

**HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**April 15, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Homelessness Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 10:05 a.m. by Vice-Chair Patrick Mullany, at CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 119, Palm Desert, California 92260.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Councilmember Alan Seman with the City of Rancho Mirage led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

A roll call of the voting members was conducted and it was determined that a quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilmember Emmanuel Martinez  
Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker  
Councilmember Patrick Mullany (*Vice Chair*)  
Councilmember Kristy Franklin  
Councilmember Jean Benson  
Councilmember Ginny Foat  
Councilmember Alan Seman  
Leticia DeLara, Legislative Assistant

**AGENCY**

City of Coachella  
City of Desert Hot Springs  
City of Indian Wells  
City of La Quinta  
City of Palm Desert  
City of Palm Springs  
City of Rancho Mirage  
County of Riverside

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson (*Chair*)  
Councilmember Chuck Vasquez

**AGENCY**

City of Indio  
City of Cathedral City

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Darla Burkett, Executive Director  
Dan Bass, Executive Director  
  
Linda Barrack, Director  
  
Chuck Johnson, Program Manager/Region D

**AGENCY**

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Jewish Family Services of the  
Desert  
Jewish Family Service of San  
Diego  
Episcopal Community Services

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Frankie Riddle, Director of Special Programs  
Darlene Lowrey, Faith in Action Leader  
Sue Moreland, CEO  
Craig Redelsperger, Director  
Betty Fernandez, Exec. Director  
Daniel Manriquez, President/Founder  
Joe Nunziato, Pastor

London Pickering, Sergeant

City of Palm Desert  
Christian Center  
Jefferson Transitional Program  
211 Riverside County  
Bridge of Hope CRC  
Bridge of Hope CRC  
Desert Hot Springs Ministerial  
Assoc.  
Indio Police Department

## **SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT**

Dr. Ron Stewart, Administrative Manager/Homeless  
Maria Marquez

Rizaldy Baluyot, Supervising Facilities Project Manager  
Larry Parrish, Interim, Executive Director  
Aurora Wilson, Director of Community Resources  
Amanda Keil, Management Analyst  
Jacob Alvarez, Management Analyst  
Patty Nevins, Interim Program Assistant

County of Riverside / Homeless  
County of Riverside - Mental  
Health Services  
County of Riverside  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG  
CVAG

### 4. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA / ADDITIONS & REVISIONS** - None.

### 5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

### 6. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS / EX-OFFICIOS & DIRECTORS COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro-Tem Karl Baker commended the staff at PATH for their work and recent grand opening.

Aurora Wilson announced that Program Assistant Valarie Franklin would be out on leave for an extended period and introduced interim assistant Patty Nevins. Councilperson Alan Seman stated that Valarie will be missed and everyone hopes that she will return soon.

### 7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Aurora Wilson reported on a letter received by Senator Barbara Boxer regarding the federal appropriation of \$475,000.00 for capital expenses of the Desert Resource Center.

Mrs. Wilson also stated that a letter had been received by CVAG's Interim Executive Director from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians regretfully declining to contribute to the operations of the Desert Resource Center.

**8. MEETING MINUTES**

Vice-Chair Mullany noted that minutes from the March 18, 2009 meeting will be presented at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY UPDATE**

**9A. DESERT RESOURCE CENTER FACILITY DESIGN UPDATE**

Rizaldy Baluyot, County Supervising Facilities Project Manager assigned to the Desert Resource Center reported that construction documents were scheduled to be completed the in the beginning of July, with construction to start in August and the facility opening to take place December 1<sup>st</sup>. Pam Tuschner with WWOTC presented and reviewed site and floor plans for the Desert Resource Center.

DRC operations were reviewed. Councilmember Foat expressed concern about mixing families (inclusive of men) and single women. Councilmember Benson suggested taking space from each section to separate the families into their own section. Leticia DeLara stated that childcare should be included in the first phase, with agreement about this expressed by other members. Councilmember Foat recommended converting one of the conference rooms to a computer and employment search room.

Vincent Yzaguirre, Dir. Of Real Estate for the County, reviewed current funding. He reported that after acquisition, approximately \$2.5 million was left for improvements. Mr. Yzaguirre stated that as many amenities/services as possible were in Phase One plans, with others designated to later phases because of cost issues.

Rizaldy Baluyot indicated that, with tight timeframes, it would be important to resolve any concerns quickly. Pam Tuschner added that spaces as shown had been created with flexibility in mind, and that concerns expressed could be addressed.

**9B. COLD WEATHER SHELTER UPDATE**

Dr. Ron Stewart reported that to create savings and use space at the Desert Resource Center, it had been decided to return the cold weather shelter program back to community rotation at the end of the month, with some of the savings utilized to offset a portion of the cost of the case management. Linda Barrack reported that the homeless census was running between 30 and 35.

**9C. UPDATE ON SAFE HAVEN PROGRAMS**

Maria Marquez introduced Sue Moreland, CEO of Jefferson Transitional Programs. Ms. Moreland described the organization's typical clients and provided a handout describing the PATH program.

In response to questions about mental illness, Maria Marquez indicated that police will be educated as to when this program can be used, and what people are eligible for the program.

**9D. HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM**

John Thurman of the Riverside County Economic Development Agency provided an overview of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, overseen by HUD on a national level. Under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Riverside County is to scheduled to receive \$4.27 million in funding. He emphasized that this is separate from shelter grant funds, and is to be used for homelessness prevention. Funds can be used to help keep clients in housing for up to 18 months. The EDA will sub-grant/contract with the Housing Authority of Riverside County to take the lead on this program. Councilmember Foat asked if cities should contact the Housing Authority to inquire as to funding availability and usage. Carrie Harmon with the Housing Authority indicated that the Authority has an office in Indio, and can track clients by zip code and provide updates to electeds if requested.

**10. SOLICITATION FOR HOMELESS DONATIONS**

Jacob Alvarez reported that the Public Safety Committee had considered the matter of soliciting that takes place by homeless organizations and had concerns regarding freedom of speech. Vice Chair Mullany added that unless these solicitors are violent or break a law, law enforcement is limited in what they can do. Councilmember Foat stated that she would be glad to write an Op-Ed piece for The Desert Sun, agreeing that public education is necessary. Councilperson Seman stated that Rancho Mirage has an ordinance that can be used as a model.

**A MOTION WAS MADE AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN BY MAYOR PRO-TEM KARL BAKER TO HAVE A POLICY THAT FUNDS NOT BE SOLICITED ON THE STREET.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FOAT AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO-TEM KARL BAKER TO REFER THE MATTER TO TAC. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11. PROGRAM PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE**

**11A. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Amanda Keil reported that several organizations had expressed interest in the RFP for the Desert Resource Center, and that proposals are due by the end of the month. It is expected that the decision will go to the Executive Committee by the end of June.

**11B. TRANSPORTATION**

Ms. Keil noted that last month this body recommended that the Program Planning Subcommittee look at transportation for the Desert Resource Center as it appeared that a van route would be difficult and costly to operate. The subcommittee recommends choosing two to three hubs throughout the Coachella Valley and that the van transportation program take clients back and forth on a regular schedule to these sites.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON FOAT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON BENSON TO APPROVE THE PROGRAM PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION THAT CVAG STAFF ESTABLISH THREE MAJOR HUBS FOR SUNLINE TRANSIT AGENCY BUS LINES AND COORDINATE THE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ROUTE WITH THESE THREE STOPS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Aurora Wilson stated that a request to hold religious services at the Desert Resource Center had been received, and requested committee input. Councilperson Foat recommended putting this on the next agenda.

**12. FUNDING UPDATE**

**12A. FUNDRAISING FOR FURNISHINGS**

Amanda Keil reported that a subcommittee meeting was held at the site, and a plan was formulated. She stated that the first step would be to start with hotel, restaurant, and furnishing businesses and the organizations that these businesses are a part of. The needs of various rooms have been segmented out into financial ranges. Ms. Keil stated that Councilmember Seman will talk to those in the furnishing industry, and Councilmember Foat will approach the hotel and business industry. Councilperson Foat stated that naming rights for rooms would be offered. Additionally, service clubs will be approached to see if they are interested in taking on one room and perhaps competing to get them done.

**12B. FOUNDATIONS**

Vice Chair Mullany stated that information for items 12B, 12C, and 13 were contained in the agenda packet and members could read these on their own and contact staff with any questions.

**12C. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**

Vice Chair Mullany stated that information for items 12B, 12C, and 13 were contained in the agenda packet and members could read these on their own and contact staff with any questions.

**13. BUSS PASS PROGRAM UPDATE**

Vice Chair Mullany stated that information for items 12B, 12C, and 13 were contained in the agenda packet and members could read these on their own and contact staff with any questions.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1:46:46 Mayor Pro-Tem Karl Baker announced Assemblyman Manuel Perez was designated by the Speaker of the Assembly to be in charge of the distribution of some of the Stimulus Funds. A meeting with non-profits had taken place in Desert Hot Springs and it was suggested that a letter be sent by staff to send high-priority items for State Stimulus funds.

The next regularly meeting of the Homelessness Committee is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, California.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Nevins, Interim Program Assistant  
Department of Community Resources (DCR)  
COACHELLA VALLEY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS