

**HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**September 16, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments' (CVAG) Homelessness Committee meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 10:01 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 Greg Pettis  
Councilmember Emmanuel Martinez  
Mayor Pro Tem Karl Baker  
Councilmember Patrick Mullany (*Vice Chair*)  
Councilmember Lupe Ramos Watson (*Chair*)  
Councilmember Kristy Franklin  
Councilmember Jean Benson  
Councilmember Lee Weigel  
Mayor Pro Tem Alan Seman  
Leticia DeLara, Legislative Assistant

**AGENCY**

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

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Episcopal Community Services  
Jewish Family Service of the Desert  
Jewish Family Service of San Diego  
The Well in the Desert  
Martha's Village and Kitchen  
The Salvation Army  
City of Palm Springs

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Araceli Munoz  
Franklie Riddle  
Jim Huler  
C. Gail Mayer  
Deborah Blasc  
Patricia P. Be  
Linda Hodge  
Rizaldy Baluyot

Catholic Charities  
City of Palm Desert  
PSHT  
V.A. – Loma Linda

Agape Soldiers of Life & Light  
City of Palm Springs  
County of Riverside EDA

## **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**

Gail Mayer, V.A. Loma Linda Healthcare System, reported that they are conducting the yearly challenge survey. The survey targets any agency that assists homeless veterans throughout the year. Survey results are taken to Congress to assist them in making decisions in regards to homeless issues and dispersing of money.

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

- Councilmember Mullany, City of Rancho Mirage, requested that the Committee and the audience take a moment of silence in honor of the late Supervisor Roy Wilson.
- Councilmember Benson, City of Palm Desert, quoted an editorial “What a community does for their homeless speaks more than a restaurant rating or anything else that tells what kind of people live in that community”.
- Mayor Pro Tem Baker, City of Desert Hot Springs, noted the Coachella Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District reported they are clearing out their surplus equipment/furnishings. He suggested contacting Crystal Garcia the Secretary of Board of Trustees in regards to furnishings for the Desert Resource Center (DRC).
- Dale Cook, City of Palm Springs, noted that the Continuum of Care recognizes the great loss of Supervisor Wilson and is concerned with the position of the four candidates on homeless issues. Thus, the Eastern Region will formulate a survey for the four candidates and through their responses they will send a letter to the Governor

to take into consideration the issue of homelessness when making the appointment of the 4<sup>th</sup> District County Supervisor.

- Mr. Cook also provided a public notice of the 2010-2011 HUD-CPD Grant Funding Cycle. The application packages for the CDBG and ESG programs are available on line at [www.rivcoeda.org](http://www.rivcoeda.org).

- Dr. Ron Stewart, County Homeless Division Administrative Manager, reported the 2009 NOFA process will kick off shortly and the Request for Proposal will have a new housing project set forth with \$1M.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None.

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 JULY 15, 2009.**

**COUNCILMEMBER GINNY FOAT ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

9A. **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTION TO RENAME FACILITY**

Leticia De Lara, County Legislative Assistant for the Fourth Supervisorial District, reported action taken by the Board of Supervisors to rename the Desert Resource Center to Roy's Desert Resource Center.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER GINNY FOAT, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, AND COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK MULLANY, CITY OF INDIAN WELLS, TO SEND A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SIGNED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR ENDORSING THE BOARD'S ACTION ON SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> TO RENAME THE DESERT RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS IN PALM SPRINGS TO "ROY'S DESERT RESOURCE CENTER" AND THAT THE LETTER THANK COUNTY SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR TAKING SUCH ACTION. MOTION CARRIED.**

9B. **SAFE HAVEN/PATH PROGRAMS**

Maria Marquez, County Mental Health Services, reported that transportation continues to be a challenge. Tom Kirk, CVAG Executive Director, reported that Dr. Stewart has initiated conversations with Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) regarding a bus stop at the DRC since their bus lines pass by the center four times a day.

Councilmember Foat, suggested working with SunLine and the taxi agencies that were not selected as part of the SunLine franchise. Mayor Pro Tem Seman's concerns with

Councilmember Foat's suggestion was that if those agencies were not selected it may be due to the responses to the Request for Proposal's (RFP). He also questioned who, in the process of working with these agencies, would inspect the vehicles and oversee that they are running properly.

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

Rizaldy Baluyot, Riverside County Economic Development Agency, reported that the construction for the DRC is in progress and is still on schedule to open December 1, 2009. Mayor Pro Tem Baker asked if there were any pictures of the construction process. Mr. Baluyot said there were pictures and he would send them to Amanda for distribution.

## **10. FUNDING**

### **10A. OPERATIONS**

Amanda Keil gave a brief update on the DRC funding. The City of Coachella requested \$80K in CDBG funds from the State and is awaiting approval. The City of Desert Hot Springs funding has been pledged but through a council approved community effort which will include a match from County Supervisor Marion Ashley.

Councilmember Vasquez expressed disappointment in the amount of time the City of Cathedral City has taken to make a decision. He reported the \$51K commitment will be discussed in next month's meeting and he hopes the item will pass with the support of Councilmember Pettis and Councilmember Marchand. Councilmember Mullany also expressed disappointment in the outcome of the cities commitments to the DRC. Councilmember Foat concurred with Councilmember Mullany. She suggested additional presentations be done to obtain Council approval.

Chair Ramos Watson reported the City of Indio considered this item in a study session but no action was taken. Councilmember Benson suggested sending a formal letter to the Convention and Visitors Authority (CVA) in regards to contribution to the DRC from their Business Improvement District (BID). Mr. Kirk suggested taking the suggestion to the Executive Committee. Chair Ramos Watson thought a low key formal letter would be a better first option. No action was taken.

### **10B. FURNISHINGS**

Ms. Keil reported that with the help of Councilmembers Foat and Benson and Riverside County EDA's Rizaldy Baluyot nearly all of the office furnishings for the DRC have been secured from various sources. Sources include the City of Palm Desert, several County departments, and the Spa Resort Casino. Ms. Keil also reported additional funds are still needed for the remainder of the furnishings; \$257K plus \$300K that was not in the original budget for kitchen equipment totaling approximately \$557K to be raised for all remainder of furnishings.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker requested a separate report to show exactly what furnishings are secured and the cost for each. He also noted Phylis Burgess had conveyed an

additional source to receive donated furnishings through a website called "Gifts In Kind". Councilmember Foat also suggested contacting Sun-Up Rotary to speak to other rotary clubs in hopes of donations or contributions.

**11. OPERATIONS OF THE DESERT RESOURCE CENTER**

Ms. Keil gave a brief update on the scope of services for the DRC. Ms. Keil reported of the \$1,263,000 raised to date, \$36K is earmarked for the transportation program and \$184K is earmarked for the Nurse's Station.

Councilmember Foat requested a list of kitchen equipment with prices of each item. Councilmember Foat also noted she was not in favor of the program director being employed by Jewish Family Services of San Diego (JFSSD). Ms. Keil clarified that she would be overseeing the contract. Mayor Pro Tem Baker feels as though a different group other than CVAG staff should handle contracts. Mr. Kirk stated clarity needs to happen but CVAG staff is either involved or not at all. Chuck Johnson, Program Manager, explained that CVAG staff would not be involved in micromanaging duties and tasks but instead would see that things are happening.

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

Bruce Craven of Columbia University gave a brief oral presentation on the Columbia University Executive Business Schools. He reported that twice a year Columbia runs a four week Senior Executive Program, in which companies from around the world pay to send their top executives to a conference center to work for one month on developing leadership, management and their own personal development. The next Senior Executive Program is set for October 9<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup> and Columbia University has invited CVAG to be part of the program.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BAKER, CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FOAT, CITY OF PALM SPRINGS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1000 FOR UP TO TWO (2) CVAG STAFF TO JOIN CVAG HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN CONNECTICUT ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> FOR PARTICIPATION IN COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS POSITIVE IMPACT PROJECT (PIP).**

**13. ATTENDANCE RECORD**

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

**14. 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, **October 21, 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.)*

**15. 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