

**HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
October 21, 2009**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Homelessness Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 10:02 a.m. by Chairwoman Lupe Ramos Watson, Councilmember, City of Indio, at CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Conference Room 119, Palm Desert, California 92260.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairwoman Ramos Watson, Councilmember, City of Indio, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilmember Chuck Vasquez
Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker
Councilmember Patrick Mullany (*Vice Chair*)
Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson (*Chair*)
Councilmember Kristy Franklin
Councilmember Jean Benson
Councilmember Ginny Foat
Leticia DeLara, Legislative Assistant

AGENCY

City of Cathedral City
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
County of Riverside

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Councilmember Emmanuel Martinez
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Seman

AGENCY

City of Coachella
City of Rancho Mirage

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bass, Executive Director
Joel Craddock, Senior Director
Le McClellan, Case Manger
John Wolohan, Executive Director
Lothar Vasholz, Advisory Board Chair
Dale Cook, Community Development Admin

AGENCY

Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Well in the Desert
Martha's Village and Kitchen
The Salvation Army
City of Palm Springs

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Darla Burkett, Executive Director
Chuck Johnson, Program Manager/Region D

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Episcopal Community Services

OTHERS PRESENT

David Maud
Vicki Ortega
Judy Perry
Joseph Brajo
Deborah Blasc
Sue Moreland
Linda Hodge
Jesus Gomez
Gloria Gomez
Frankie Riddle

Housing Authority, Riv. Cty.
HPRP
Riverside County
Member of the Public
Member of the Public
The PATH
City of Rancho Mirage
City of Indio
Martha's Village & Kitchen
City of Palm Desert

SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Ron Stewart, Administrative Manager
Maria Marquez, Mental Health Services Manager
Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Aurora Wilson, Director of Community Resources
Amanda Keil, Management Analyst
Jacob Alvarez, Management Analyst
Diana Paz, Interim Program Assistant

County Homeless Division
County Mental Health Services
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG
CVAG

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Maud, Riverside County Housing Authority, introduce the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Services which are now in operation in Riverside County. Mr. Maud stated this program is also listed with Riverside County's 211 Program and provided forms with guidelines, description and more information on HPRP for the Committee to read at their convenience. Mr. Maud stated Program Supervisor Carrie Harmon is setting up individual meetings with each agency and providers that are part of the Continuum of Care. Mr. Maud also requested that the information provided be passed to anyone who can benefit from this program. Mr. Maud agreed to provide a monthly tally of how many calls are placed from the Coachella Valley and how people are being served.

Sue Moreland, from The PATH, thanked the Committee and everyone who has been involved in helping form The PATH and other homeless programs in order to help those who are most in need.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS / EX-OFFICIOS & DIRECTORS COMMENTS

- Joel Craddock, from Jewish Family Service of San Diego, reported that Linda Barrack is ill with the H1N1 virus and therefore will not be attending the Committee meetings but Mr. Craddock will be attending in her place. Mrs. Barrack will be working from home part-time beginning next week. Mr. Craddock will provide an address so that the Committee can send her warm wishes to Mrs. Barrack.
- Councilmember Mullany, City of Indian Wells, reported that Mayor Pro Tem Alan Seman, City of Rancho Mirage was also ill and in the hospital; but is well and out now and will be in attendance at the next monthly meeting.
- Councilmember Mullany also thanked Sue Moreland for all her work and dedication at The PATH.
- Mayor Pro Tem Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs, noted at the last Mosquito & Vector Control Board Meeting it was announced that arrangements were made for transfer of the donated computers and IT equipment to Roy's Desert Resource Center (RDRC).
- Aurora Wilson noted Valarie Franklin will be returning to work on Monday, October 26th on a temporary basis until she is cleared from her doctor. Mrs. Wilson thanked Diana for her assistance while Valarie was out and noted Diana will resume work as CVAG's new Receptionist in place of Mary Godfrey who is now retired.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Ramos Watson stated a copy of the letter from CVAG's Chairman Steve Pougnet thanking the Board of Supervisors for honoring the late Fourth District Supervisor Roy Wilson, in renaming the upcoming homeless shelter as Roy's Desert Resource Center, was provided in the agenda packet.

8. MEETING MINUTES

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER JEAN BENSON, CITY OF PALM DESERT, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK MULLANY, CITY OF INDIAN WELLS, TO APPROVE THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 WITH THE CORRECTION MADE THAT COUNCILMEMBER FOAT WAS PRESENT AND NOT COUNCILMEMBER WIEGEL. THE MOTION CARRIED.

9. RIVERSIDE COUNTY UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE DESERT RESOURCE CENTER

9A. CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY - WEEKLY MEETING WITH CONSTRUCTION TEAM, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, ARCHITECT, AND CVAG

Vincent Yzaguirre, Project Manager – Riverside County Economic Development Agency, reported on behalf of Rizaldy Baluyot that construction of

RDRC is well under way with the team presently completing underground utilities, framing of interiors walls, insulation, electrical, and plumbing. The shelter is still expected to open December 1st. The kitchen is due to be complete by January 2010; this is due to construction phasing.

Dr. Ron Stewart, Riverside County Homeless Division, stated an outside company will be brought in to feed the residents of the shelter for the first month or until the kitchen construction is completed.

Mr. Yzaguirre reported the approved plans are complete and that the County is very pleased to help with this project.

Dr. Stewart reported \$750,000 was provided by the County to help with furnishings which will purchase kitchen equipment, beds, mattresses, linens, and essential supplies etc.

Mrs. Wilson thanked Dr. Stewart, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and the Riverside County Fourth District Office for their hard work.

Mrs. Wilson added that discussion on the ribbon cutting for the RDRC has initiated with several suggestions that it be set a week after the opening of the shelter.

9B. SAFE HAVEN/PATH PROGRAMS

Maria Marquez, County Mental Health Services, reported that there are 13 residents and 13 potential residents on the waiting list to be evaluated for residency. Mrs. Marquez stated she is very pleased with the Program and that they are working with different transitional programs to keep an ongoing collaboration. Mrs. Marquez noted the Program gets referrals through hospitals, law enforcement, and other homeless providers. She reported that an officer from the Palm Springs Police Department stops by the shelter every other day and/or weekly. Le McClellan stated that the Well in the Desert is also working with empathetic law enforcement and thanked them for their support and commitment. Ms. Marquez stated outreach cards, that are almost ready for distribution, are a good source and should be available for law enforcement to have and hand out to possible individuals in need.

10. FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH DESERT HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

Ms. Keil reported that if the Executive Committee approves the funding application for \$184,000 from the Desert Health Care District, CVAG intends to contract with Riverside County's Department of Public Health Nursing to provide a full time on site Public Health Nurse. The individual hired would be a County employee serving as a dedicated nurse for one year. Because the agreement is only for a one year period, staff is in progress of working with Public Health Nursing to find other possible fund sources for subsequent years.

Ms. Keil gave a brief approximate breakdown on operational costs: \$3,500-Equipment; \$32,290-Supervision and Overhead; \$133,392-Salaries and Benefits; \$5,500-Supplies; and \$10,000-Onsite Overhead Cost.
A discussion ensued.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER CHUCK VASQUEZ, CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK MULLANY, CITY OF INDIAN WELLS, TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE STAFF RECOMMENDED MOTION THAT THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE AGREEMENT WITH DESERT HEALTH CARE DISTRICT FOR FUNDING ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER'S NURSE'S STATION.

**MAYOR PRO TEM KARL BAKER, CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS ABSTAINED.
THE MOTION CARRIED.**

11. OPERATION AGREEMENT WITH JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF SAN DIEGO

Ms. Keil noted that a copy of the red-lined version of the contract was attached in the agenda packet for the Committee's review. Ms. Keil reported that changes were made as indicated by both the Technical Advisory Committee and CVAG's Legal Counsel.

Ms. Keil reported that the furnishings and equipment costs, originally intended to be part of the first year's operational costs, are now being covered by Riverside County Department of Public Social Service funds in the amount of \$750,000. For the first seven months of operations of at least 90 beds per night \$996,000 will be operated. The original contract amount was \$996,000. However the amount has been updated with the \$51,000 commitment from the City of Cathedral City for a total of \$1,047,484. CVAG still awaits responses from several cities and several outside funding sources for the first year of operations.

Councilmember Vasquez noted that the City of Cathedral City finally approved the Contribution to RDRC and thanked Councilmember Pettis and Councilmember Marchand for their support in helping move the City's contribution forward.

