

Fallon, Nevada
26 September 2012

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Churchill County Social Services Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:15PM on the above date by Gail Bursill.

PRESENT: Pete Olsen, Co-Chair, Churchill County Commissioner – Representative for Elected Official
Gail Bursill, Chair, Red Cross Consumer Representative
Shannon Ernst, Director of Churchill County Social Services
Craig Mingay, Civil Deputy Attorney
Holly Padilla, Coordinator – Churchill County Social Services

It was verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted in accordance with NRS 241.

AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed. Commissioner Olsen made the motion to adopt the agenda as posted. Gail Bursill seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

The minutes from 07-13-12 were reviewed. Commissioner Olsen made the motion to accept the minutes from 07-13-12 as written. Gail Bursill seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair, Gail Bursill, inquired if there were any public comments not listed. Ms. Ernst advised the committee that Wishing Tree had been released. Gail Bursill inquired as to what exactly this was. Ms. Ernst explained that this was the holiday program for toys. She also advised the committee that this year there would be a change to the program, taking it back to the way that it was originally set up to be handled. Ms. Ernst had met and discussed this with Eleanor Lockwood, County Manager. This would mean that Wishing Tree and Toys for Tots would become separate programs. Previously, we would take in between 700-800 applications for both programs, conduct the eligibility assessments, and provide a list of those clients approved for Wishing Tree to Toys for Tots. An issue that arose was that after the program had been closed, Toys for Tots would open it back up and accept more applications. Wishing Tree will be limited to the first 300 families and they must be at 75% of poverty level. The gifts will be limited to one wish and clothing. The tree will go up and the tags for those approved will be on the tree. Ms. Ernst advised the committee that Mr. Harry Hines, with Toys for Tots, had called. He was not happy about the separation of these events, but had been informed that we would still provide him with a list of those individuals who had been approved for Wishing Tree. Ms. Ernst also informed the committee that due to duplication of services, Social Services will not be doing the Holiday Food Baskets this year. Social Services will be available to assist another local organization with this event and is looking for a community partner to sponsor this program.

Item 6 – Update on Food Programs

Ms. Ernst advised the committee that Backpack for Youth now has 47 regular members in the program, target was 50. Upon investigation, we were not able to obtain a prepaid Visa without having funding tied up in activation/maintenance fees. After discussion with Pastor Paul, he understands that the money is to go for food, not fees. We have reverted back to the Wal-Mart and Safeway cards with the original system of checks and balances in place, a receipt for monies spent must be provided before new cards can be purchased.

Item 7 – Community Partners/Resources Roundtable Committee Update

Ms. Ernst advised the committee that our Fallon Community Day was really amazing and a huge success. This was the first hosting of this event, but something that had actually been talked about for eight years. She informed the committee that Holly Padilla, Coordinator did an excellent job on putting this event together. Ms. Ernst referred the committee members to the event summary that was included in their information packets. Ms. Ernst talked to the committee about the overwhelming participation that we have at these meetings. Gail Bursill confirmed this for the committee, as she has been actively participating in these meetings. These meetings have been held on a monthly basis and will now be held quarterly. It has been really great to discover where our duplications/gaps in services are and all of the many resources that are available in our community. These has allowed us to transition out of the food program, and utilize the \$200 emergency assistance available through other organizations to revamp the way we do things and stretch resources. It is really amazing all of the different resources that are available in our community. Fallon Community Day was outstanding – on a very, hot Saturday, 52 vendors came together to host booths and provide information to the community about the services they provided. We had all law enforcement present, Red Cross, Walgreen's, galleries, and many, many others. The Mayor even opened the pool for free swim time. There were 500+ people fed, 400 school supply kits given away, 615 people received clothing, 200 dental checkups, 36 haircuts, 11 car seat installations/checks, 8 car seats given away, 300 first aid kits given away (could have given away 200 more), and a total of 989 volunteer hours reported. It was not the best day to have it with Country Fair being the same day, but we pushed everyone to Country Fair at the end of our event. Originally, there were concerns about the amount of power that would be needed and whether anyone would be available on the weekend if there was a problem. The City really stepped up to the plate and powered everything up and someone available to us in case of need. They also did advertising for us and included this information in the utility bills sent out to customers. We are already planning for next year's event. We are looking at different times, perhaps Spring or Fall, when it is a bit cooler. The Community Group would really like to have their clothing available for back-to-school, so perhaps, we can look at conducting a coat drive. Our next meeting will be on October 9, 2012. There will be an event summary report given at that meeting along with a discussion period to review feedback already provided and

any items that have come up since then. We learned a lot from our hosting of this event – be out earlier and have everything marked. This year’s plan of having the Coalition flag everything that morning, did not work as smoothly as we had originally thought. The vendors were able to find their location on the map upon arrival, but it was not marked and ready for them to set up. Because people who like garage sales and clothing are up and about early, we did not draw the crowds to the safety equipment like we had thought. Next year, we will have to have them in a more centrally accessible area.

Item 8 – Social Services Grant and Financial Update

Ms. Ernst discussed the CDBG grant detail and status updates with the committee. She referred them to the financial spreadsheet that was included in their packets. There are a total of 13 grants represented on this spreadsheet. Shannon Gonzales will be taking over updating all of the grant contract information (DCFS, Discretionary, and items being worked on for legislature will be added to this form). As we have just started the new fiscal year, we are not spending heavy or drawing down at this time. This spreadsheet reflects an accurate reflection of our grant picture now.

Carry over, small amount in CDBG training - \$278. Really easy to read. Rural Continuum of Care assessment not closed. HUD – new grant just received, just started spending with transitional housing program. ESG – one that had carry over, just received our grant awards. Federal government is really behind. Emergency Shelter Grant is now the Emergency Solutions Grant – previous amount of \$16,500. Ms. Ernst made the committee aware of this change as it will be on the Commissioners’ Agenda next week while she is gone. This amount has changed with the new Hearth Act. It has allowed us to take a look at our policies and make sure we are in line with this. Not looking at emergency services for people and only solving the immediate issue and not worrying about anything after that. This will allow us to put together for long-term and make people self-sufficient. That is what the Hearth Act is about with HUD. That is what the revisions to our policies look like now. We received two grants from Emergency Solutions Grant. One for prior fiscal year 2011. Federal government gives shelter money which supports PATH Room. This grant paid 50% for upcoming year and we match with county dollars. It pays for essential dollars which pay for a part of Kathi’s money to do housing counseling. This is where she sits down, does an intake and takes a look at client’s situation to determine why we are looking at homelessness. Do they need low-income apartment, not know how to budget money, etc. These intakes are done on Thursdays. We have been doing this for years and it is a very successful program. This is one small grant. The second grant for fiscal year 2012 is larger. Previous dollars were used to push stabilization into housing and taking them from homelessness. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that she went back and argued that we already have homeless programs and this is not something that we would be applying for. We need to prevent people from becoming homeless, which is where we were lacking. So, Lyon County is going to take them from homelessness because they don’t have homeless programs. Churchill County is going to prevent homelessness.

That's where our program is, we are going to pay their rent, pay utilities, and that is where we are coming up with the money to pay that \$1,000 versus \$200. So our total amount this year, rather than \$16,500 we are receiving \$36,000 to really support us to do this and also paying for us to have the case management to provide the services. We are so excited that we have received funding, cannot be required to do significantly more work and only receive \$16,500. This will come before the Commissioners next week. It brings our policies in line with the Hearth Act. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that Kathi was coming in at an exciting time. Rather than learn one way and have to then relearn, she will learn the new way right from the start. We are going to stabilize clients, not make them homeless and bring them out of it, but preventing homelessness. For those individuals that are truly homeless, they will be placed in our transitional housing programs.

CDBG Parks and Recreation – have not yet started construction. We have not been issued the Nevada notice to proceed with construction. Out of Egypt is not sure now whether they would like to construct or purchase a building. The grant has not been changed from construction to purchase, as we are not sure what is happening. There was then a discussion with the committee about the building being looked at for purchase. It is the old Fallon Industries building. There was mention of the space, loading docks, and other amenities this building would have. The building went up for auction and the bank bought it for approximately \$500,000 dollars. It will now go up for short sale. The selling price has not yet been released. Pastor Paul would like to purchase this building. Commissioner Olsen mentioned that with that building, it would have everything they need and you could possibly, depending on the price, buy more than you could build. CSBG 73,000 received. We just started spending. We received carry over funds of \$30,000. Ms. Ernst just did the modification. It will go up over \$100,000. She is working on that for all these services. The banking of this money allows us dollars to use for more salaries and everything. Gail Bursill inquired about the CDBG P & R grant and what this was for, Ms. Ernst advised her that this was the CDBG Parks and Recreation ADA improvements. The engineering assessment is still being conducted and should wrap up in another three weeks. She is waiting for another bill to come in so that she can draw only once. At that time, it will go out for construction bids.

Item 9 – Review of Emergency Services Policy

Ms. Ernst presented the final draft of this policy for the committee's review. This was the final draft signed off on by Commissioner Frey. This was presented at two Commissioners' meetings and no one spoke about it at either meeting. This revised policy will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

Item 10 – Review of New Tenants in Social Services Building

Domestic Violence now has office space in the building directly across the hall from Court Services. WIC will possibly be joining us as well. The addition of these tenants will bring new faces and new resources to our building. This will better enable us to reach out to people. Previously we had a close relationship with DVI.

As women would come out of their shelter, they would utilize our transitional housing program. It is our hope to rebuild that relationship and again be able to provide that service. DVI came to our staff meeting last week. They are trying to get up and going and get their face back out in the community. Ms. Ernst informed the committee that DVI awareness month is this month. In conjunction with this, we will be supporting them by wearing purple. Ms. Ernst asked for the committee's support in this as well. Commissioner Olsen then mentioned the presentation DVI had given to the Commissioners and that the numbers were really shocking. DVI had presented recent cases in the hundreds. Ms. Ernst explained that it is educating the public about domestic violence. There is awareness needed as to what constitutes domestic violence, where and how it happens. Ms. Ernst mentioned to the committee that we actually see quite a bit of this, because once law enforcement becomes involved, they call us. Ms. Ernst then mentioned to the committee that DVI's transitional housing program will close at the end of October. Their grant did not allow them to require their client's to complete any tasks in the way of stabilization. They will be taking a look at future grants to apply for some that do allow for stabilization requirements for their clients. In the meantime, with the end of their transitional housing program, Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that we would experience an increase in client case load.

Commissioner Olsen then asked about filling up the building, how many spaces were available, and what other organizations may occupy space. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that she would like to see Access to Healthcare have an office in our building. Gail Bursill inquired as to whether Access to Healthcare was currently in Fallon or Fernley. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that they were currently located in Fernley. Ms. Ernst explained that for about the last four years, they had an office located in the Banner Churchill Community Hospital. They lost that office a short time ago. Commissioner Olsen inquired as to what Access to Healthcare was. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that Access to Healthcare is a discount healthcare network, located in many hospitals all across Nevada. This is a program where a caseworker will determine a person's eligibility by ruling out whether they qualify for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. If they qualify for Access to Healthcare, this is a low-cost or sliding scale cost program that allows them access to medical, dental, and vision care. Doctors will accept patients and greatly discount their services. Their caseworker will help them plan their healthcare needs so that their payments can be made up front at the time of service. Access to Healthcare had no caseworker here. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that if able to secure two grants with CDBG, she would like to use some of the funding to supply Access to Healthcare with office space and funding needed for case management. This would be a great asset, as healthcare is a big issue seen at our office. Commissioner Olsen then asked how much space was available in the building. Craig Mingay said he wasn't sure what spaces the Nursing Program was using. He thought there were a total of six office spaces left. He will check and get back to us on the number of spaces available. Ms. Ernst would like to see the building filled as a Social Services resource building.

Item 11 – Review of Staff Changes

Ms. Ernst reminded the committee that Jennifer Jonte had left in July to return to school. Kathi Bryant, formerly with Welfare for 9 years, had taken Jennifer's place and started yesterday. Kathi was introduced to the committee. Kathi did a lot of case management, as well as, employment coordination with TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. We are very excited to have her with us. As our agency functions much differently from the State, Kathi is sitting in with us today to fully understand how all of the pieces fit together at this level.

Ms. Ernst then directed the committee's attention to the projected employment goals sheet that was included in their packet. This is the employment portion of what we do to work with clients to determine employment barriers, remove those barriers, and return people to work. Ms. Ernst has worked with Manny and Jody in the various tools we have available and has increased the numbers from last year.

Ms. Ernst then mentioned to the committee that Allen Kalt doesn't think some small grants are worth the time and paperwork involved. He is working on a possible plan to present this to the Commissioners and, perhaps, set a dollar limit. Ms. Ernst then discussed with the committee some of the small grants Social Services has applied for and explained that while \$10,000 may seem small to some, it is actually quite a bit of money for us and helps to keep our office functioning. She gave the example of when to not apply in the way of the United Way grant. This was a \$10,000 grant that they decided to cut to \$1,000. Then came back and said it would be cut to \$2,000. Ms. Ernst did apply for this grant and used the funds to purchase food for the food programs. The reporting of this grant was easy, but the tracking of the shelter beds is not. Since we are no longer processing food, Ms. Ernst is not applying for this grant this year. She does retain her seat on the board, though. Ms. Ernst also explained to the committee that we are being cut right and left and don't know what will happen at the upcoming legislature session. There will be a huge presentation at NACO this year. Elder services are a big issue. Nevada is high, at 46% of the population over age 60. This is to increase five times in the next few years and we will be the highest in the state. Ms. Ernst explained to the committee that grants improve the functioning of our office and that \$10,000 and \$15,000 does add up. She also mentioned to the committee that OMB has come out and said that no CSBG funds may be used to match federal funds any longer. She is still able to pay salaries with this, but must find something else for the direct match. She is consistently redoing guidelines and planning ahead for the cuts in funding and rule changes in the application of the funds received.

Ms. Ernst then mentioned that she will be working on a Housing/Community Needs Assessment per CDBG requirements. She would like to bring this information before the committee and ask them, along with Eleanor, to

participate in these discussions. HCDA requires that we prioritize what needs our community has. In the issue with Industrial Parks, this is something that we cannot do, as we cannot meet the employment hiring poverty level requirements. Ms. Ernst explains that she usually makes this a broad reflection, but shows it as a priority. New requirements require that not only is this assessment conducted, but attached and submitted with the grant. Commissioner Olsen inquired is this is what we have done in the past and Ms. Ernst assured him it was.

Item 12 – Future Items for the Agenda

There were no future agenda items.

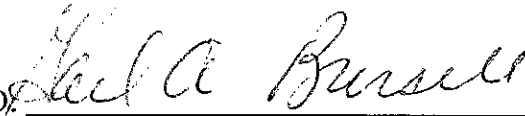
Item 13 – Schedule of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on October 10, 2012 at 3:30PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 3:55PM by Gail Bursill. Commissioner Olsen seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Gail Bursill, Chair, Advisory Committee