



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 McKNIGHT, MARLON (excused until 9:12 a.m.), HADDAD, PRADO, WHITTINGHAM, LATHROP (excused at 11:51 a.m.), BURKS, PAOLA, JACKSON (excused until 9:04 a.m.), and CONYERS

EXCUSED: MEMBERS THOMAS and RICE

ALSO PRESENT: COLLEEN DUEWIGER and TIM GLISSON, Grant Program Coordinators; CRISLOVE IGEELEKE, Deputy City Attorney; and BRIAN CARROLL, Senior 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. Report by Colleen Duewiger, Grant Program Coordinator, on 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 16, 2023 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) 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 2024 to 2025 and 2025 to 2026. The approximate amount of funding is \$3,250,000 for HOPWA and \$775,000 for CDBG is. Interested agencies were asked to attend one of two technical workshops held on October 24, 2023 and the RFP closed on November 16, 2023. MS. DUEWIGER noted that the Community Development Recommending Board (CDRB) received eligible applications for review on December 4, 2023 and would hear presentations from applicants who met grant eligibility requirements. Ten minutes were allocated for each applicant to present, which was broken down into a five-minute presentation, followed by five minutes to answer questions from the Board. She explained that this meeting would include CDBG grant presentations, stating

that the Board would reconvene on February 26, 2024 for deliberations and award recommendations for each agency. She asked all Members to disclose any potential conflicts of interest they may have with any of the presenting agencies.

MEMBER LATHROP disclosed that he was a coordinator at Family Promise of Las Vegas for five years, noting his wife took over his role.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE said they would go over the disclosure once the presentation begins.

5. Presentations regarding applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 submitted by: Foster Kinship: Enhanced Kinship Navigator Program; Jewish Family Service Agency: Senior Lifeline Case Management; HELP of Southern Nevada: Shannon West Homeless Youth Center; Goodwill Industries of Southern Nevada: Career Services; HopeLink of Southern Nevada: CareerLink Workforce Development; Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc.: Bus & Volunteer Transportation; Sunrise Children's Foundation: Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPO); Family Promise of Las Vegas: Family Promise of Las Vegas Navigation Center; Communities In Schools of Nevada (CIS): CIS ISS (Integrated Student Supports) and Academy Supports; The Neon Museum: Increasing Access to Low-to-Moderate Income Residents; Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth: Safe Place: Youth Outreach & Intervention Program; Boys & Girls Club of Southern Nevada: Core5; Olive Crest: Olive Crest Foster Care Services; Puentes: Puentes Youth Program; Vegas Stronger: Intensive Outpatient Program for Individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder; Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada: Meals on Wheels; Hookers for Jesus, Inc.: Hookers for Jesus; Family and Child Treatment of Southern Nevada, Inc.: Domestic Violence Program

Minutes:

CHAIR MILLER explained that each applicant would be given five minutes to make their presentation, and the 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.

Foster Kinship – Enhanced Kinship Navigator Program: ALI CALIENDO, Executive Director, thanked the Board for allowing her to advocate for their 200 kinship families. She said the program's mission is to ensure that children stay with their family rather than entering foster care. They hoped to support kinship caregivers that primarily consist of grandparents raising their grandchildren. She stated that their flagship Kinship Navigator Program started in 2011. She was pleased to share they received an evidence-based designation from the federal government in 2023 that showed families in their program were two times more likely to access necessary services and three times less likely to disrupt placement. MS. CALIENDO added that their program provides housing stability and is the only program that provides rental assistance outside of the foster care system. She clarified that the program can provide short-term rental assistance if the caregivers support additional children. She asked for the program's expansion to ensure caregivers have access to respite care through Child and Youth Services, and she explained that respite care allows caregivers to take a break by dropping off children to a safe space. She confirmed that the organization and budget had grown and said that prevention programs are rarely funded, noting they were one of the only government-funded prevention programs. MS. CALIENDO added that they share information with other jurisdictions on how to utilize government funding to prevent kinship families from entering foster care, and she asked for continued support towards generational healing for kinship care.

CHAIR MILLER commended MS. CALIENDO for being 118 percent over the goal they set for the first grant year.

Jewish Family Service Agency – Senior Lifeline Case Management: LISA POPOVSKY, Director of Senior Services, stated they had provided nondenominational services in the community since 1977 with 20 years for the Senior Lifeline Program. Their goal is to serve low-income seniors with a variety of support and social services to allow them to live independently, noting that many seniors in the Las Vegas area do not have family or a strong external support system. She explained that seniors enrolled in the program are assigned a case manager that connects them to various services, including those provided by the Jewish Family Service Agency. She reported that funding they previously received helped pay for case management salary services, which she indicated is the hardest funding for them to secure. MS. POPOVSKY stated that they had funds to

provide transportation, food, and medical assistance, but she felt the relationship between a senior and their case manager was most important. She added that they had taken over many programs previously run by the State of Nevada and were able to maintain their staff. In conclusion, she anticipated that the program would continue to exceed their goals if awarded funding.

MEMBER PRADO wondered if she knew the demographic of seniors in their program. MS. POPOVSKY explained that she did not have the data present but believed the ethnicity demographics mirrored the city's. She opined that they likely had an overrepresentation of females in their program and said they continued outreach to the male population.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if the case manager would work in other programs. MS. POPOVSKY clarified they have case managers that exclusively serve CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) clients and case managers that serve other parts of the community. The Member wanted to know if they could subsidize the salary for a case manager from other grant programs if the requested amount was not granted. MS. POPOVSKY stated that she did not know of additional funds that could fund a full-time case manager, which would result in a reduction in the program's ability to serve at least 140 seniors in the community.

