case Managers take suicide prevention training on an annual basis, and they know how to identify resources within the community. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if she could identify any statistical data that proves their program reduces senior suicides, and MS. POPOVSKI said they do not have any data.

MEMBER McKEE was not aware that so many seniors were committing suicide, and she thanked MS. POPOVSKI for bringing it to their attention.

**Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring: Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring** – CAMELLIA WILLIAMS, Program Coordinator, and JOHN WILLIAMS, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, explained Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring is a group mentoring program for youth that is comprised of a 12-week, evidenced-based curriculum to get them back on track. MR. WILLIAMS said he has been mentoring for 45 years, six of those being in Las Vegas. MS. WILLIAMS added that they recently started a girls' program that will be held in-person, and the boys' program will be held virtually until their building has been renovated. They said most of their youth come from diversion courts and The Harbor, and the program averages 30 boys and 10 to 15 girls per month.

MEMBER HARPER admired the work of MR. WILLIAMS, and knew he was making a real change. Although funding this would benefit the community, he said the challenge is how the program is structured. A federal audit would bring questions that the City would need to answer, and he suggested that MR. WILLIAMS remodel his approach. MR. WILLIAMS said his curriculum was suggested to him because it is duplicable, so he can train other mentors and ensure there are consistent results based on their activities. He also tracks everyone's results to make sure they are impactful. The pandemic has caused his numbers to fluctuate, but this curriculum has worked well for him so far.

MEMBER McKEE asked how long the youth stay in the program, and MR. WILLIAMS said they have an option after graduation to become peer mentors, which stay indefinitely. Otherwise, he hopes they stay for at least one year. He added that their new space allows them to tutor and engage in other activities.

MEMBER WASHINGTON requested clarification as to why some programs were online, and MR. WILLIAMS explained their new building is currently being renovated. He estimated it would be completed in two months, and the boys' program will be in-person at that time.

**Nevada Health Centers: Las Vegas Outreach Clinic – Housing Assessment** – SAMANTHA FORD, Vice President of Regional Operations, explained that Nevada Health Centers is the largest FQHC (Federally

Qualified Health Center) in Nevada. They provide an array of services from primary medical, pediatric, dental and behavioral health services. Their Health Care for the Homeless program is located at the Salvation Army and has been operating since 2001. The program currently has six staff members, and they also provide transportation services, internal and external referrals, chronic case management and needs assessments in addition to the medical services. She said they are requesting \$100,000 to offset the cost for salaries and patient services so they can enhance their Housing Assessment program. An outreach case worker joined their team in August, and they have experience with documenting in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and providing services to patients relative to housing. This is beneficial to their patients because health outcomes improve with the patient's ability to be stable. Their case worker, in collaboration with other homeless services providers, successfully housed 25 patients. They noticed an increased accountability for their healthcare, and they would like to implement this strategy at the clinic level. Last year, this program alone brought 2,798 patients, and 767 of those were unique. MS. FORD said they are slated to move in to their new building in the second or third quarter of next year, and they are gearing up for expansion.

MEMBER HARPER asked if the funding request was to increase the amount of staff or to offset existing salaries, and MS. FORD said it was to offset.

MEMBER HADDAD asked MS. FORD to expand on the organization's capacity to administer the grant and ensure the program's success. MS. FORD said Nevada Health Centers manages several grants with a dedicated team, and they are heavily involved in UDS (Uniform Data System) reporting as well. She was very confident they could administer the grant, given that many of their programs are fully grant funded. They all have a strong desire to get more involved in the community, and they want to make sure the housing assessment piece is in place for better outcomes.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked MS. FORD to expand on any concerns noted on their client satisfaction surveys. MS. FORD said one of the trending concerns was coordination of care. To improve, they implemented a Support Services Department, who now manages the coordination of care for the entire organization. This includes referrals, case management, medical records, and more. They also implemented needs assessments at their locations.

**Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth (NPHY): Safe Place: Youth Outreach and Intervention Program**

– MELISSA JACOBOWITZ said NPHY has existed for over 20 years, and they are the most comprehensive service provider dedicated to unaccompanied young people experiencing homelessness in the community. They have a wide range of programs and services that include: outreach, emergency shelters, rapid rehousing, family reunification and more. Their Safe Place program is a 24/7 safety net and access point for individuals experiencing homelessness or other issues. It is the only crisis intervention program in Southern Nevada that is uniquely designed to serve children and teenagers in crisis. There are 160 Safe Place locations through their partnerships with Terrible Herbst, local libraries, LVFR (Las Vegas Fire and Rescue), RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) and various municipalities. These partners are trained to take those youth in and call NPHY who will assess that person and provide them with free transportation to wherever they need to go. This may be an emergency shelter, partner agency or a drop-in facility based on availability. She added that RTC busses will provide free transportation to any Safe Place center to those who need it. This program serves three of the city's population focuses: youth, homeless and special needs. So far this year, NPHY has served 27 city of Las Vegas residents and they are ahead of schedule for meeting their goal. Of those who were assessed, 100 percent said the Safe Place program increased their sense of safety and resolved their presenting problem. This is especially urgent right now as affordable housing is hard to find, and there is an increase in domestic violence and mental health illnesses due to the pandemic. It also gives the City a return on their investment, as it prevents higher level emergencies from occurring and youth does not have to make difficult decisions on the street.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM inquired about the number of juveniles that fall into the category of their services. MS. JACOBOWITZ said it can be difficult to track homeless youth, but this year they have served 132 clients. Of those, 27 have been city of Las Vegas clients. She said due to the transient nature of homelessness, it is imperative for youth to have this safety net available beyond the city. She added that they have never had any negative audit findings in previous grants from the City. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM then asked if there was any specific data to show the amount of homeless youth in the city of Las Vegas. MS. JACOBOWITZ said it is difficult to parcel out city residents, but she reported that CCSD (Clark County School District) identified over 10,000 students experiencing homelessness last year. She expressed that this was likely an undercount due to

the number of kids disconnected from schooling as a result of the pandemic. She also noted that in 2019, the Southern Nevada region had one of the highest rates of youth homelessness in the country. Additionally, NPHY holds an outreach event every Friday, and they see the highest need when the events are held within the city of Las Vegas.

**The Culinary Academy of Las Vegas: This Way Ahead – Culinary Academy Youth Hospitality Training –** NANCY GOTS, Institutional Giving Manager, explained their proposal will serve a minimum of 50 city of Las Vegas youth. This Way Ahead will target opportunity youth between the ages of 18 and 24 that are disconnected from work or school by preparing them for a career and connecting them with the strong hospitality labor market in Las Vegas. ANA PULJIC, Director of Institutional Partnerships, said they have existed for 30 years, and their mission is to train the community for successful careers in the hospitality industry. Their vision is to eliminate unemployment and equip the community with the skills to get a better job, which includes teaching basic life skills and resume building. Last year, although they were closed for the first quarter due to the pandemic, they served 79 youth in the community and placed them in hospitality jobs through one of their 35 partners on the Las Vegas Strip. She said they serve the 13 most underserved zip codes in Nevada, and they truly focus on student success. There will be one instructor for every 15 students, and she added that twelve of their programs are approved by the Commission on Post-Secondary Education. They have an 85 percent graduation rate, and they work with various other agencies for supportive services.

MEMBER BURRIS asked how many students are enrolled at The Culinary Academy of Las Vegas and how they paid for the tuition. MS. PULJIC said they train about 2,000 students on an annual basis, and most tuition is covered through federal or State funding. MEMBER BURRIS then asked why the 50 students they are requesting CDBG funds for do not fit into other funding categories, and MS. PULJIC said it is a very lengthy process to qualify for the funding, and having this money on-site would help keep the students engaged with their interest.

MEMBER SAYLES asked if The Culinary Academy is still receiving union benefits, and MS. PULJIC confirmed, as they are a labor management trust fund. MEMBER SAYLES then wondered if any of those funds were being used towards recruiting students or any tuition costs for those who qualify for assistance, and MS. PULJIC clarified that those monies are being used to fund the incumbent workers. Someone who is not coming from a labor management referral must pay the tuition. MS. GOTS reiterated that they will serve a minimum of 50 residents, and she added that the tuition varies depending on what the student would like to do.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if they had any data that correlates this program to job retention. MS. PULJIC said they were tracking that information at one time, but it has become too difficult to manage. She added that students are assigned to a case worker, and they can come back if they cannot retain employment.

**St. Jude's Ranch for Children: Community Foster Home Recruitment and Training –** CHRISTINA VELA, Chief Executive Officer, explained St. Jude's Ranch has been serving Southern Nevada for 56 years, and their mission is to provide hope and healing to child victims of abuse and neglect and homeless youth. They accomplish this through a variety of programs across the Valley, and their current application is to respond to an urgent need to recruit, train and retain foster parents. She said as of last week, there were 50 children in Child Haven waiting for a quality home. They are proud to focus on sibling preservation work, and they do their best to make sure siblings are kept together. These funds would allow them to target zip codes within the city to recruit, train and license foster parents in order to place a minimum of 25 children in homes. MS. VELA indicated that St. Jude's Ranch for Children is already partnered with Clark County Department of Family Services and Clark County Juvenile Justice Services, and they understand all the licensure requirements. They are currently building out the Healing Center, which will be a dedicated campus for child victims of sex trafficking. By recruiting more foster homes, they believe they can reduce the number of children at Child Haven and restore a sense of normalcy for them. During fiscal year 2021, they served 643 unduplicated clients across all of their programs. During the pandemic, they did not have the ability to close their doors, but they continued to safely find housing for children in need. She explained that this grant would allow St. Jude's Ranch for Children to hire a dedicated recruiter/trainer and a program coordinator to help with the licensure requirements. In closing, MS. VELA said they are proud to be an accredited organization by the Council on Accreditation, and with the Board's partnership, they can improve the lives of so many children that are in need of safe and loving foster homes.

MEMBER HARPER asked if their request involves expanding Child Haven to Las Vegas or moving children currently at Child Haven into foster care. MS. VELA explained this would be an expansion of their therapeutic foster care services program, but it would specifically be a new program for the city of Las Vegas that involves targeting, recruiting and placing children in need of foster care services. MEMBER HARPER asked if the program could begin before the staff is recruited, and MS. VELA said they would move quickly to hire those individuals if the funding is awarded. They could bridge the funding gap with their donations, and they would like to have the program up and running as soon as possible.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noted that 25 percent of their reports from previous fiscal years were not submitted on time, and he asked what had been done to correct this. MS. VELA apologized for those past challenges, but they have committed to a new system that helps them track all of their grants. It will remind Program Directors of the report due dates 90, 60, 30 and 15 days in advance. Her assistant is also helping her track dates to keep staff members accountable and ensure a timely response and quality reporting.

MEMBER BOX asked MS. VELA to describe their collaboration efforts with other agencies that are trying to train and equip foster parents. MS. VELA said although they have a robust continuum of services internally, they do rely on community partnerships for services they cannot provide such as educational support. They come together on a regular basis to discuss various needs, and they are always open and willing to partner with other organizations.

**There is no Hero in Heroin Foundation: Alternative Peer Group Expansion** – JOE ENGLE, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, explained their Alternative Peer Group was formed at Mission High School and serves as a positive peer program to fill in the gaps outside of school hours for students experiencing substance abuse. This is done through exposing the students to book clubs, camping, tutors and other activities. HORTENSIA DeJESUS, Executive Director, said these funds would allow them to start a program called Strengthening Families, which was formed out of their experiences seeing how families can serve as barriers to recovery and not engaging as they should. Specifically, she noted that there is not a lot of support for the Spanish population on how to be a good parent. This program, which would include a small dinner for the family to bond prior to separate educational sessions, has been around since 1982 and it is well tested. MS. DeJESUS said they are equipped with counselors, peer recovery support specialists and mental health professionals that will also help facilitate this program to ensure everyone's needs are met. In closing, she added that they recently opened a boutique for children with clothing insecurities.

MEMBER HADDAD asked if they are serving families that are already engaged in the program, or if they would be recruiting new families to the program. MS. DeJESUS said they would like to recruit families who are not aware of their program, and they would be working with schools, churches and community centers to recruit.

MEMBER MARLON understood that they recently held the biggest recovery event in Nevada, and he asked how it went. MR. ENGLE said they had 1,000 people in attendance. MS. DeJESUS added that part of their mission is to partake in awareness, and this is a way to get ahead of it.

MEMBER HADDAD asked how they would be providing more support to families through this program, and MS. DeJESUS said they already provide support services to families on a regular basis, but they would also be welcomed into this new program.

**Vegas Stronger: Intensive Case Management** – JOHN SEELAND, Executive Director, explained that Vegas Stronger has been incorporated for five years and actively bringing recovery from addiction to the homeless population in Las Vegas for the last two years. Addiction has a high correlation with homelessness and vice versa. They currently have funding through the State Opioid Response Grant, but that only covers treatment for opioids and stimulants, not alcohol. Alcoholism is still the number one issue affecting men and women that are homeless, and this funding will help homeless individuals suffering from alcoholism and other addictions. The Vegas Stronger program includes 13 elements that ensure greater success for people suffering from addiction, and various combinations of these elements are designed to facilitate individualized treatment for each person who engages in the recovery process. Essential elements include: medical detox, physical fitness, nutrition, intensive outpatient treatment, case management and housing. MAIDA SMITH, Director of Case Management, said their mission is to reverse the devastation caused to the homeless population by substance abuse disorders. Their vision is to see every homeless person living in Las Vegas given an accessible

pathway to better overall health. Counseling is the core of being able to help the person with the addiction, and the remaining elements are connected to case management in one way or another. As they move forward, they would like to change their model to include a much broader assessment of the client. In order to do this, they need to hire someone who is familiar with the obstacles that homeless individuals face, and that is what these funds would be used for.

MEMBER BURRIS inquired about demonstrated success rates, and MS. SMITH said they have only been operating since 2020; however, many individuals have progressed through their treatment and received housing and employment, and they have been connected with other resources to ensure their success will continue outside of Vegas Stronger. They need more support as it relates to case management to ensure they address more components such as mental health, education, employment and legal needs, because it takes a lot of effort and coordination to reach a level of stabilization.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked why there was a 100 percent increase in their rent budget from last year, and MS. SMITH said they have been operating at a small facility, and they have since expanded to a larger facility that allows them to serve more people and house additional services. KRISTIN VILLEGAS, Director of Finance, confirmed the increase was due to their expansion.

**Vegas Stronger: Intensive Outpatient Program** – MR. SEELAND said they are certified by SAPTA (Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency), and they are required to maintain a quality improvement and assessment program that is reviewed on a regular basis, and outcome measures could be provided. TONY CARTER introduced himself as a licensed mental health professional who has worked in the field of addiction for over 28 years, and he said people do change. Vegas Stronger offers three-hour group sessions, chemical dependency treatment, motivational interviewing, relapse prevention and cognitive behavioral therapy on a weekly basis. He came to Vegas Stronger because of other things they provide that other resources do not. He also clarified that they offer intensive outpatient services, which is for clients that are not in need of a medical detox or 24-hour supervision. They currently offer four groups a day between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to ensure clients' needs are met without having to sacrifice something else. Vegas Stronger strives to help clients get grounded with a holistic approach, and the 13 elements create better outcomes for people staying clean after treatment. MR. CARTER said they are in the process of building an on-site boutique with nails and hair services, as this increases a client's self-esteem. He is proud to say he is working at Vegas Stronger, and he pointed out that anybody can be seen whether they have insurance or not. Several clients have also been kept in programs without the organization being reimbursed. In closing, he said they focus on duration because every day in treatment is a better chance of staying clean.

MEMBER HARPER asked if the therapist and clinical director are currently on staff or if they need to be hired, and MR. SEELAND said they are expanding rapidly and expect to serve 50 to 70 people at a time in the next six months. This money will allow them to hire more counselors and move their clinical director from part-time to full-time.

MEMBER HADDAD inquired about how their case management program interacts with this program, and MR. CARTER said a clinician may focus more on an emotional balance, whereas the case manager handles paperwork. MS. SMITH added that there are other tasks and needs that the clinician cannot address, which is what the case manager will handle.

**YMCA (The Young Men's Christian Association) of Southern Nevada: Durango Hills Early Childhood Education** – JORDAN SOMMAGGIO, Community Development Director, said the YMCA movement has a 177-year heritage in the United States with deep roots in Southern Nevada that was established with the first Las Vegas branch 77 years ago. They are the nation's leading charity committed to strengthening community through a wide range of programs that focus on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. They proudly focus their work on uplifting the lives of vulnerable populations, and they ensure everyone has access to needed services regardless of their age, income, background or abilities. The Y takes the identifier of community-based organization seriously by working within underserved communities and responding in real time to their local needs. The need for access to affordable, high-quality early childhood education has become increasingly prevalent over the last few years. By the time a child enters Kindergarten, their brain is already 90 percent developed. During these first five years of life, affluent families are able to immerse their children in a variety of educational activities so they enter school ready to build upon that foundational knowledge. Meanwhile, at-risk youth enter school with lower levels of knowledge and social competencies that