Questions arose regarding the possibility of changing the contract after additional funds are received, the number of beds at the shelter and the cost of providing a set number of beds per night. Dr. Stewart noted that the per-day bed rate is Riverside County's standard practice. Mr. Craddock clarified that although the contract provides for flexibility in providing services for up to 120 beds only 90 beds will be billed since that is the number of beds that will be initially available. Mr. Craddock stated that if services are not being provided due to lack of use, staff will be cut, funds will be lowered and ultimately the contract can be changed at any time. At this point the contract covers food, shelter, transportation, utilities, and custodial services.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER VASQUEZ, CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY, AND SECONDED BY COULCILMEMBER FOAT, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, THAT THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF SAN DIEGO FOR THE OPERATIONS OF ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER WITH:

1) THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED CHANGE;

2) TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO AMEND THE CONTRACT AMOUNT AS ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR BECOMES AVAILABLE; AND

3) TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT THE PORTION OF THE COUNTY'S NEWLY ALLOCATED ONE TIME CONTRIBUTION OF \$750,000 FOR DIRECT PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL START UP ITEMS AND/OR FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL START UP ITEMS.

MAYOR PRO TEM KARL BAKER, CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS, OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

12. FUNDING UPDATE

Ms. Keil noted that with the County's additional contribution of \$750,000 Riverside County is now at a total \$7.7 million contribution for RDRC. Ms. Keil also reported that CVAG received \$100,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation and that there are still funding requests pending including from the Berger Foundation, the Federal Appropriation, and Southern California Edison (SCE).

Councilmember Franklin reported that the City of La Quinta gave a pledge letter to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) for \$50,000 for construction of their new facility and an equal pledge letter to Martha's Village and Kitchen (MVK) for \$50,000 for construction as well. Councilmember Franklin stated it is Capital money and that the checks will be given at initiation of construction.

Dr. Stewart noted that the County at one point proposed that if operating funds were sent to MVK and/or CVRM the County would reduce operating funds and move an equal amount to RDRC. The County is not funding the two agencies' Capital projects so this arrangement is not possible in this case.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker stated that the City of Desert Hot Springs received the check from County Supervisor Marion Ashley for contribution to RDRC but the City needs to verify with the Supervisor that it is okay to deposit the check before the full matching funds are raised by the City.

Mrs. Wilson stated that CVAG has invoiced the cities of Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Indian Wells, Cathedral City, and Riverside County for contributions of RDRC.

Chair Ramos Watson, Indio City Councilmember, reported that the City's next concert promoter has been asked to contribute \$1 toward a charitable organization which in this case would be RDRC. The upcoming concert will be at the end of October and will be a three day concert. Councilmember Watson reported that once the dollar amount is received it will be her goal that the City Council approves an equal contribution to RDRC.

13. TRANSPORTATION FOR ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER

Ms. Keil reported that JFSSD has agreed to operate the transportation component which will be a route that goes back and forth from the SunLine Bus hub to RDRC. Each individual using this transportation will be given a bus pass that will allow them to access bus services.

Ms. Keil also reported that she and Mr. Kirk have been meeting with SunLine regarding the possibility of a stop at Indian Avenue and 20th Avenue by Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA). In order for MBTA to add a stop at RDRC, SunLine would have to have a contract with MBTA. At this point that is not an option, however, discussions for other options will continue to take place.

Leticia De Lara, Legislative Assistant, reported that the Riverside County Fourth District Office donated a van to RDRC.

14. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BUSINESS SCHOOLS STUDY OF THE DESERT RESOURCE CENTER ORAL REPORT

Dr. Stewart reported that on September 28th in Norwalk, Connecticut, Councilmember Ramos Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Baker, Tahlid McMicheaux, and he gave a successful presentation to Executives that gathered from all around the world to study RDRC as part of Columbia University's Senior Executive Program.

Dr. Stewart noted that the 37 Executives are now focusing on returning recommendations for sustaining the efforts of RDRC on how to keep leadership, how to keep cities engaged in this project, and marketing to get the broader community engaged. The Executives have also discussed using the RDRC site for alternative energy productions or using the empty space at RDRC for cottage industries in order to generate more revenue and lower the Cities contributions.

Dr. Stewart reported that on October 29th CVAG staff and members of the Homelessness Committee would fly to Columbia University in New York, to be part of the final presentation from the Senior Executive Group that studied RDRC.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker concurred with Dr. Stewart and noted that no formal discussion regarding homelessness in other countries was ever discussed.

Chair Ramos Watson thanked Dr. Stewart, Mayor Pro Tem Baker, and Dr. Craven for their efforts in putting a successful presentation together.

15. ATTENDANCE RECORD - An attendance record was included in member's agenda packet as an informational item.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker requested that his absence on the attendance record for February 2009 be excused.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ramos Watson reviewed the following announcements:

The next regular meeting of the Homelessness Committee is scheduled* for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the CVAG offices, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 119, Palm Desert, California. **(The Homelessness Committee has a standing meeting date and time of 10:00 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month, with the exception of months August and December when CVAG Committees are dark.)*

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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