HELP of Southern Nevada – Shannon West Homeless Youth Center: MEMBER MARLIN disclosed that he was a board member for HELP of Southern Nevada for 15 years. Since he had not served for the last two years, he felt that he could weigh in on the presentation, which DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE confirmed.

FUILALA RILEY, CEO (Chief Executive Officer), stated that they received funding in the last fiscal year, which she reported helped pay for 3,685 bed nights at Shannon West (Shannon West Homeless Youth Center), 88 of which included Las Vegas youth. She clarified that youth are assigned rooms that typically consist of three roommates, noting they are connected to employment and educational and health services. She advised that the duration of their stay and services are dependent upon their needs.

KIM MOORE, Shannon West Director, shared a story of a 13-year-old from Detroit who dropped out of school to provide for his family. His family later became homeless, and he ended up at the youth center. They connected him with their wraparound services, education coordinator, and employment coordinator, and MS. MOORE reported that he was employed and working towards a high school diploma, stating that they would help him reintegrate into the community.

MEMBER HADDAD noticed that Shannon West served more youth in the last three years and wanted to know the cause. MS. RILEY explained that the rental market made it more difficult for youth to earn enough money to afford to secure rental units. She added that current and former residents refer youth to the services they offer, noting that most residents of Shannon West move in with their roommates.

MEMBER LATHROP wanted to know more about the selection process for their 25 residential monitors. MS. RILEY said they established HELP University to offer a weeklong intensive training administered by their Behavioral Health Director that teaches applicants about de-escalation, trauma-informed care, and motivational interviewing. She explained that applicants must shadow a current employee for a couple of weeks once they complete the course. She stated that the residential monitors are their biggest asset to provide services to youth at Shannon West.

MEMBER JACKSON noted that most of their initiatives were for long-term care, and she wondered how they assist youth that stay at the facility for a shorter time. MS. RILEY explained that short-term residents decide the program either is not for them or are reunited with family. She said that some residents just need a place to stay for a few days while they wait for a family member.

MEMBER CONYERS asked if they had volunteers, which MS. RILEY confirmed. She stated that their Volunteer and Activities Coordinator organizes group activities or presentations, and she said some volunteers help decorate the facility to make it seem like home. She added that they utilize volunteers as much as possible, noting that they train the volunteers and are cautious of who they bring in to assist the youth.

Goodwill of Southern Nevada – Career Services: BRYAN FUKUZAWA, Vice President of Mission Programs, said Goodwill's mission is to reduce the impact of poverty by helping people obtain employment and upward

mobility. He felt most people were familiar with Goodwill's retail stores but may not be familiar with their efforts to help people find employment. He reported that they served over 7,000 people in 2023 and helped over 2,600 secure employment. He explained that they utilize diverse funding sources like the CDBG to focus on special populations that may be overlooked. MR. FUKUZAWA said they have two walk-in career centers and a training academy that help people get into their desired career path. He explained that the CDBG helps them cover the costs to sustain and grow their efforts, noting that they were interested in collaborating with any organization in alignment with their goals. He encouraged referrals to Goodwill, since they have less restricted funding through retail store revenue, and he said they have access to resources, national data, and framework from Goodwill International. They created the opportunity accelerator framework, which is a holistic journey map prepared in 2024 that assesses an individual's employment status.

MEMBER HADDAD asked what the funds would go towards and wanted more information on client materials and skills training. MR. FUKUZAWA said their training academy places people in medical assistant, certified nurse assistant, and stagehand training programs. He explained that they collaborate with employers to develop training programs that align with the needs of the community, noting that people are guaranteed an interview with an employer after finishing a training program.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM questioned how they accounted for the administrative lapse and lack of expenditure invoicing. MR. FUKUZAWA said they had yet to encounter any expenditure issues and said they were expanding to create pipelines for survivors of domestic violence and other special needs populations. The Member wanted to ensure the appropriate invoices would be submitted, to which MR. FUKUZAWA responded they would and explained that they would be fully spent by June 2024.

MEMBER CONYERS wondered if they followed up with people that completed the training program. MR. FUKUZAWA advised that they follow up at least one year after they complete their training and explained that they encourage enrollment in their alumni program, which can give them upward mobility.

MEMBER PRADO asked if partial funding could still sustain their operations. MR. FUKUZAWA said they planned to assist 7,000 Las Vegas residents through all programs and confirmed they would determine which funding sources to pull from to ensure proper invoicing.

HopeLink of Southern Nevada – CareerLink Workforce Development: RYAN HENSON, Supervisor for Administration and Employer Services, reported that they provide services to the homeless population in Southern Nevada with the goal of bringing sustainability into their households. Their CareerLink program was implemented in 2021 to help clients sustain housing secured through their programs. He detailed that their process includes a client assessment to learn what their barriers are, followed by creating an individualized employment plan to understand their history and career goals. MR. HENSON stated that their employment specialists revise and create resumes, produce mock interviews, and refer clients to community partners if they are unable to provide job readiness skills. They collaborate with employers that have jobs readily available once clients feel ready to interview for a position. Of 173 clients enrolled in their programs, 60 percent were actively interviewing and 20 percent were going through job readiness training with external community partners. He shared that 40 percent of their enrollments were able to obtain and maintain employment. MR. HENSON reported that they had 119 enrollments last year and 300 this year, noting that their two employment specialists were operating above capacity to provide services. In order for them to continue providing the same level of service to their clients, he said they needed to hire an additional employment specialist.

MEMBER LATHROP wanted to know about vacant positions on their organizational chart. MR. HENSON clarified there were vacant positions for case managers in their housing programs, noting that they recently filled those positions. He added that their former CEO stepped away from the organization in September and the board had named AARON SHEETS as their CEO.

MEMBER JACKSON wondered how they avoid overlap with other organizations that provide similar services. MR. HENSON explained they have open communication with all community partners, including Goodwill. He stated that they ask clients if they work with other organizations during their initial assessment, and they work tandem with their case manager if so. He noted that most of their clients are not partnered with another organization assisting with employment, which is why they began the CareerLink in-house program for their clients. The Member questioned how they would sustain the program after the grant is exhausted. MR.

HENSON responded that their Director of Development was developing a plan by gauging community partnerships to maintain and grow their sustainability over the next 10 years.

MEMBER PRADO asked if funding would allow them to serve more clients or improve the quality of service. MR. HENSON said it would be a combination of both, noting they need enough staff in order to provide quality service and appropriately expand the program.

Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Inc. – Bus & Volunteer Transportation: MARCIA BLAKE, Executive Director, stated that they serve seniors ages 60 and older by providing services to live in their homes for as long as possible. She reported that their Senior Citizen Transportation Program previously received CDBG funds and provided 2,154 rides this year. She said they were serving 122 clients and offering an average of 75 rides per month, which is more than they did the previous year. With the Board's help, they were able to sustain the program with drivers and staff to schedule and transport clients. MS. BLAKE requested a funding increase to cover 30 percent of their expenses, since their CDBG clientele percentage increased from 24 percent to 30 percent of their ridership. She added that they had 125 eligible CDBG clients on their waitlist when writing the grant and now had 158, noting that the only way to remove clients from the waitlist is to increase the number of drivers. MS. BLAKE shared that they invested in a new software program, which improved the efficiency of scheduling to get the maximum number of riders in vehicles, and she hoped the Board would consider funding them for the upcoming year.

MEMBER JACKSON noticed that their budget included \$15,000 for rent, and their audited financial statements indicated they were low on cash. MS. BLAKE explained that they needed a physical location for their schedulers and program manager. Additionally, she said they needed warehouse space to store vehicles, as they had experienced vandalism and theft when they parked in open spaces. Regarding their audited financial statements, MS. BLAKE clarified that they were at the mercy of timely vendor reimbursements, as most of their funding is through grants and reimbursements. She cited a funder that took seven months to provide \$300,000 and indicated that they had since received consistent reimbursements from the funder.

MEMBER CONYERS wondered how many vehicles they had, which MS. BLAKE responded 10 vehicles with seven drivers. She explained that two vehicles were purchased with funds from the Aging and Disability Services Division, noting that they were trying to hire additional drivers to utilize the remaining vehicles. The Member wanted to know how many clients could fit in the vehicles. MS. BLAKE reported that the minivans hold up to three people or one wheelchair-bound and one ambulatory client at once. She added they had three buses that can hold up to 14, 12, and eight people.

In response to MEMBER PRADO, MS. BLAKE said the most important components of their budget were staff and operational expenses, since they could not transport clients without them.

Sunrise Children's Foundation – Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI): JAMIE STEVENS, Manager, stated that the HIPPI program is a 30-week, pre-kindergarten learning program. The school readiness curriculum includes four curricula structured as lesson plans. The lesson plans use storybooks, exercises, and activities to expand literacy, social and emotional development, and problem-solving skills among children. MS. STEVENS reported that peer home visitors conduct weekly visits to train parents on how to use the relevant curriculum, noting that families are instructed to spend around 15 to 20 minutes per day on the activities. She added that home visitors work to build lasting relationships with families by offering individualized training. She said the program is free for HIPPI families, noting that they host monthly HIPPI group parent meetings so families can learn about children development, participate in social experiences, and find solutions to common challenges through resource sharing. MS. STEVENS explained that home visits and group meetings address the educational, social, and personal needs of enrolled families. She stated that the service delivery method is through roleplay, which allows families to discuss the purpose of individual activities, reflect on their children's learning needs, and develop new teaching skills. Further, the use of roleplay is designed to create a non-threatening learning environment and support parents of all educational levels to become more effective as their children's first teacher. In conclusion, she said there are 34 visits through each school year to provide resources to families based on their individual needs.

MEMBER BURKS questioned the qualifications of home visitors. TIFFANY ALSTON, Director of Programs, clarified that home visitors, also known as parent educators, receive training from their supervisors of HIPPI USA. She added that all parent educators are in training for a CDA (Child Development Associate) credential.

MEMBER CONYERS asked how many children the home visitors serve each day. MS. ALSTON explained that the parent educators could have up to five home visits per day, noting that the age of the child determines the duration. The Member wondered how they track the completion of the activities, to which MS. ALSTON explained that they provide parents with a packet and storybooks each week of the 30-week curriculum. Additionally, they assign weekly pullout pages from HIPPI USA that help determine the child's development, and they build a portfolio for the child based on the collected pullout pages. MEMBER CONYERS wanted to know how they determine the impact. MS. ALSTON clarified that they use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire as a screener and train parents how to use the Teaching Strategies Gold observation tool to take notes of their child's development, noting that they review parent observations at group socialization meetings.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if this was a new program or an existing program in Las Vegas that had not funded by the City. MS. ALSTON explained that this program had been a part of Sunrise Children's Foundation since 1995, stating that they look to sustain funding from different sources each year. She said their board of directors hold fundraising campaigns and apply for local grants, noting that this was not their first time they have applied for the CDBG. The Member wanted to know the level of impact they found on their service population in Las Vegas. MS. ALSTON clarified that they collect data from the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and Teaching Strategies Gold, and they collect surveys from families and use Parent Gauge to view what specific domains the family worked on. They compare the Parent Gauge and Strategies Gold data to see if the child showed an increase from the base level benchmark. She added that they collect data quarterly and their leadership team shares the data through YouTube. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wanted to know what concerns they received from parents. MS. ALSTON said most families have a literacy or language development goal for their child. She advised that families are struggle with experiencing homelessness or food insecurity, noting that providing additional resources during weekly visits had been beneficial.

Family Promise of Las Vegas – Family Promise of Las Vegas Navigation Center: TERRY LINDEMANN, Executive Director, requested \$50,000 to assist with direct client services and operating expenses as they prepared to move into their newly constructed Family Navigation Center. She reported that construction should be finished by the end of July. They planned to expand the services they had offered for 27 years in Las Vegas, noting that they were initially a sheltering program that assisted homeless families with children. She added that they were the only organization that helped people of all faiths, and they currently had at least 2,000 volunteers. MS. LINDEMANN stated that they had collaborated with other organizations that had presented to the Board.

MEMBER PAOLA noticed that they complete surveys and wondered if they follow up with families. MS. LINDEMANN confirmed that families complete a survey as they transition into their own apartment and stated that their sheltering program had an 80 to 85 percent transition ratio. She explained that they follow up with families after three to six months, noting they had followed up with some families for years. She added that they modify programs based upon client needs and reported that a guest services committee was being formed for former clients.

MEMBER CONYERS wondered how surveys were conducted, to which MS. LINDEMANN responded that in-person surveys are conducted when a client transitions out of the program, stating that they would likely digitize documents in the future. The Member asked if they would use the feedback to form the guest services committee. MS. LINDEMANN explained that committee membership is open to all former clients. She gave an example of a former client that achieved two Master's Degrees in social work and a PHD (Doctor of Philosophy) in May, noting that they were excited to join the committee.

In response to MEMBER PRADO, MS. LINDEMANN clarified that she tried to retire in 2017 but the board asked her to stay until the navigation center was completed. She reported that they hired an Executive Director in July 2023 that was dismissed due to the stringent performance evaluations of the position. They later hired ARMENA MKHITARYAN-SCHMIDT as Executive Director and MARISA CERVANTES as Fund Development Director. MS. LINDEMANN was satisfied with the staff they found.

BRENT WOOD, Vice President of the Board of Directors, said part of the stability of their organization goes to the board, noting they have board members who had served an average of eight years. He appreciated everything MS. LINDEMANN had done in her 19 years of service to the stable organization. He felt that they were set up for future success with the staff they hired.

Communities In Schools of Nevada (CIS) – CIS ISS (Integrated Student Supports) and Academy Supports: JAMIE CHAZAN, Senior Director of Grants, requested \$62,352 to support their ISS and Academy Supports programming at Clark, Desert Pines, and Western High Schools. They anticipated managing 20 students at each high school. She explained that their program is within CIS that uses a holistic approach to address systemic and non-academic barriers preventing students from succeeding. She reported that students they manage do not have the same opportunities as their higher income peers due to their socioeconomic status, and she said their site coordinators provide students with opportunities to reach their full potential. MS. CHAZAN explained that students are not able to reach their academic potential if they go to school hungry or are unable to afford glasses. She stated that they work with families to eliminate barriers and ensure long-term success. She said they are a data-driven organization that measures student goals quarterly with baselines and target goals, noting their yearlong academy program is an elective course led by a teacher on campus. She noted that CIS provides a tailored College and Career Readiness Curriculum to the teacher, and they buyout the teacher's preparation period. MS. CHAZAN clarified that most of the funding would go to site coordinator salaries, since they work every day to ensure students have what they need to be successful. Additionally, a portion of funds would go to academy specialists that work with teachers and site coordinators to ensure academy courses are meeting standards. Finally, a small portion of the funds would cover the indirect costs associated with running the program. She explained that CIS uses a braided funding model, of which the CDBG makes up 10 percent, followed by 55 percent public funding, and the remaining 35 percent raised through philanthropic funding. This was their first year applying for CDBG funding, noting that they previously received North Las Vegas CDBG funding and had experience managing and implementing a successful CDBG program. Lastly, MS. CHAZAN provided handouts to the Board, that showed breakdowns of outcomes, student demographics, and cost, a copy of which was submitted for the record.

MEMBER JACKSON wanted to know what would happen if more than 60 students needed their services. MS. CHAZAN advised that the 60 case managed students would be solely funded by this program, noting that site coordinators typically manage around 50 students. She indicated that other students would be funded through their program. She added that they implemented resource rooms in schools for all students.

MEMBER HADDAD wondered how they would provide services if they were not completely funded. MS. CHAZAN stated that their team would attempt to raise the unfunded amount through other philanthropic services. The Member asked if schools pay a portion of the service cost. MS. CHAZAN responded they do and said it is included in the 55 percent public funding sources in their braided funding model.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked how they quantify the effectiveness compared to the previous year and how their anticipated numbers compared to the actual numbers. MS. CHAZAN noted that in Southern Nevada, 96 percent of seniors in their program graduated high school and 99 percent of their students were promoted to the next grade on time. She explained that the results of their ABC's (Attendance, Behavior, and Coursework) were lower than expected due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, stating that they hired a data program and learning director whose goal is to adjust the program based on successful interventions from the previous year.

MEMBER PRADO asked what would happen if there was transiency throughout the year among the case managed students. MS. CHAZAN explained they would continue to work with transient students within CIS schools, noting they could not work with schools not under CIS. She clarified that they work with other in-school providers to ensure there is no overlap and provide non-CIS students with information for service providers in their school.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE reminded MEMBER LATHROP not to submit scoring for this application due to his conflict with the organization.

The Neon Museum – Increasing Access to Low-to-Moderate Income Residents: SARAH HULME, Deputy Director, noted that this was their first time applying for CDBG. She explained that the grant would be used to increase the attendance of local community members at the Neon Museum. She acknowledged that the museum was primarily recognized as an attraction, but she stated that they had been growing an educational program since the COVID-19 pandemic. MS. HULME reported that they would host a variety of tailored field trips to serve 2,000 students that cover the history of Las Vegas, science, and art. She noticed that they were not seeing a significant number of students within the city of Las Vegas and hoped to expand their capacity to market towards schools within city limits. She advised that studies of discovery-guided learning show information retention is much higher in a museum compared to a classroom setting, noting that field trips are an

important aspect of a the student learning experience. MS. HULME added that they offer a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) educational program once per month that is available to everyone. She said they worked with the Library District (Las Vegas-Clark County Library District) so people could check out a family library ticket and attend STEAM events using their library pass. Through other grants, they made buses available to schools to increase accessibility, noting that only five percent of schools within city limits take advantage of museum services.

MEMBER JACKSON questioned if the programs were free, to which MS. HULME said there is a five dollar charge for STEAM Saturday, noting they worked with Museums for All to make it free for anyone receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. The Member asked if they provide their curriculum to the teachers prior to the field trips. MS. HULME answered in the affirmative and felt that it was important to provide information to the educators beforehand so they can prepare for the field trip, stating that they also follow up with them after the field trip is completed.

MEMBER PRADO asked what would qualify as a CDBG-funded participant. MS. HULME explained that they aimed to serve Title 1 schools within their area. She said their grants pay for transportation as well as the admission of educators, chaperones, and students. She clarified that CDBG would make it more effective for them to target their area by providing readily available information through social media, local community centers, and libraries.

MEMBER HADDAD wondered if students who do not reside within but attend a school within city limits would receive benefits from this grant. MS. HULME advised that they target school locations to include all classmates.

Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth – Safe Place: Youth Outreach & Intervention Program:

MELISSA JACOBOWITZ, Chief of Development and Strategy, said their Safe Place program was designed to serve youth in crisis, noting that the national program had been operated by NPHY (Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth) since 2002. She explained that the program provides a safety net at over 160 locations in the community, including fire stations, Terrible Herbst gas stations, and libraries in all surrounding municipalities. Additionally, every RTC (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada) bus provides free transportation to the nearest Safe Place site. Once youth arrive at a Safe Place location, on-call staff is dispatched to assess their situation and provide free, confidential transportation. She noted that they are an evidence-based program that uses the National Safe Place Model, trauma-informed care, and motivational interviewing. For the upcoming year, MS. JACOBOWITZ committed to serve at least 150 residents through this program, noting that they already surpassed their goal seven months into the year. She added that they served 52 city of Las Vegas residents and had spent 70 percent of their current CDBG funding as of January 2024. She reported that 87 percent of their clients felt their sense of safety was increased and their presenting problems were resolved. Over the past two years, they had seen a 48 percent increase in Las Vegas residents accessing this program, and she felt this indicated an increased need for the program. In conclusion, MS. JACOBOWITZ believed this program is a good investment for the City, since they can keep young people off the streets and resolve issues without emergency services intervention.

MEMBER CONYERS noticed that they had eight board members and wondered how they break ties. MS. JACOBOWITZ was not sure but believed the information was included in their bylaws. She offered to confirm with their CEO.

MEMBER HADDAD wanted to know more about site-based fee participation that was included in their sustainability plan. MS. JACOBOWITZ used Terrible Herbst as an example, noting their agreement to serve as Safe Place sites included a monthly donation to NPHY. She clarified that not all partners provide a monthly donation, but they try to obtain partners that contribute to the operation of the program.

In response to MEMBER WHITTINGHAM, MS. JACOBOWITZ explained that they seek feedback from their clients in a variety of ways. She said they received feedback that young people need resources directly at a Safe Place site, which resulted in responders bringing along resource kits that include a community resource guide, food, and hygiene items. Additionally, she reported that they advise Terrible Herbst to provide a young person seeking help with a snack and drink while they wait for a responder. The Member asked how many clients completed the written evaluation surveys. MS. JACOBOWITZ stated that their annual report demonstrates how many clients completed the survey, noting that the participation rate had never been under 80 percent and was near 95 percent.

Boys & Girls Club of Southern Nevada – Core5: KAYLA LANGLEY, Grants Manager, requested \$74,092.72 to be primarily used for direct client services and direct program delivery for the Lexia Core5 Program.

CHELSEA ELLIOTT, Area Director of Programming, noted that all three Boys & Girls Clubs in Las Vegas had a combined English Language Arts (ELA) proficiency rating of 29.76 percent according to the Nevada Report Card. She advised that the Lexia Core5 Program accelerates the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities, and she indicated that they offer similar programs under their academic success pillar, noting this program specifically provides individualized plans for members. She explained that the program uses game-based assessments to show where a member is academically placed and tells instructors how to help achieve their goals. She added that the Lexia Core5 Program received strong ratings from Evidence for Every Student Success.

MEMBER HADDAD wanted to ensure that the program would be cohesive with daily curriculum the kids receive. MS. LANGLEY clarified that the Lexia Core5 Program is only offered as an intervention service in CCSD (Clark County School District) schools, stating that most of their members are not on grade level or identified as needing the program. She explained that they implement programs that are in step with CCSD, and they started a UNLV (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) fellowship with a postdoctoral student to verify that their academic success programming aligns with CCSD curriculum. MS. ELLIOTT added that the Lexia Core5 Program would be embedded within their other programs and offered on a varied basis among their clubhouses.

MEMBER JACKSON wondered how they measured the impact of the program, since they used CCSD metrics. MS. LANGLEY advised that members are placed and tracked once they take the initial assessment. She stated that some clubhouses ask parents to turn in progress reports and report cards, while the program allows them to track ELA rates more consistently.

MEMBER PRADO questioned why they chose this program instead of a program that offers math and ELA assistance. MS. LANGLEY said they chose Lexia Core5 due to the effectiveness and tracking. She reported that they looked at several programs that also build on math and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), and she said they did provide enough tracking to follow student progress. She added that they chose Lexia Core5 specifically due to ELA struggles among their clubhouses. The Member asked if they had implemented the program and wondered how their staff members would support the program. MS. LANGLEY advised they had not implemented the program, but they had included a partnership with Lexia in their budget for their experience with launching the program at other Boys & Girls Clubs. She indicated that this would allow individualized training from Lexia and help with implementation.

Olive Crest – Olive Crest Foster Care Services: JIMMY MONAGHAN, Executive Director, thanked the Board for making Las Vegas a better place. He said he is a recovered drug and alcohol addict and told a story about his daughter being placed in the foster care system at birth. Eighteen years later, he and his wife have four biological and four adopted children. He said adopting children was the hardest thing he had ever done in his life, noting that his children needed the support that Olive Crest offers.

JENNY FAY, Community Engagement and Development Director, reported that kids in Las Vegas need Olive Crest's services, since they are not thriving in foster care. She said they see many children in foster care with compounding trauma, which could lead to homelessness, incarceration, trafficking, and substance abuse.

ALYSSA DENNISON-GLASGOW, Regional Program Director, stated that Olive Crest had provided support to kids and their families in Las Vegas for 27 years. They offer family preservation support, independent living support for teens and young adults who aged out of the foster care system, and a licensed foster care agency. She reported that they provide treatment specialists who visit children's homes once a week to support their families. Additionally, they have an onsite staff therapist, 24/7 crisis helpline, and foster support group. She felt that the children of Las Vegas need their services, as most kids encounter trauma and numerous placements. She said CDBG would help pay for trained staff, transportation, and administration costs.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noticed that the funds they applied for would cover a small portion of their operating cost. He wanted to know more about other funding sources and what percentage of their staff salaries would be covered. MR. MONAGHAN said they are funded by multiple revenue streams. He explained that restricted

funds were hard to work with, and this request would replace some of the restricted funds in their foster care center. He stated that they were just under their \$3,000,000 annual budget and felt that \$71,000 was a substantial part of their budget. MS. FAY reported that blended funding from other sources covered 70 percent of their lead treatment specialist and treatment specialist salaries and 80 percent of their regional program director's salary. The Member explained that they had not received the funding percentages. MS. FAY apologized and said the budget narrative should have been included with the percentages in their packet.

MEMBER PRADO asked how many clients they served in the previous three years. MS. DENNISON-GLASGOW reported that they serve an average of 30 to 40 clients per year and noted their clients stay with parents longer, since they have the support needed to maintain their placements. MR. MONAGHAN added that 98 percent of their kids do not move once they are placed, noting that five placements is the average in DFS (Department of Family Services). The Member wondered if only children in the city of Las Vegas would be served, to which MR. MONAGHAN clarified that CDBG funding would be used to support city of Las Vegas children. He indicated that they serve Clark County and Nye County and planned to serve Washoe County in the future.

MEMBER CONYERS wanted to hear more about their annual surveys. MR. MONAGHAN explained that they do not provide an exit survey for the children and instead provide a survey to all families annually. MS. FAY stated that assessments are administered to children by treatment specialists and therapists throughout their time with them.

Puentes – Puentes Youth Program: GUY GIRARDIN, President and Founder, reported a 10 percent increase in youth crimes against persons, a 25 percent increase in youth crimes against properties, and a 525 percent increase in juvenile arrests for homicide in statistics they received from 2023. He felt that the most effective way to reach children who do not take advantage of other program opportunities was to display their talents for a chance to win a gift card or money, noting that these kids do not receive acknowledgement. MR. GIRARDIN said the purpose of the program is to build trust within marginalized communities and give children positive relationships with mentors. Their goal is to find underlying reasons that resulted in their engagement with law enforcement. He stated that they do not have an office and 100 percent of their time is spent working with neglected and disenfranchised populations in the community. He added that their model emphasizes sustainability, and they integrate with nearly 100 community partners to leverage their resources and expertise. He felt that it is important for all non-profit organizations to focus on sustainability so they do not have to seek funding for the same problem every year. MR. GIRARDIN reported that they held 766 outreach events in marginalized communities, received 9,586 service requests, and their social worker handled over 2,000 cases last year.

HAILEY DOBSON, Treasurer, Outside Bookkeeper, and Vice President of Umbrella Bookkeeping, explained most of their requested budget was to fund direct client services and program delivery costs, such as supplies, gift cards, and transportation for employees to engage with children in different communities. He noted that they wanted to hire more program coordinators to have more people in the field.

In response to MEMBER WHITTINGHAM, MR. GIRARDIN explained that they listened to the community and found that their sustainable improvement needs were much different from what they perceived. He reported that everyone they send into a community is from that community, stressing the importance of relating to the community to develop trust and build relationships. The Member appreciated their approach and wanted to know more about how they hire and train program coordinators. MR. GIRARDIN stated that they select people with experience in the communities that they serve. He felt that people could be trained to complete surveys and fill out forms, while empathy and cultural awareness could not be trained. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if they work with gang interventionists, to which MR. GIRARDIN confirmed.

Vegas Stronger – Intensive Outpatient Program for Individuals with Alcohol Use Disorder: MEMBER MARLON recused himself due to his relationship with the program.

DEBBIE LEAVITT, President, reported that Vegas Stronger is a non-profit organization that offers multiple services for those who suffer from drugs, alcohol, and homelessness in Las Vegas. She reported that they carefully track and report the outcomes of their interventions, noting that 63 percent of those who completed their program are drug free, alcohol free, and obtained a job and housing. She added that Vegas Stronger is located in Downtown Las Vegas in the Corridor of Hope, and they are a Coordinated Entry system that helps

homeless people find a place to live. MS. LEAVITT noted that there was a focus on opioids but stressed the need to assist people with alcohol use disorder. She referenced a 2022 study that indicated 9.7 million people ages 12 and up suffered from alcohol use disorder. She sought help to develop an IOP (Intensive Outpatient Program), since they do not have the funds and SOR (State Opioid Response) grants do not pay for alcohol use disorder. She felt that working together as a community could solve this epidemic.

NICHOLAS NEUBAUER, Clinical Director, said their mission is to reduce homelessness by treatment and caring for people with mental health and co-occurring disorders like substance abuse. He said some of their services include individual counseling, partial hospitalization, and case management programs, noting there is no shortage of resources at Vegas Stronger. They requested funding for 60 people to participate in an IOP that consists of three hours per day, three days per week. He stated that participants would be privy to their other services individualized to each of their needs. As of 2023, MR. NEUBAUER reported there were approximately 6,500 homeless people, of which around 50 percent suffer from alcohol use disorder. He wanted to be a solution for the roughly 3,200 people in the community suffering from this disease. He invited the Board to visit their location and was proud to be a member of the organization.

MEMBER JACKSON asked why they audited their financials and questioned their metrics for success. MR. NEUBAUER explained that they have intake and follow-up surveys during the treatment process. He added that their statistics are based on six-month follow-up surveys with people that graduated from their program. JOHN SEELAND, Executive Director, clarified that were in the process of having a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) go through their audited financials. He advised that they have their financials checked by a CPA every month and noted they did not reach the \$750,000 mark until recently.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM was impressed with their presentation and appreciated the data they provided.

Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada – Meals on Wheels: JENNIE DUARTE, Program Manager, reported their mission is to provide food, shelter, and comprehensive services, while inspiring the community through collaboration to recognize that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. She stated they would celebrate their 83rd anniversary in April. They offer the largest home delivered meals program in Southern Nevada and were conducting renovation projects to expand their program capacity.

LEVI SHEARS, Grant Writing Manager, advised that over 200,000 seniors in Las Vegas needed their services, noting that nearly 25,000 were deemed to be living in poverty in 2022. He stated that those who live on low and fixed incomes rely on SNAP benefits, and he confirmed that many seniors saw a reduction of up to \$258 per month following the end of pandemic-related emergency assistance in March 2023. He added that their waitlist has grown from 400 seniors last April to over 1,000.

MS. DUARTE explained that their program provides seven nutritionally balanced meals to over 2,200 seniors in Southern Nevada each week. She said seniors in their program are homebound and many live with disabling conditions. She stated that Meals on Wheels was designed to help the underserved population of homebound seniors age in place, noting that they receive additional support, such as modified meals, nutritional supplements, and case coordination services.

ARMIN GARCIA, Case Coordinator, spoke about a couple that joined Meals on Wheels in 2021 to ease the burden of buying groceries and preparing their own meals. Like many seniors in Las Vegas, he reported that they lived on a fixed income, and he was able to connect them to community resources that provided medical appointment transportation and utility bill assistance. He detailed that they received at least one nutritional meal per day that can be easily prepared in the microwave or oven, a bag of fruit, and a half-gallon of one percent milk. He felt that Meals on Wheels becomes a source of hope to seniors they serve and become a part of their family that cares for their well-being.

MR. SHEARS requested \$171,141.95 to support the program for 50 seniors in the city of Las Vegas. He said the funds would primarily support food supply costs and case coordination services, which he indicated is critical to help seniors access other services for their basic needs. He reported that they served 781 Las Vegas clients in Fiscal Year 2023. He added that their budget for Fiscal Year 2024 is approximately \$7,000,000, noting that \$3.9 million is from the State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division and \$2.6 million is covered by Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada's agency funds.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked if other funds covered the case coordinator position. MR. SHEARS explained that they offered case coordination services over the last several years, stating they did not historically use CDBG funds to cover the position. The Member wondered if they could cover the case coordination service costs if the requested amount could not be granted by the Board, to which MR. SHEARS said they are happy to receive any support to serve seniors.

MEMBER PRADO wondered what the key obstacle was to expand services and solve their increasing waitlist. MR. SHEARS explained that they had completed the first phase of warehouse renovation that would help them store more food, and he stated that the next phase would implement a new tray line to produce more meals. He felt their biggest hurdle was securing additional funds to cover their waitlist, noting that they worked with the ADSD (State of Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division) to remove an additional 242 people from the waitlist.

Hookers for Jesus, Inc. – Hookers for Jesus: ANNIE LOBERT, CEO, provided the Board with new brochures, a copy of which was submitted for the record, outlining their program's new name: Pink Chair: A Conversation. A Change. She said they founded the program 17 years ago to help trafficking victims in Las Vegas, and she established their Destiny House, Dream House, and outreach program. MS. LOBERT explained that the Destiny and Dream Houses are housing programs to rebuild women's lives once they get out of trafficking. She stated that many of the women they served were trafficked at a young age, noting that they provide them with their own room, food, new clothing, life skills training, a personal trainer, and survivor-led leadership. MS. LOBERT sought funding for two house manager positions, due to complex trauma levels and the need for staff working at each location per shift. She added that the requested funding would pay for 40 percent of a project coordinator's salary that would help them write grants.

KRICKET OLIN, Director of Operations, added that both house manager positions were not new and would evolve to include case management. She explained that they had a full-time case manager they would retain and felt the house managers needed to be more involved in the case management process.

MEMBER HADDAD noticed missing components of different financial procedures and asked how they would ensure that all financial procedures and policies were on solid ground. MS. LOBERT said their finances are thoroughly audited every year from Layton and Tobler. TIM GLISSON, Grant Program Coordinator, clarified that staff looked internally at the uploaded policies. He explained that adjustments could be made to the process if they were awarded funding, stating that no organization had seen the internal risk assessments themselves.

MS. LOBERT reported that they received 385 calls, 359 intervention and safety planning referrals, and moved 26 clients into their housing program in 2021. In 2022, they received 397 calls, 375 intervention and safety planning referrals, and moved 28 clients into their housing program. In 2023, they received 429 calls, 398 intervention and safety planning referrals, and moved 30 clients into their housing program. She explained that their program is mostly outreach, since they did not have the funding and capacity to move everyone into their housing program.

Family and Child Treatment of Southern Nevada, Inc. – Domestic Violence Program: HEATHER CAMPA, Executive Director, reported that they had served Las Vegas for 40 years, noting she had been the executive director for the 16 years.

KARISSA GARR, Clinical Director, said she had been a therapist with FACT (Family and Child Treatment of Southern Nevada) for over 10 years. She confirmed that FACT serves individuals suffering from complex trauma due to victimization from domestic violence, sexual abuse, and human sex trafficking. She stated that they worked to provide their clients with counseling and therapy services through licensed professionals for as long as needed.

In response to MEMBER WHITTINGHAM, MS. CAMPA clarified that they served approximately 3,000 victims of complex trauma each year, stating that most of them are within the city of Las Vegas. She added that they use their Titanium program to input client information and run reports on how many clients they serve every year. The Member asked if they work with other organizations. MS. GARR said it would be difficult to list all the organizations, noting that they help anyone in need. She advised that their clients do not pay for therapy services, due to grant funding. She clarified that she does not serve 3,000 clients per year, but the data reflects

services that their entire clinical team provides to groups in other agencies, in-house groups, and in-house individuals. MS. CAMPA added that over the last few years, they communicated with many of the agencies that deal with human trafficking and domestic violence to ensure there was no overlap or gaps in service.

MEMBER MARLON asked if they have a bookkeeper, to which MS. CAMPA said they work with Houldsworth Russo and Company as their CPA and their Treasurer is a CPA that ensures checks and balances with their budgeting and financial statements.

MEMBER PRADO wondered why their most recent audit was for Fiscal Year 2020. MS. GARR said they recently received Fiscal Year 2021 from Houldsworth Russo and Company, noting they were working on Fiscal Year 2022. She added that they were working towards an audit stage within the next few months.

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:

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE noted that there was a question at the last meeting regarding an organization's conflict of interest policies. She opined that there was no violation, as it is permissible for relatives to serve on their board.

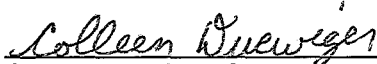
CHAIR MILLER confirmed with COLLEEN DUEWIGER, Grant Program Coordinator, that scores were due on February 20th by the end of day, and they would meet on February 26th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was recessed from 10:33 a.m. to 10:58 a.m., and was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Brian Carroll, Senior Deputy City Clerk



Colleen Duewiger, Grant Program Coordinator

Minutes Prepared by: Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk

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