are important for subsequent school success. Data demonstrates that these early gaps widen as the children progress through school, and this could lead to the individual having a 64 percent higher chance of spending time in juvenile detention, a 67 percent higher chance of being arrested by early adulthood, and an 82 percent higher chance of being in public housing. Additionally, 48 percent of at-risk youth enter Kindergarten already behind. He said there are only enough providers to serve 16 percent of the state's pre-school aged youth, and due to this limited supply, Nevada ranks as the fourth most expensive state for early childhood education access. A substantial body of literature supports that children who live in poverty and attend a high-quality pre-school program experience long-lasting positive effects. The YMCA applies one of the strongest evidenced-based early childhood education curriculum in the nation, and ensures it is successful for the children who need it the most. A 35-year study on this curriculum found that participants have higher IQ and school test scores, are more motivated and engaged in school, are less likely to drop out of high school, be arrested or need welfare services, have 14 percent higher earnings in adulthood and are five times more likely to own a home. He said the comprehensive benefits of this program translate to a return on investment of \$16.14 for every dollar, which equates to over \$1.6 million back in the Las Vegas economy when figuring in their funding request. The YMCA has been operating this program for over a decade, and they were able to add 10 full-day spots to their Durango Hills location two years ago to alleviate a growing wait list thanks to CDBG funding. They exceeded their participant goal by 46 percent in the first year and 75 percent in the second year. MR. SOMMAGGIO did note that 10 percent of their grant funds were not spent due to unforeseeable pandemic impacts, but he anticipated that all of the funds would be spent by the end of this year. These funds would be used to sustain those 10 spots and add an additional five to further draw down the wait list. The funding would also support competitive teacher wages, program supplies and scholarships to ensure the program is accessible to those who need it the most.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM expressed concerns about the program and agency budgets, specifically the \$2.5 million allocated to three line items listed as 'other'. MR. SOMMAGGIO explained that the first is for outreach, marketing, public relations and postage. The second is for contract services and national and municipal dues, and the third is for maintenance, maintenance reserve, depreciation, interest expense and occupancy costs.

**CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada: Courtyard Workforce Services** – FRANK GALLARDO, Director of Homeless Programs, explained that CPLC is an organization that has existed for over 55 years, and services were brought to Nevada in 2010. Their impact areas are economic development, workforce opportunities, housing support, health and human services and psychiatric services. They have been the service provider for the Courtyard Homeless Resource Center since May 2020, and they recently expanded into a larger building, which has given them the ability to increase the number of services they are providing. At any point in time, there are 300 to 400 individuals taking advantage of their services. More recently, they have introduced shower services that are available throughout the day. Guests also have access to a computer room with telephone services and a mail room. They have noticed a gap in the ability to provide workforce services, and they wish to incorporate this into their organization. MARY ZENIOU, Workforce Development Specialist, said the funds would allow them to hire a full-time, on-site workforce development specialist. This individual would be assessing employability and soft skill development, and offer job search assistance, coaching to support job retention and obtaining any certifications.

MEMBER MARLON asked for more information as to why CPLC does not have any collaborating partners or MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding), and he asked if MR. GALLARDO thought it was humane to set mats outside of their building for people to sleep on. MR. GALLARDO said they do have a number of providers that come on site, including State welfare services, but they are open to expanding and formalizing MOUs. They were reluctant previously because there were space constraints at their last location. Speaking to the mats outside of his organization, MR. GALLARDO said their goal is to move people into housing, and that is why they exist. Providing mats is a service amongst other services, but the primary goal remains to find them housing.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked how many paid employees have been added since 2020, and MR. GALLARDO said they began with 52, and they are in the process of adding another 32. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM had noticed a significant increase in the salary budget, and MR. GALLARDO said it was the result of taking over direct services from the Courtyard. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM then pointed out two categories classified as 'other' amounting to \$3 million, and MR. GALLARDO said he would speak with their Finance Director and provide an answer.

6. **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.

7. **Adjournment**

Minutes:  
CHAIR MILLER thanked the Board members for their time and dedication.

MELANIE RILEY, Grant Program Coordinator, reminded the Board that deliberations would take place on February 22nd, and final scores should be submitted in ZoomGrants. She said staff will add the administrative score, the average will be taken, and those scores would be presented during deliberations.

The meeting was recessed from 10:07 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Cheyenne LaRance, Deputy City Clerk

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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](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)  
The Nevada Public Notice website – [notice.nv.gov](http://notice.nv.gov)  
City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor