



Community Development Recommending Board Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Minutes:

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

PRESENT: ACTING CHAIR McKNIGHT (seated as Co-Chair after Item 5) and MEMBERS MILLER (via teleconference and seated as Chair after Item 5), MARLON (excused until 12:06 a.m.), HADDAD, PRADO, WHITTINGHAM, LATHROP, BURKS, PAOLA, THOMAS, JACKSON, CONYERS, and RICE (excused at 3:14 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT: COLLEEN DUEWIGER, GINA CANDELARIO, and TIM GLISSON, Grant Program Coordinators; CRISLOVE IGELEKE, Deputy City Attorney; and GABRIELA PORTILLO-BRENNER, Deputy City Clerk

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

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

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2023

Motion made by Patricia Haddad to Approve

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

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Patricia Haddad, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Linda Burks, Lena Paola, Robert Lathrop, Jamie Jackson, Kathi Thomas, Vanessa Conyers, Marlon Rice; Excused-David Marlon;

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

Minutes:

ACTING CHAIR McKNIGHT nominated MEMBER MILLER to serve as Chair after confirming she would attend the remaining meetings in person. MEMBER HADDAD nominated MEMBER McKNIGHT to serve as Co-Chair.

Motion made by Mack McKnight to Approve the nomination of Karmen La'Shaun Miller as Chair

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

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Patricia Haddad, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Linda Burks, Lena Paola, Robert Lathrop, Jamie Jackson, Kathi Thomas, Vanessa Conyers, Marlon Rice; Excused-David Marlon;

Motion made by Patricia Haddad to Approve the nomination of Mack McKnight as Co-Chair

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

For-Karmen La'shaun Miller, Mack McKnight, Patricia Haddad, Ignacio Prado, Peter Whittingham, Linda Burks, Lena Paola, Robert Lathrop, Jamie Jackson, Kathi Thomas, Vanessa Conyers, Marlon Rice; Excused-David Marlon;

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

Minutes:

COLLEEN DUEWIGER, Grant Program Coordinator, reported that the City of Las Vegas' grant application process began on October 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 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.

Approximately \$3.25 million is available in HOPWA funding and \$775,000 in CDBG funding. Interested agencies were asked to attend one of two technical workshops held on October 24, 2023. The RFP closed on November 16, 2023, and the Community Development Recommending Board (CDRB) received eligible applications for review on December 4, 2023.

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

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

MEMBER MILLER noted that she was employed by the Clark County School District (CCSD) and questioned if that would conflict with Communities in Schools of Nevada. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE responded that she could vote, as the organization was separate from CCSD.

MEMBER LATHROP said he would abstain from voting on Desert Spring Community Resource Center, as he is very involved in it with his daughter, who is the Executive Director.

MEMBER MARLON stated he was employed by Vegas Stronger and would abstain from any voting and discussion on that application. He noted that he served on the board for HELP of Southern Nevada for 15 years more than two years ago and served as a counselor for The Salvation Army over ten years ago. MS. IGELEKE clarified the disclosure was fine for the latter two agencies, and she asked the Member to make the disclosure again when they discuss those items.

7. Presentations regarding applications for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 submitted by: Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN): AFAN Housing Services; Economic Opportunity Board (EOB) of Clark County: EOB HOPWA Housing Assistance Program; Golden Rainbow of Nevada, Inc.: HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Permanent Housing Placement & Supportive Services; Women's Development Center: HOPWA Program; The Just One Project: Just One's HOPWA Assistance Program; CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada, Inc.: LUCES Program; Access to Healthcare Network: Access to Healthcare

Minutes:

CO-CHAIR McKNIGHT 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.

Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) – AFAN Housing Services: ANTIOCO CARRILLO, Director; KARINA PONCE, Lead Case Manager; JORDAN BERKOWITZ, Director of Development; and LINDSAY ATKINS were present.

MR. CARRILLO thanked the Board for reviewing their application and City staff for working with them, noting they had gone through several changes over the years. He said they requested more funding for their increased services.

MS. PONCE explained that she is the coordinator that oversees the program, and she confirmed they requested additional funding due to the housing crisis, increasing rents, and the amount of people they service. She advised that they provide supportive services and a housing program, and she noted that their TBRA (Tenant-Based Rental Assistance) program served nine people last year and 14 this year. She said they provide \$800 to help people with rent, while prices had increased from \$1,200-\$1,800.

MEMBER MARLON requested a comment on their financial turnaround and improved audit capability. MR. CARRILLO clarified that they hired someone on the administrative side and an additional person focused on grants. He felt fortunate that they had all positions filled and could focus on expanding programs, and he said they examined community needs and there was a dire need for housing.

MEMBER LATHROP wondered how they measured program success, noting that the cost of housing and transportation affected services and were out of their control, and he asked if they would be adding 133 people to the program. MS. PONCE responded they would add more families to the program, and she clarified that they provide financial assistance with monthly rent and utilities to duplicated and unduplicated families, noting that Southwest Gas and rental costs had increased. In response to the Member, MS. PONCE said they track goals for the TBRA and other housing programs they offer to help clients become self-sufficient and follow-up with clients after three to six months.

MEMBER JACKSON questioned how they ensure people transition out of the program, and she asked how many people re-enter the program. MS. PONCE confirmed that they link clients other resources, such as providers with stable housing and employment opportunities, since limited income is the largest barrier. Regarding turnaround, she said their case management team works with people that are laid off, and she opined that around 40 percent of their clients do not return to the program. MR. CARRILLO noted that medication had changed people's lives, and he said their staff ensures clients become self-sufficient and do not remain in the program.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noticed that three invoices were submitted late, and he wondered what would be done to address that. MR. CARRILLO responded that they hired someone on the administrative side and were looking to hire an additional part-time employee. The Member understood they requested additional funding due to their client volume. He expressed concern that they overestimated the amount of clients, stating that they projected 306 people last year and only served 180. MS. BERKOWITZ said a majority of their clients were approaching or experiencing homelessness, noting there was a housing crisis and funding cliff with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) ending. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered how much of the increased funding request would be allocated towards salaries, and MS. BERKOWITZ clarified there would be a \$2,500 cost of living (COLA) increase for their case managers, which was a 10 percent increase.

MEMBER PRADO understood there was an overdue audit. MS. BERKOWITZ confirmed the 2022 audit was completed, which MR. CARRILLO said was submitted to the City. In response to the Member, MR. CARRILLO advised there was one finding regarding managing mail, and they implemented having multiple people open mail.

Economic Opportunity Board (EOB) of Clark County – EOB HOPWA Housing Assistance Program: LAWRENCE BEASLEY, Interim Executive Director; NIKKI LOVELY, CFO (Chief Financial Officer); TAMARA COLLINS-GOLDEN, Director of Programs; and RONNIE JOHNSON, Lead Case Manager, were present.

MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN explained that EOB was not awarded funding during the last program cycle. She referred to flyers that outlined clients served and funding invested by EOB, a copy of which was submitted for

the record, and she reported that their clients received continuous services. She noted that EOB expended \$92,000 for client services, stating that they pursue grant funds to continue serving the community. MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN said they worked with the City on program audits and continued providing monthly reports, even though EOB paid for all service costs.

MS. LOVELY referenced a letter that was submitted for the record showing their audit manager was no longer available, and she clarified that they submitted everything on May 9th to make their audits current. She said there was no issue with outstanding fees.

MR. JOHNSON noted they did not enroll any new clients and stated that they provided intensive case management for existing clients.

In response to MEMBER JACKSON'S statement regarding fundraising, MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN advised that EOB looks for funding opportunities for special populations. She stated they are the parent of the KCEP radio station, which is used for broadcasting, and will continue to use social media and seek funding for sustainability. Further, she noted EOB is the Community Action Agency for Southern Nevada and receives annual funds from the federal government, and she clarified they set aside funding for families in need. Lastly, MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN said the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) program aligns with what they do.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered if they conducted internal audits on operational systems. MS. LOVELY responded in the affirmative, noting that she worked at Deloitte & Touche for 12 years and has experience in government and non-profit agencies. She explained that her group has internal controls to ensure expenditures are allowed for each piece of funding, stating that expenditures exceeding \$5,000 require signatures from their board chairman or treasurer. MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN clarified they have similar processes for moving case management, finance, and client eligibility information, which ensures clients meet financial requirements. The Member asked if their requested amount included any salary increase for employees. MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN confirmed there was a three or five percent increase to provide competitive salaries, and she advised that EOB provides over 60 percent direct-to-client services. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM noted some invoices were submitted late, and he recommended they review their internal systems. MS. LOVELY stated that EOB invested over \$150,000 to convert from QuickBooks to Oracle NetSuite, which she believed would ensure billing is on time and allow them to provide real-time reports.

MEMBER PRADO said their risk assessment indicated the 23-24 agreements were on hold due to outstanding audits, and he questioned if they could issue a 24-25 award if the audit was not resolved. GINA CANDELARIO, Grant Program Coordinator, responded that would be determined after the Board decides whether to approve funding. The Member confirmed with MS. CANDELARIO that they were pending four audits. MEMBER PRADO believed the budget has a seven percent cap on administration, while their \$250,000 request included \$37,000 on administrative costs, and he wondered how they would be impacted if it were not fully funded. MS. COLLINS-GOLDEN said they would comply with the seven percent limit and work with City staff to reallocate the budget to not affect services.

Golden Rainbow of Nevada, Inc. – HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Permanent Housing Placement & Supportive Services: GARY COSTA, Executive Director, and DARNELL DUWYENIE, Programs Manager, were present.

MR. COSTA advised that he had run Golden Rainbow for 10 years, which he opined is the premier HIV housing organization in Southern Nevada. He stated they work with 12 community partners that refer clients in need of housing services, since they do not have case managers on site. He explained that they had received HOPWA funding for over 20 years, noting that funding was primarily limited to permanent housing placement and rental assistance, and he felt fortunate that the Helmsley Family Fund purchased two residential buildings worth over \$2 million in the previous five years to provide low-cost housing. MR. COSTA said there are 20 total units in both buildings, with eight clients in the Project-Based Rental Assistance Program (PBRA), and he confirmed this grant would continue and expand PBRA. He noted that the COVID pandemic devastated the rental market, and they would turn 12 units into low-income housing for clients in need. He clarified that PBRA is designed for 12-month transitional housing to provide a hand up to people, stating that MR. DUWYENIE ensures clients have a housing plan and meet benchmarks.

MR. DUWYENIE said they expanded their housing program to meet community needs, and he stressed the importance of tracking client success and providing supportive services. He said they had the same staff with

an added executive assistant in her second year. MR. ACOSTA confirmed their four-person organization was well run, turned in audits and reports, and worked together to see hundreds of clients each year.

MEMBER PRADO noted they were low-risk but expressed concern that the 2022 audit was not completed. He questioned if the audit had a clean opinion or any findings. MR. COSTA confirmed it was submitted with no findings.

MEMBER JACKSON asked how many people transition out, and MR. DUWYENIE responded that clients had their own needs. He clarified there is a 12-month benchmark, stating they could house those clients continuously. Further, they review short-term assistance and sustainability when providing emergency financial assistance. MR. COSTA confirmed that nobody in PBRA had returned after leaving, as they were able to find new jobs and housing, and he stated that housing plans include doctor visits, becoming a volunteer, and enrolling children into school. He conceded that some people needed temporary assistance with utility bills in the summer, but he did not consider that falling back. MR. COSTA advised that NDOT's (Nevada Department of Transportation) Project Neon took apartment buildings from Golden Rainbow, which included 12 units that housed people for 13 years on average. He opined the program had been poorly run, and he was adamant for the PBRA program to be stricter.

Women's Development Center – HOPWA Program: JILLIAN explained that Women's Development Center had been involved with HOPWA since 1997 and had served 44 families this year, many with children or disabled parents. She said there was a massive need for affordable housing, noting that over 50 percent of program participants make less than \$1,200 each month. She advised they have 40 units set aside and often serve more than 40 people. She said they assess performance by ensuring eligible clients are connected with resources, such as signing up for EBT (electronic benefit transfer), food packages, and Social Security. JESSE CONSTANTINE advised that nine of the 44 families had been moved in that year, stating that 75 percent of their 38 clients were African American. JILLIAN said over 400 people were diagnosed with HIV last year, noting there was a disproportionate demographic affected and 13 percent were ages 13-24. She stressed the importance of outreach and education within their affordable housing program. She spoke of a client that passed away who was the primary caregiver to a 19-year-old autistic child, and she confirmed they committed to housing that child in one of their other programs. Lastly, MR. CONSTANTINE said they go above and beyond to help people.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked for clarification on a \$375,000 line item for house leasing and \$98,000 for maintenance. JILLIAN responded that was a projection for that program year, stating there is a mandate to readjust client rental portions based on their monthly family income, which may change if people lose or gain employment. The Member requested documentation for money spent on rent last year. JILLIAN advised they spent \$380,000 and confirmed they spent all funding, met their goals, and did not need an extension. She explained that they spent \$124,000 towards maintenance on the 44 units, which includes staff costs, carbon monoxide units, changing filters, and landscaping. Further, she stated that client negligence caused one of their four-plex buildings to burn down, and they may use maintenance funding towards leasing if they house more people than anticipated.

MEMBER PRADO noticed there was a difference in their projected number of clients and the amount of move-ins and beneficiaries, and he questioned if they served approximately 40 clients in the previous three years. JILLIAN clarified they report people that newly enter and exit the program, stating they served 40 to 44 people for the previous six years. In response to the Member, JILLIAN advised they would fill each of the 40 units they set aside. She explained that they often receive calls from UMC (University Medical Center) with newly diagnosed people in need, and she told of someone's rent increasing from \$540 to \$1,400 and becoming homeless. MR. CONSTANTINE said most people he works with rent rooms for up to \$1,000. JILLIAN noted they have great partnerships with the community, including attorneys that help clients seal records, and she felt fortunate to be involved with HOPWA.

MEMBER PRADO questioned their main barrier increasing the amount of clients. JILLIAN stated they have affordable housing and veterans programs, and she confirmed they finished a tax credit project and were looking to acquire more housing, which would be dedicated to HOPWA.

The Just One Project – Just One's HOPWA Assistance Program: BROOKE NEUBAUER, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and Founder; TRISTAN HIGHTOWER, Senior Executive Director; and TRASHANNA, HOPWA Program Manager, were present.

MS. NEUBAUER reported that The Just One Project had served Southern Nevada for 10 years and connected 20,000 residents to their services each month. She said they were focused on removing barriers and helping connect people to food and other services, noting they started providing case management three years ago.

MS. HIGHTOWER stated that The Just One Project received funding to implement HOPWA and employed two full-time case managers. Their goal was to serve 15 households with tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA), 15 households with permanent housing placement assistance (PHP), and 35 households with short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU) each year. They used the first year of funding to provide 15 households with TBRA, 22 households with PHP, and 76 with STRMU. In the current grant year, they provided 19 households with TBRA, 9 households with PHP, and 64 households with STRMU. MS. HIGHTOWER advised that they exceeded programmatic goals and try to provide essential services to clients. She confirmed they were requesting \$1,026,481 to continue HOPWA, and she explained the budgetary increase would help them meet the demand for services, hire a bilingual case manager, and increase their goal amounts.

TRASHANNA said they had eight people on the waitlist for TBRA, stating that three clients exited the program and found employment.

MEMBER MARLON noted they had not spent 100 percent of their first year's budget and were now requesting more. MS. HIGHTOWER explained there were delays starting the program, citing issues hiring and retaining staff, and she confirmed they were fully staffed and meeting programmatic goals.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered if any of the clients were receiving duplicated services from other agencies. TRASHANNA advised that they review HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) and CAREWare to check if clients used services from other providers. In response to the Member, TRASHANNA clarified she only had one instance of someone receiving duplicate services, noting it was unintentional. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM questioned what percentage of their request would be used for employee wages. MS. HIGHTOWER confirmed that the largest portion of the budget was increased services and adding one staff member, which was \$2,000, stating that there were minor cost of living increases. The Member asked they provide that information to staff so they can ensure the amount requested was reasonable.

CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada, Inc. – LUCES Program: LOUIS HIXSON, Program Manager for Supportive Services; KARLA BANDA, HOPWA Program Supervisor; ANDRES; and DOMINIQUE, were present.

MS. BANDA advised they were requesting funding for their TBRA program and for three services they offer: short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance (STRMU); permanent housing placement; and the short-term housing hotel/motel program. She noted they were awarded funding in August 2020 and began implementing the program in May 2021, citing the pandemic for hiring and implementation delays. She confirmed the funding was rolled over, and she said they were able to serve 95 clients last year, 88 of which were provided direct services. MS. BANDA advised that 22 clients were placed into a hotel and 10 received permanent housing. Further, she said they have great relationships with other providers and were able to provide temporary housing while awaiting permanent housing from other agencies. She stated that they work with the Mexican Consulate and community health centers to provide wraparound services, such as helping clients apply for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits or find work through an AARP program. She cited a Southern Nevada Health District report stating there are over 11,000 people living with HIV in Clark County, and she hoped they could continue providing these vital services to the community. Lastly, MS. BANDA advised that 64 percent of their HOPWA clients identify as non-Latino, noting that they assist everybody.

MEMBER MARLON confirmed with MS. BANDA that they assisted 95 clients last year, with 74 receiving assistance through the HOPWA program. The Member wondered if they would have enough clients after separating from the Courtyard (Courtyard Homeless Resource Center), and MS. BANDA responded that most clients come from other agencies and not the Courtyard.

MEMBER JACKSON believed the grant application was an overview of the organization and not the Las Vegas program. She questioned how many people transition out of the program and how fundraising affected program sustainability. MS. BANDA stated that people do not often return after receiving permanent housing placement, while people are eligible for 21 weeks of assistance with STRMU. She hoped people would not need continuous assistance, noting they see clients for up to five months and encourage them to maintain on their

own. Regarding fundraising, ANDRES explained their resource development department writes grants and receives unsolicited donations to support their efforts.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM advised that the Board reviews efficiency during the risk assessment process, and he expressed concern regarding invoices that were received late. He wondered what they would do to improve their administrative efficiency. ANDRES confirmed they would be more proactive and were becoming stricter with deadlines. Further, he said more people were required to approve invoices to ensure accurate reporting, and he clarified that the audit had been completed for the last fiscal year without any findings. The Member appreciated being proactive, which he opined showed effective management. MS. BANDA added that they meet monthly to improve performance and ensure everything is submitted in a timely manner.

Access to Healthcare Network – Access to Healthcare: JENNIFER VASQUEZ, Statewide Director, appeared with SUSANA GONZALEZ, Assistant Director, and provided flyers, a copy which was submitted for the record, to explain that they had serviced 1,341 Nevada clients in their first year with HOPWA, which required additional funding they received. MS. VASQUEZ stated that they serviced 939 Las Vegas clients in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and had serviced 512 clients so far in 2023-2024. She clarified that each client begins with case management with a focus on supportive services, such as nutrition and housing services, and she noted that each client receives medical nutrition therapy. Clients are then provided health education and chronic disease self-management classes to help the aging population manage their disease and other medical issues. MS. VASQUEZ said they offer a food box delivery service, cooking classes, and grocery store tours to help clients to make healthier choices. Further, they offer a class that trains people to build container gardens and grow fresh fruit and vegetables. Lastly, MS. VASQUEZ advised that their case management goal was to see clients leaving their service, as it showed they were acquiring jobs and housing.

MEMBER PAOLA requested a breakdown of salaries, and MS. VASQUEZ responded the \$790,000 budget was broken down by each personnel in the budget that was submitted. The Member clarified with MS. VASQUEZ that clients are case managed and sent to third parties for housing, and HOPWA funding provides supportive and food services. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM had not seen the breakdown, and he asked that it be provided to staff and include any salary increases. MS. VASQUEZ confirmed the only increases were for COLA.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM confirmed with MS. VASQUEZ that SHERRI RICE, former CEO and alternate board member, and TREVOR RICE, CEO, are mother and son. The Member read an excerpt from Access to Healthcare Network's conflict of interest policy, stating that conflicts of interest may arise if employees with personal relationships have influence over employment. He worried their relationship was in conflict with their policy, which may be something City staff should review.

MEMBER HADDAD opined that the third-party organizations they work with for housing also provide case management, and she wanted more information on their collaboration. MS. VASQUEZ explained they use an assessment tool to screen clients for needed services ranked on priority, create goals, and use CAREWare to send referrals to providers.

MEMBER JACKSON clarified with MS. VASQUEZ that they anticipated servicing 585 new, unduplicated clients. The Member expressed concern regarding sustainability, since she did not see any fundraising information. MS. VASQUEZ reported they began in 2005 in Reno and started servicing Las Vegas in 2007. She said they were the only agency that had the Ryan White ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) in Nevada, noting that they passed all audits with the State of Nevada, City, and County (Clark County) and receive funding from the County and State. Further, she confirmed they were always looking at ways to help clients if funding ended, and she advised that their board wanted to look into fundraising options.

See Item 9 for related discussion.

8. Presentations regarding applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for Fiscal Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 submitted by: The Just One Project: No Cost Community Market; CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada: Workforce Development Flexible Housing; Access to Healthcare Network: Integrated Health Supports; The Salvation Army: The Career Corner; St. Jude's Ranch for Children: St. Jude's Child Victims of Sex Trafficking Program; Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring, Inc.: At-Risk Youth Mentoring & Talk; El Shaddai Refuge Homes CDC: Homeless Youth & Young Adult Job Training Program; YMCA (The Young Men's Christian Association) of Southern Nevada: Durango Hills YMCA Early Childhood Education; Desert

Spring Community Resource Center: Supporting Seniors In Their Neighborhood; Paths Forward: Ausome Beginnings; Paths Forward: Fast Forward

Minutes:

CO-CHAIR McKNIGHT 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.

The Just One Project – No Cost Community Market: BROOKE NEUBAUER, CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and Founder, and TRISTAN HIGHTOWER, Senior Executive Director, were present.

MS. NEUBAUER explained that they began as a senior-focused community pantry in 2018, noting they have 55 popup locations at senior housing agencies and eight drivers delivering to homebound seniors. She believed the No Cost Community Market displayed love between their clients and staff, and she said the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) had over 300 members and was created to help seniors combat isolation.

MS. HIGHTOWER reported that The Just One Project has three department services: Community Connect, Youth, and Food For All, which includes Meals on Wheels, the Pop Up & Give Market, and the No-Cost Community Market. She stated that the No-Cost Community Market is a food pantry that provides nutrition education, case management, supportive services, and essential non-food supplies, such as menstrual products, pet food, and paper towels. Case management connects clients to resources in order to keep seniors self-sufficient in their own homes. MS. HIGHTOWER advised that 38 percent of people receiving Food For All services are seniors. She noted that they received CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for the previous two years, which supports a senior case manager for the No-Cost Community Market that connects seniors living in the City of Las Vegas to resources. She clarified that the request would fully cover the full-time case manager, and she anticipated the program to serve 250 seniors each year.

MEMBER THOMAS asked how they ensured people using the market were CDBG-eligible participants. MS. HIGHTOWER confirmed that case managers determine eligibility by reviewing income and jurisdiction, and eligible participants are placed with a CDBG case manager.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM understood they received funding through HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS) and CDBG, and he questioned their other funding sources. MS. HIGHTOWER clarified that their funding sources varied by program area, such as Food For All receiving funding from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Outreach and commodities from Three Square and TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program). The Member wondered if they had an organizational budget that could be submitted to staff, and MS. HIGHTOWER responded affirmatively.

In response to MEMBER CONYERS, MS. HIGHTOWER explained their survey had been delayed while they figured out implementation across all programs. The Member requested the survey be submitted to the Board, and MS. HIGHTOWER agreed.

MEMBER LATHROP questioned where people were sent that do not qualify, stating that food insecurity was a serious problem. MS. HIGHTOWER clarified that Food For All has broad programming to ensure people are eligible for one of their programs, such as Meals on Wheels. She noted that clients may be referred to their partners by case managers.

CPLC (Chicanos Por La Causa) Nevada – Workforce Development Flexible Housing: LOUIS HIXSON, Program Manager, and SENEUEFA GUYTON, Supervisor, were present.

MR. HIXSON reported their Operation Home program began with 40 clients, noting that the new contract would assist 45 clients. He noted that people in their Workforce Development and YouthBuild programs faced housing instability, and he believed the requested funding would help people seeking permanent housing.

MS. GUYTON advised that their case managers provided short-term hotel/motel stays to clients for up to 90 days, while helping them apply for employment and SNAP benefits. She said CPLC Nevada believed community support resources were needed due to significant employment barriers and housing instability,

stating that they provide temporary supportive housing. She confirmed that the requested funds would allow them to provide safe and stable housing.

MEMBER JACKSON wondered if this program involved workforce development, and MR. HIXSON clarified that staff would link clients to community resources and help find them stabilized housing. The Member asked how many people receive employment and do not return, and MR. HIXSON offered to send that information.

MEMBER PRADO said there were 29 applicants requesting CDBG funding, and he questioned the program's sustainability if they received partial funding. MR. HIXSON confirmed that funding would go to existing staff with housing market expertise to link clients to housing and community services.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked how this program was different from the HOPWA program and if there were overlapping services and staff. MR. HIXSON explained that this program was complimentary to other programs and would allow them to dedicate more staff members to help people facing housing instability. He said the HOPWA program was separate but staff may overlap with other housing programs they offer.

Access to Healthcare Network – Integrated Health Supports: JENNIFER VASQUEZ, Statewide Director, explained that surveys were completed within their other programs, which found a need for Las Vegas residents ages 62 and older. She advised that their Medical Nutrition Therapy program has dietitians meet with clients, and she said they applied for CDBG funding to help clients that do not qualify for their HOPWA-funded program.

MEMBER THOMAS wondered if they worked with Medicaid or managed care organizations, noting that some services in their budget were billable services, and she believed CDBG funding might not be the best fit for those services. MS. VASQUEZ confirmed they worked with managed care organizations, and she clarified that staff is CHW (Community Health Worker) and EEF (Exchange Enrollment Facilitator) certified. She stated that some people do not qualify for Medicaid, such as the undocumented population, and she noted they screen everyone for available payer sources and use grant funding as a last resort. The Member asked what percentage of people were noninsurable, and MS. VASQUEZ responded around 80 percent.

MEMBER JACKSON questioned the \$61,500 community relations line item in the budget. MS. VASQUEZ explained that would involve a liaison connecting with community partners with similar services and ensuring they could access new funding streams. She said they add that to all grants.

MEMBER PRADO noted that this request was around 70 percent of all available funding, and he asked if there was a minimum amount required to support this program. MS. VASQUEZ wanted to have a dietitian and case manager at least partially funded.

MEMBER PAOLA noticed this budget had a salary budget that was not on their HOPWA application, and she wondered if there was duplication. MS. VASQUEZ responded there might be duplication to ensure representation, and she advised that no directors or supervisors were fully allocated. She clarified that case managers might gather all client information so they have one point of contact. The Member requested a breakdown sent to staff, and MS. VASQUEZ offered to send the FTE (full-time equivalent) information.

The Salvation Army – The Career Corner: ELSIE LAVONNE LEWIS, Director of Business; MAJOR HAROLD LAUBACH, Clark County Director; BELINDA GORDON, Lead Bookkeeper; and SHARIRA THOMAS, Vocational and Residential Services Coordinator, were present.

MS. LEWIS stated that The Salvation Army was one of the longest providers of social services in Southern Nevada, serving Las Vegas since 1948. She said they have a committed stake addressing needs of the community, noting that their \$200,000 request would support 100 low-income people using their vocational training program, which equips people at risk of homelessness with skills essential to excel in trades. She confirmed that many participants come from incarceration, homeless shelters, and recovery programs, stating that intensive case management and referrals to mental health treatment are included in the program. MS. LEWIS said they would cover participants' basic needs, such as housing and meals, and she clarified that each participant would receive individual service plans. She noted that the program was located within and would serve city of Las Vegas residents, and she advised that the program met CDBG requirements. She opined that people experiencing homelessness want to work and experienced obstacles, such as homelessness itself, physical or mental health, and lack of experience. She expected 100 people to apply for the program and

confirmed that each would be assessed and recommended for services. Lastly, MS. LEWIS listed the amount of people they served in the program from previous years.

MEMBER MARLON noted that he was a counselor for The Salvation Army over 10 years ago. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE confirmed with the Member that he could objectively evaluate this matter without any undue influence.

MEMBER PRADO confirmed with MS. LEWIS that the program was not funded last year.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered if they had similar programs funded through other sources. MS. LEWIS responded in the affirmative and listed the City of North Las Vegas and SilverSummit Healthcare as funding sources. The Member suggested referring candidates to existing programs and not creating a new program, and MS. LEWIS clarified that this program had been funded for around 15 years before not receiving funding last year. She opined that this program was different from others, since there was a housing component.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children – St. Jude's Child Victims of Sex Trafficking Program: CHRISTINA VELA, CEO, provided a flyer to the Members, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to explain that St. Jude's Ranch for Children had supported child victims of abuse and neglect for over 57 years and helped 687 unduplicated children in all programs last fiscal year. She said they identify service gaps, stating that child victims of sex trafficking need to be cared for. She confirmed that their Healing Center was under construction and would open in October, and she believed child victims could not wait. MS. VELA advised that they repurposed a home on their Boulder City campus into the HOPE (Help, Opportunities, Purpose and Empowerment) Home, which provides a safe home to children, and she cited instances of housing children at the 24-hour facility. She explained the Clark County Department of Family Services provides room and board funding to the program, which ensures safety and security to children, and she noted that individualist treatment is provided.

MEMBER JACKSON understood care was being provided and wondered how outcomes were measured. MS. VELA explained that Department of Family Services cases differed, stating that some children are trafficked by their family while others may be reunified with family members. She said their primary goal is to provide a safe place to live, and she listed other goals as education and job training. Their end goal is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

MEMBER PAOLA confirmed with MS. VELA that \$97,000 was for two youth care specialists with benefits.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM understood the program was more extensive than the youth care specialists and requested information on other funding sources. MS. VELA clarified this grant would allow them to hire two new staff members to care for children. She advised that they are a Medicaid provider and the room and board funding provided by Clark County is paid for each child living in the home. Further, she noted that St. Jude's Ranch for Children fundraises and has monthly donor programs, and she believed this program would allow them to serve more children.

Ei Shaddai Refuge Homes CDC – Homeless Youth & Young Adult Job Training Program: ANGELA BEAL appeared with TIM LOVELACE, CFO (Chief Financial Officer), and explained that they help program participants find employment, stating that the program was doing well. MR. LOVELACE advised that Ei Shaddai Refuge Homes is a homeless prevention program, noting that their program was open to anyone looking for job training. MS. BEAL confirmed they received a letter reading that they did not spend at least 50 percent of their funding last quarter, and MR. LOVELACE clarified that existing employees decided to volunteer their time instead of being paid. He reported that they hired two new employees in order to spend 100 percent of funding by the end of the fiscal year, stating they were at 56 percent as of January.

In response to MEMBER PAOLA, MR. LOVELACE explained that the program teaches work skills and provides job training to youth by working at their discount clothing store. He confirmed they receive stipends and are reimbursed for gas. MS. BEAL clarified that part-time employees are paid, while participants do not receive stipends unless they graduate from the program and become employees. Further, she said the program teaches participants to market and design clothing.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM recalled a similar presentation last year and noted there was concern regarding the quality of training and ability to satisfy grant requirements. He asked how employees were recruited. MS. BEAL

responded that they advertise and hire volunteers, and she stated that they attended grant labs to learn more about management. The Member advised that their risk assessment cited lack of process and systems, and he recommended reviewing internal operations to ensure proper management controls. MR. LOVELACE confirmed they were working on their internal control policy, which was developed in 2019 for the non-profit organization, and MS. BEAL said they were focused on ensuring invoices were not late.

MEMBER JACKSON asked how many participants received work after going through the program, and she wondered how the program would be sustained after the grant ends. MS. BEAL advised that they helped around 40 program participants find employment. MR. LOVELACE noted they have funding from other resources, use sale proceeds from the store, and receive donations.

YMCA (The Young Men's Christian Association) of Southern Nevada – Durango Hills YMCA Early Childhood Education: ERICA STEGALL, Executive Director of Child Care, provided a handout to the Members, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to report that YMCA had served over 80,000 people in Southern Nevada for 80 years. She stated that their focus was on vulnerable populations and working with underrepresented communities, noting there was a need for affordable early-childhood education. MS. STEGALL stressed that underrepresented youth enter school with lower levels of social competencies compared to children of affluent families. She said 74 percent of Nevada families are unable to access childcare, and she believed children living in poverty that attend a high-quality preschool have long-lasting positive effects. She cited a 35-year study that showed participants in their curriculum had higher school test scores and were more engaged in school, and she opined that this \$104,000 grant would have a \$1.6 million return on investment in the Las Vegas community. She confirmed that previous CDBG funding created 10 program spots at the Durango Hills YMCA, noting that YMCA fundraises to support more children. MS. STEGALL requested additional funding to support teacher wages and combat inflation.

In response to MEMBER JACKSON, MS. STEGALL clarified that parents are provided financial assistance after completing required documentation. She said the average childcare cost in Nevada is \$14,000, noting scholarships range from 50 to 80 percent with co-pays billed to the grant.

MEMBER MARLON asked about program hours, and MS. STEGALL responded Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., stating that parents must arrive by 8:00 a.m.

MEMBER PRADO wondered how many students were in low-income households. MS. STEGALL clarified that 75 percent of the 200 seats were considered low-income. In response to the Member, MS. STEGALL advised that they fundraise to lower costs and work with other community organizations to provide subsidies to families. MEMBER PRADO asked if the grant would fund a classroom, which MS. STEGALL confirmed includes the teachers.

MEMBER THOMAS appreciated that return on investment and impact were discussed, opining that the community wanted to see how taxpayer dollars affect them.

In response to MEMBER RICE, MS. STEGALL stated that lead teachers either have a BA (Bachelor's Degree) in Early Childhood Education or complete the TEACH program and are offered a full scholarship to pursue their degree. Further, she noted that the assistant teachers have an Associate's Degree and receive a personal coach through the QRIS center, and she advised that they have professional development days similar to CCSD (Clark County School District).

Desert Spring Community Resource Center – Supporting Seniors In Their Neighborhood: RAE LATHROP, Executive Director, provided a flyer to the Members, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and explained that Desert Spring Community Resource Center began in 2021 as a food program focused on people affected by the pandemic, noting they serve the Summerlin community. She advised that they had served over 42,000 people since 2021, noting their pantry is open 20 hours per week and their drive-through food distribution is open twice per month. MS. LATHROP confirmed that 46 percent of clients served in 2022 lived in Summerlin, of which 60 percent were seniors. She clarified that all clients are evaluated for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, stating they had been funded through the State of Nevada's Fund for a Healthy Nevada program since 2021. Further, she said Clark County and United Way of Southern Nevada provided funding so they could offer additional community services, including program referrals, utility assistance, and job navigation. MS. LATHROP reported that funding requested from the City would provide workshops to seniors, continue funding the food program, support staff managing around 150 volunteers, and

hire a care coordinator. She hoped the program would serve 1,200 city residents, and she stressed that retired seniors were looking for work due to rising costs. She noted their funding request was low compared to other applicants, as she wanted to ensure their goal was attainable. Lastly, she clarified they were updating their financial procedures, due to contracting with a new bookkeeper, and she offered to provide a copy of their Fiscal Year 2022 taxes once completed.

MEMBER JACKSON appreciated that they used volunteers.

In response to MEMBER HADDAD, MS. LATHROP advised that they monitor how often clients visit the food pantry and provide client surveys. She planned to invest in long-term surveys as they establish their case management program, noting they want people to feel safe, secure, and financially stable.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM questioned the population and rate of return from survey results. MS. LATHROP clarified the survey data was from 65 in-person interviews, which was around 10 percent of their weekly clients.

MEMBER MARLON said he used to live in Summerlin and requested information on the map that was submitted. MS. LATHROP explained that the zip code data came from assistance records in 2022 and 2023, stating that the heat map involved case counts by zip code and they largely serve 89144. They found that many families struggle to pay utilities and have multiple generations living together. Further, she said several clients rent rooms within Summerlin homes, citing one example of a parent wanting to keep their child in the same school.

MEMBER PRADO asked if their organization required an audit, noting they had engaged with a bookkeeping firm. MS. LATHROP advised that their operating budget was \$150,000, confirming they were completing a CPA (Certified Public Accountant) financial review and had not reached the money threshold requiring an audit.

Paths Forward – Ausome Beginnings: JAMILA RILEY, Director of Operations; ALISHA WASHINGTON, Director of Clinical Services; LaTOYA HORTON, Aspects ABA; and EDWIN PEREZ were present.

MS. RILEY reported that their non-profit agency was established in 2021 to provide mental health and social support to children. She said service provisions between mental and behavioral health needed to be linked, noting that they looked for behavioral health analysts that spoke to the needs of children. She advised that they work with children through CCSD, DJJS (Department of Juvenile Justice Services), and the Harbor.

MS. HORTON confirmed that she began collaborating with Paths Forward in 2021 to train professionals and families of children with special needs. She confirmed autism affects one in 36 children across the nation, stating the prevalence is higher in Nevada. She said many children are undiagnosed and stressed the importance of early intervention, noting that nine months could be the difference between a verbal and non-verbal child. MS. HORTON explained that Nevada did not have enough skilled professionals, and she cited a study by the Las Vegas Review-Journal that showed children on waitlists for 2.5 years. Further, she said a study by Grant a Gift Autism Foundation found 2,000 children on waitlists in the Las Vegas Valley. She was involved with a group in 2018 that diagnosed children, stating that all seven children were out of diapers, talking, and received supplemental services within CCSD. Lastly, MS. HORTON expressed support to the applicants for taking children off waitlists.

MS. WASHINGTON stressed that children are unable to receive additional services until they are diagnosed, and she believed that waitlists take critical learning time away from children. She said this application would expand their Saturday workshop and allow more children from low-income families to receive services.

MEMBER HADDAD understood the need for this service and expressed concern regarding financial policies and procedures that were listed in the risk assessment. MS. WASHINGTON explained that an independent audit was held last year to review their policies and procedures, stating that they hired an accountant that would perform an additional audit. Further, she clarified that the State of Nevada requested they adjust their policies to allow scaling of existing projects.

MEMBER MARLON appreciated the name of the project and confirmed with MS. RILEY that they had a bookkeeper. MS. WASHINGTON confirmed the bookkeeper was hired after they submitted the application and would review their books quarterly and file taxes.

MEMBER PRADO agreed that the backlog of autism diagnosis was a problem. He noted their plan showed most services were billable, and he questioned how the program would become self-sustaining within one year. MS. HORTON advised that the screening process takes up to 15 hours over several appointments with different clinicians, and she clarified that the workshop would have multiple clinicians to accelerate the process. MS. WASHINGTON explained that multiple physicians could not be billed in the same day, and she said the grant would eliminate that barrier and allow them to review how the program operates. In response to the Member, MS. WASHINGTON noted that children would leave the workshop with a diagnosis and treatment plan and then be eligible for effective case management. MS. HORTON added that insurance could be billed afterwards.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM opined that indications of autism might be present at birth, and he questioned if there was already a diagnosis system in place. MS. WASHINGTON confirmed and said the average wait time was 18 months. The Member believed that cost was minimal compared to \$2,400 per child. MS. WASHINGTON clarified that the \$2,400 was not per diagnosis but for a full-day physician at their monthly Saturday workshop. MEMBER WHITTINGHAM wondered how many clients they expected per day and how the fee compared to what a parent would pay elsewhere. MS. WASHINGTON responded six to eight, stating that the fee was comparable to billable rates. MS. HORTON advised that they contacted several clinicians to acquire their average hourly fee. Further, she said the identification process would not always reap a diagnosis, noting that children identified through the school system do not receive access to medical care until receiving a medical diagnosis.

Paths Forward – Fast Forward: MS. RILEY provided a handout to the Members, a copy of which was submitted for the record, and explained that most children have some services in place after being discharged from Child Haven and the Clark County Foster Care programs. She clarified that the Fast Forward program would provide mentorship and career exploration for youth aging out of foster care, noting an influx in youth homelessness that connects to incarceration, substance use, and pregnancy.

MS. WASHINGTON advised that 90 percent of their clients were involved with welfare, and she reported that a job developer would help clients create resumes, develop skills, and connect to employers. She stated that they collaborate with Child Haven to provide classes and services at no cost, including helping clients receive CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and lifeguard certifications. Lastly, she added they would work with clients with mental health issues.

MR. PEREZ noted that he taught classes and helped guide clients through the process of acquiring certifications and education. He hoped to help clients become employed and self-sufficient.

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked City staff to contact Iron Sharpens Iron Mentoring, Inc. and find out if they could present at the next meeting, and TIM GLISSON, Grant Program Coordinator, responded he would contact them.

9. **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:

MEMBER WHITTINGHAM asked City staff to review AHN's (Access to Healthcare Network) conflict of interest policy regarding their CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and board member being related. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY CRISLOVE IGELEKE responded that she would review the policy and report back at the next meeting.

10. **Adjournment**

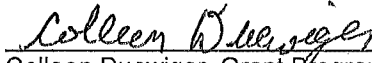
Minutes:

The meeting was recessed from 1:40 p.m. to 1:46 p.m. and from 3:11 p.m. to 3:16 p.m. and was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Gabriela Portillo-Brenner, Deputy City Clerk



Colleen Duewiger, Grant Program Coordinator

Minutes Prepared by: Brian Carroll, Senior 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