

**COMMUNITY HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY BOARD
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

MONDAY

9:00 A.M.

JULY 6, 2020

PRESENT:

Bob Lucey, Member (via Zoom)
Neoma Jardon, Member (via Zoom)
Marsha Berkbigler, Member (via Zoom)
Oscar Delgado, Member (via Zoom)
Kristopher Dahir, Member (via Zoom)
Ed Lawson, Member (via Zoom)

Nancy Parent, County Clerk
David Watts-Vial, Assistant District Attorney (via Zoom)

The Community Homelessness Advisory Board convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Caucus Room of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

20-046C **AGENDA ITEM 3** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

20-047C **AGENDA ITEM 4** Approval of minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Member Berkbigler, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Agenda Item 4 be approved.

20-048C **AGENDA ITEM 5** Election of Chair and Vice Chair for the Community Homelessness Advisory Board. Eric Brown, Washoe County Manager.

Chair Lucey nominated Vice Chair Jardon to become Chair for the upcoming year. Member Berkbigler seconded the nomination.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Chair Lucey, seconded by Member Berkbigler, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Vice Chair Jardon be elected as the Chair of the Community Homelessness Advisory Board (CHAB).

Vice Chair Jardon assumed the gavel as the new Chair of the CHAB.

Chair Jardon thanked Member Lucey for the work he performed as Chair of the Board. She expressed appreciation for the trust placed in her to Chair the Board during the upcoming year.

Member Berkgigler nominated Member Lawson to become Vice Chair for the upcoming year. Member Dahir seconded the nomination.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Member Berkgigler, seconded by Member Dahir, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, it was ordered that Member Lawson be elected as the Vice Chair of the Community Homelessness Advisory Board.

20-049C **AGENDA ITEM 8** Board presentation by David Watts-Vial, Assistant District Attorney regarding *Martin vs. City of Boise*, and any impact on the identified or future camping or sleeping locations for individuals experiencing homelessness. David Watts-Vial, Deputy District Attorney, Washoe County.

Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial said he was asked to speak about the impact of the *Martin vs. City of Boise* decision which came out of the Ninth Circuit the prior year. He stated the Ninth Circuit held that there were two Boise City ordinances which were said to violate the Eighth Amendment because they imposed criminal sentences against homeless individuals for sleeping outdoors on public property when no alternative shelter was available. The court said it was unconstitutional for the State to punish an involuntary act or condition if it was the unavoidable consequence of one's status or being. He said the court made a narrow holding that, as long as there were more homeless individuals than available beds in a jurisdiction, the homeless could not be prosecuted for involuntarily sitting, lying, or sleeping in public. Under the panel's decision, he indicated, local governments were forbidden from enforcing laws restricting public sleeping and camping unless they provided shelter for every homeless individual within their jurisdiction. He noted jurisdictions had to count the number of homeless people and the number of beds, and they could enforce the laws if there were more beds than homeless people.

Mr. Watts-Vial indicated counting the homeless was inherently difficult, particularly in places like Washoe County and the Cities of Sparks and Reno where people moved around on a regular basis. The question was how a jurisdiction would know if their count was accurate. He stated a one-night point in time count would undercount the homeless population because of factors such as access to temporary housing and how weather conditions might affect the number of volunteers and individuals staying in shelters. Municipalities would struggle with the question of enforcing ordinances based on the count of the homeless population. He remarked the count of available beds was not straightforward either, noting the City of Boise case discussed circumstances under which beds might not be available. Some shelters had religious requirements, maximum stays, requirements for participation in educational

programs, counseling, or check-in times. The court concluded homeless individuals who were turned away were still homeless with nowhere else to go.

Mr. Watts-Vial observed other possible concerns such as whether turning away a disruptive individual might become an issue. He said a court could find that a person who was turned away still had nowhere to sleep, so people turned away from shelters for almost any reason would potentially be the basis for a claim. He acknowledged options such as a large tent or designated camping locations had been suggested. He said the Ninth Circuit had not specified whether municipalities needed to provide shelter to the homeless, but a count of available beds and of homeless individuals would still be required each day. The count would apply to designated camping locations and large pop-up tents. He noted questions such as what was considered acceptable shelter, minimum staffing, required furnishings, restrooms, and storage were not addressed by *Martin vs. Boise*. A less obvious question was whether the tent location would be considered easily accessible by homeless individuals. He stated *Martin vs. Boise* said the requirements were specific to jurisdictions and their ability to enforce laws without an adequate number of beds. He wondered whether having the count for the region would be sufficient for the Cities of Reno and Sparks or the County to enforce their ordinances. He noted he could guide the County in deciding whether it would be sufficient, but each of the Cities would need to consult their attorneys.

Mr. Watts-Vial summarized the things he was fairly sure about were the number of beds and the accuracy of the homeless count would be key. Regardless of what ordinances might be created in the future, he said, jurisdictions would need to be sure of the number of homeless individuals and how many beds were available. He said more beds and fewer restrictions on those beds would be better. He stated he was less sure of whether the locations of beds and homeless individuals would be an issue. He said everything he presented was not designed as legal advice for each municipality. The reality was there were no clear answers and each jurisdiction would need to have in-depth conversations with their attorneys.

Vice Chair Lawson asked whether the use of an algorithm to determine daily homeless individuals was discussed. Mr. Watts-Vial replied there was no mention of an algorithm. He said one of the biggest points of dispute highlighted by the dissent was that cities and municipalities were put into a no-win situation. They would need to make sure they had a large number of beds in relation to the number of homeless individuals or they would risk a claim. He guessed the answer would be that it depended on the accuracy of the algorithm and who would prove it.

Chair Jardon asked whether the regional annual count of homeless individuals could be used if it was padded by 10 percent or 20 percent. She expressed concern about how to determine a daily count of homeless people in the region. Mr. Watts-Vial responded that providing proof was the issue. He read a quote from the dissent and summarized the annual census of homeless individuals was not considered sufficient.

Member Dahir wondered how the issue applied to a designated safe camp area. He noted the situation of homeless individuals camping along the river was not safe for anyone in the community. He inquired about possible issues when telling people they could not camp by the river and had to camp in a designated safe camp area. He said something needed to be done to protect the river. Mr. Watts-Vial replied the Ninth Circuit opinion did not necessarily prohibit municipalities from doing what Member Dahir suggested. He said a case in Saint Louis only criminalized certain areas where people could not camp, but the Boise case did not address that specific circumstance. He thought a municipality could theoretically pass an ordinance allowing the homeless to camp in a certain area but not elsewhere. He said it would depend on the number of available beds compared to the number of homeless people. He stated the issue of what to do with people who did not want to go to a shelter had not been answered.

Chair Jardon mentioned the annual count was a difficult undertaking. She acknowledged there were organizations working with the homeless population on a daily basis. She wondered whether there was a way to use the annual count as a basis, making augmentations based on counts provided by those organizations. She noted those counts might not be performed on a daily basis, but they would be more frequent than the annual count. She agreed with Member Dahir's statement about the importance of having a safe camp in concert with a structure for additional beds. She thought it appeared to meet some requirements of the law but would allow flexibility for individuals who were resistant to larger group housing.

Member Lucey highlighted the distinction between individuals experiencing homelessness and homeless people. He noted there were many different stages of homelessness. He said the point in time count was not always accurate because some individuals might experience homelessness six months after the count or they might phase in and out of homelessness. He noted some individuals accepted services while others did not. He opined safe camps should be considered as one option of a larger approach. He stressed the need to find ways of approaching every individual experiencing homelessness. He thought great strides had been made with Our Place, the overflow shelter, and the Community Assistance Center. He thought this issue would need to be considered from the standpoint of each municipality and then addressed in a consolidated manner. He stated the focus needed to be on a holistic approach.

Member Berkbigler questioned the likelihood of obtaining an accurate count even with the help of organizations who worked with the homeless. She expressed concern about the overall financial capability of the three entities to ensure there were enough available beds. She conjectured there was currently a significant shortage of beds. She thought the region was not in a position to comply with the ruling and wondered about how to work around it. She said she spoke with the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager about funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which would allow for building some affordable houses. She acknowledged the project would not address all homeless individuals, but it would help pull some people out of homelessness. She indicated she did not oppose setting up a tent, but she wondered what would be done about people who were resistant to sleeping there because of pets or

companions. She thought there were many facets to the issue which would need creative solutions.

Chair Jardon wondered whether Built for Zero might assist by engaging other organizations to find solutions. She thought the courts would take efforts to meet the requirements of the *Martin vs. City of Boise* decision into consideration as long as all available resources were used.

Member Dahir highlighted the urgency of the situation by mentioning the evictions expected in the upcoming month because of COVID-19 (C19), which might increase the number of homeless individuals significantly. He acknowledged camps were not the best goal, but they seemed to be the best option in the current situation. He said the needs of the homeless had to be addressed but pollution of the water supply needed to be stopped as well. He wondered whether any C19 funds could be used to find solutions.

Vice Chair Lawson said the homelessness issue was always discussed as a whole but it needed to be tackled a little at a time. He thought the Board needed to select some areas of focus such as veterans and youth. He understood the issue of available beds and opined it would be nearly impossible to determine a requisite number of beds based on an estimate of homeless individuals in the region. He thought regional efforts needed to start with attainable groups and expand over time. He noted the issue had developed over time and it would take years to address.

Chair Jardon agreed with Board Members' statements about the complexity of this issue, noting C19 had complicated the situation further. She agreed with Vice Chair Lawson's assertion that inaction was not an option. She said achieving perfection based on the grey areas of the law might not be possible, but supplying options for homeless individuals in the community was necessary. She stated bathrooms and blankets had to be amenities regardless of the shelter.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

20-050C **AGENDA ITEM 6** Board presentation, discussion, and possible action to accept the update on the Built for Zero initiative progress and next steps including input on the regional homelessness solutions matrix. Dana Searcy, Washoe County.

Senior Management Analyst Dana Searcy conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. She reviewed slides with the following titles: Built for Zero – Update; Built for Zero Teams; How Built for Zero communities work; Work We've Completed; By-Name List; Initial Assessment; Aligning Efforts; Next Steps; and We need your help.

Ms. Searcy referred to Board Members' questions about Agenda Item 8, saying that Built for Zero (BFZ) sought to provide answers. Ms. Searcy noted she was the Community Lead for the BFZ initiative, which meant she facilitated the conversation and

ensured the right subject matter experts were part of the process. She stated there were many people involved with the BFZ team. She explained the Regional Core Team (RCT) was composed of members from the three jurisdictions and Veterans Affairs (VA). She said the RCT went through the BFZ initiation, organized future work, and would expand into sub-committees. She mentioned regional stakeholders comprised another group involved with BFZ. She noted everyone who lived in the community was a stakeholder, but those who were listed on the regional stakeholder team were dedicated and supportive of the BFZ initiative.

Ms. Searcy said the trip to the BFZ initiation conference was cancelled and work was delayed as a result of the COVID-19 (C19) community response. She stated the RCT attended a virtual BFZ orientation where they learned about the process, methods, and tools they would use. She reviewed key differences in successful BFZ communities. She asserted collaboration was critical because single programs would not lower the number of homeless individuals to zero regardless of how successful they were. She listed the work completed so far, noting the sub-committees would complete the drafted action plan focusing on targeted areas.

Ms. Searcy displayed the questions used to analyze whether quality data was available by name. She explained the by-name list determined whether the region had a system in place for tracking individuals experiencing homelessness and their needs in real time. She acknowledged the information might not be accurate each day, but it would be as close as possible on a weekly or monthly basis. The system needed to be centralized, with everyone working in one system, processing data and determining available services in the same way. She displayed this region's initial score amongst those of 30 communities. She explained a perfect score was 28 questions answered affirmatively and this community had a score of 11. She said a community that answered yes to all 28 questions would have a list providing accurate data about individuals experiencing homelessness and their needs. She stated BFZ was not a guaranteed solution and it would require dedication from staff to navigate difficult conversations and create buy-in throughout the community. She said BFZ could serve as a guide, noting BFZ coaches were flexible in addressing long-term goals and immediate needs.

Ms. Searcy explained the two tracks of BFZ's efforts. She said there were five areas of focus on the Track A action plan, which involved gathering quality data and determining needs. She indicated the sub-committees for those focus areas were comprised of providers and partners across the region. She stated the Data Systems/By-Name List and the Outreach Coverage & Coordination sub-committees already began working. She noted staff for the five committees worked in those areas on a daily basis, but BFZ's procedures ensured everyone worked in the same manner. She stated BFZ would provide information about what worked in other communities, which would be useful when developing a plan for this region. She said the BFZ team would work with service providers in the community to get a very accurate inventory of the number of beds for emergency, transitional, and permanent supportive housing. The inventory would clarify how many beds were available at each level and identify gaps.

Ms. Searcy mentioned the most significant piece of feedback she received was that there were many good ideas in the community, but the efforts did not move in one unified direction. She suggested collaborating on the ideas and efforts. As a way of prioritizing efforts, the team wanted to develop a centralized document to serve as a summary of the work which had taken place and the ideas being evaluated. She said the project would require a significant amount of time and effort to be successful, so continued support for staff to work on BFZ was vital. She acknowledged there were always other ideas, programs, and directions, but the best option for meaningful community-wide progress was to move purposefully in one direction. She commented BFZ meant different things to different people, but for most it symbolized hope. She asserted this community could see progress if the BFZ framework was implemented. She expressed pride in the BFZ team and gratitude for the opportunity and support.

Chair Jardon thanked Ms. Searcy for the presentation and expressed appreciation for her dedication to this issue.

Member Dahir said a large component was having information such as where to begin, who was involved, and where things would go. He noted the BFZ team seemed to have something in place to compile the information. He asked how the Board might help the BFZ team expedite the data collection. He referred to Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial's statements about the importance of having good information to potentially define guidelines. Ms. Searcy said the work was not difficult but it was time-consuming and detail-oriented. The BFZ team members already had full-time jobs and C19 was an additional difficulty. She suggested each jurisdiction contribute by finding extra staff to make phone calls or analyze data. She mentioned the BFZ team wanted to provide updates to the Board every month or every other month.

Member Dahir requested monthly reports from the BFZ team to keep the project on the forefront. He asked whether the team had a timeline of goals. Ms. Searcy replied everyone on the BFZ team wanted to see results quickly but compiling and analyzing data took time. She said the two sub-committees had been working hard and she planned to share the action plan with the Board at the next meeting. The goal was to have a snapshot of the regional data by September 1.

In response to Member Dahir's question about how the Board could help the BFZ team, Member Lucey said the costs for programs needed to be discussed. He noted Washoe County collectively received \$86.7 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. He stated the jurisdictions needed to provide funding for the plans and solutions being discussed, and the CARES dollars could be used for programs protecting individuals in the community.

Member Delgado observed the State of Nevada was not included in the BFZ teams list. He asked whether there was a way to get them involved or whether they had already been contacted to participate in the BFZ initiative. Ms. Searcy noted the work performed so far was primarily administrative work, such as data collection. She thought involving the State was a good idea so she would initiate contact. Member Lucey

suggested Director of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Richard Whitley would be a good contact person.

Chair Jardon asked for a list of contacts from the various community groups working with the BFZ team. She noted homeless individuals were often absent from the groups formed to address homelessness. Ms. Searcy replied she did not have a complete list but she would generate one for the Board. She noted the Outreach sub-committee met about twice per week and there were two or three new people at each meeting. She listed some of the groups currently collaborating: Downtown Reno Partnership, the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality, Salvation for Recovery, the Washoe County Mobile Outreach Safety Team, the VA, Volunteers of America's ReStart program, the Reno Police Department, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, the Sparks Police Department, and Eddy House. Each of the participating groups was large and had been involved in outreach in the community. She said the BFZ team would create a website to provide information about the action plan, the community dashboard, and the BFZ scorecard to the public. Chair Jardon brought up Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada and Acting in Community Together in Organizing Northern Nevada and Ms. Searcy indicated both those organizations were already involved in the BFZ initiative. Chair Jardon wondered when the website would be complete. She thought sharing information with the community was critical because much of the work performed by the Board and community organizations was not known.

Vice Chair Lawson requested the action plan include information about who would be responsible, the time frame, and the definition of success. He believed successes needed to be celebrated but much of the work performed by staff behind the scenes was spread out. He thought bringing the information together would make it easier to identify successes.

Chair Jardon asked Ms. Searcy to check her calendar because she planned to request a special meeting on July 20th.

County Manager Eric Brown thanked Ms. Searcy for her presentation. He acknowledged the amount of work involved in collaborating across jurisdictions and with non-profit organizations during the C19 response. He mentioned he spoke about the BFZ initiative with representatives of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington D.C. He stated HUD recognized BFZ as a seal of approval for a community that was serious about addressing its homelessness issues. He asserted being a BFZ community went a long way towards ensuring there was a standard for documenting the homeless population in real time. He mentioned the feedback he received from the business community indicated they would offer resources if there was a coordinated effort to address the homelessness issue. He thought the BFZ initiative was the key to identifying resources other than the jurisdictional governments, which was part of what other BFZ communities had experienced.

Chair Jardon acknowledged there were other groups and organizations wanting to help once they knew the goals. She thought expediting development of the

plan would also expedite access to financial resources. She thanked Mr. Brown for his involvement and support.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

20-051C **AGENDA ITEM 7** Board presentation on current projects, Our Place, and regional planning for homelessness by the Reno Initiative for Shelter & Equality (RISE). Ben Castro, Executive Director.

Executive Director for RISE Benjamin Castro thanked Senior Management Analyst Dana Searcy and Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial for their presentations.

Mr. Castro conducted a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom, a copy of which was placed on file with the Clerk. He reviewed slides with the following titles: Presentation Outline; and History & Philosophy of RISE. He spoke about the history of RISE and said some of their biggest contributors were the unsheltered people they served.

Operations Director Kim Barghouti continued the presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Current RISE Projects and E. Fourth Rest Stop.

She reviewed the current projects in which Rise was involved. She noted RISE anticipated the number of homeless individuals would increase with upcoming foreclosures. She said the RISE and Dine program drew more than 700 community volunteers every year. She stated RISE coordinated and assisted a dozen other volunteer groups who served meals seven days a week. She mentioned meal service moved to the East Fourth Street location in November the prior year. She said the County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks were instrumental in the move and they continued to support the new site. She stated meal service was moved because they were told the presence caused a high number of emergency service calls to the campus. The move made it difficult for some homeless individuals to access meals. She reported meal service decreased from 400 people to 100 people per meal and there was no confidence the other 300 people had access to meals. She reported RISE was not aware of any emergency service calls for security reasons at the new meal location. She said meal service decreased during the COVID-19 (C19) quarantine, but they anticipated a spike in need when post-C19 evictions commenced. She mentioned the meal service sought community groups to provide meals once or twice a month.

Our Place Director Jennifer Cassady continued the presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Team Intros; Our Place Operator Team; Peer Perspective; People First Focus; and Need still exists.

Ms. Cassady stated the people were what made RISE great. She spoke about the benefits of diversity within RISE members. She discussed the peer perspective and person-first focus used by RISE. She acknowledged the needs of the community would not be met by one solution so RISE continued work on many fronts to provide

more solutions. She highlighted the need for affordable housing as a solution for homelessness.

Peer Director Lisa Lee continued the presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Safe Camp Collective; Safe Camp Intro; How can safe camps help?; Narratives (2 slides); Filling the Gaps of the Shelter; Considerations; Evidence-Based; Relationships are Key; and Social Organization & Management.

Ms. Lee thanked the Board for helping to balance the needs of the community. She spoke about the lack of affordable housing, which was a significant factor in the homelessness crisis for this region. She mentioned the barriers for shelter access and the health issues compounded by homelessness. She reviewed the results of a 2017 survey which asked homeless individuals open-ended questions. She noted the survey would continue as part of the outreach subcommittee for Built for Zero. She stated survey responses indicated constant displacement was a common hardship and stressor, and it made counting people and linking them to services more difficult. Survey responses showed that anxiety and feeling overwhelmed by a large number of people in one place were common reasons for not remaining in a shelter. She stated researchers cited three main reasons why people preferred encampments: shelter shortcomings, a sense of safety and community within encampments, and a desire for autonomy.

Ms. Lee acknowledged there were many considerations that needed to be addressed for a successful and safe encampment. She expressed confidence the community had the talent, compassion, and commitment to co-create something great. She said many cities had policies which swept people to encourage the use of city operated shelters, but evidence suggested that was an ineffective strategy because people just moved the camp to a new location. She stated the sweeping approach eroded trust and created adversarial relationships. She spoke about variations of sanctioned encampment models which were successful, many of which were initiated and sustained by marginalized people whose participatory strategies created positive change, empowerment, and self-efficacy. She believed inclusivity was paramount to successfully work with people experiencing homelessness. She mentioned the need for a centralized space and social organization in a sanctioned encampment. She said the social organization of successful encampments included shared decision making and responsibility, which made people feel human and connected to the purpose as everyone contributed. She asserted the first step in reintegrating to the broader community was to be included, respected, and treated humanely. She discussed the components of social organization which empowered residents.

Ms. Cassady continued by reviewing the Human Costs slide. She acknowledged fiscal details needed to be discussed, but the human costs resulting from inaction were too high. She recounted stories about friends she lost as a result of homelessness.

Ms. Lee continued the presentation and reviewed the slides: Cycle of Instability and By the Numbers. She said the cycle of homelessness was complicated and

involved many factors. She noted there were many solutions for homelessness and a continuum of care was needed to ensure help was delivered to as many people as possible. She acknowledged policymakers needed to make decisions based on financial costs to the public. She outlined the costs to both the public and homeless individuals that were associated with homelessness. She noted the RISE safe camp proposal would cost approximately \$10 per day per person.

Mr. Castro continued the presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: SAFE Camp Budget; Budget Discussion; Saving Money & Saving Lives; and Location & Staff.

Mr. Castro said the cost to administer a safe camp was approximately \$500,000 per year based on the proposed budget. He felt it was a modest proposal and RISE had the right people in place to administer the camp. He noted RISE intentionally employed people with experience in homelessness or recovery. He thought the compassion and motivation of the people they hired was key because they understood the importance of building relationships and establishing trust. He said everyone asked who would pay for the safe camp, noting the community already paid in the form of overburdened public institutions and staff hours spent re-establishing services for displaced people. He stated offering a place for homeless individuals to go would save money and provide a centralized data intake point to assist with gathering a true sense of the need. He emphasized the human suffering that would be saved through a safe camp. He spoke about his observations of the effects on a person of spending time outside. He acknowledged the homelessness issue would not be solved overnight and a safe camp was not an ideal solution. He felt facilitating growth would produce better outcomes than displacing homeless individuals.

Member Lucey thanked the RISE team for the work and dedication they put into the project. He said their commitment was evident in the detailed and focused directive. He mentioned the world was in the midst of a pandemic, but the local community had been experiencing a pandemic of homelessness for a long time. He noted millions of dollars had been spent protecting lives from C19 while people in the community suffered and died from homelessness all the time. He said seeing the potential savings which might be achieved through implementation of proactive programs made him question why those programs had not been established sooner. He opined what had been done to ease the suffering of homeless individuals was not aggressive enough. He reiterated his plea to have Board Members work with their jurisdictions to find ways of using Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to solve the homelessness issue that was drastically affecting this region.

Member Dahir expressed interest in how the CARES dollars might be used. He committed to taking the issue back to his jurisdiction. He approved of involving businesses in a solution which could save those businesses a significant amount of money. He appreciated the information about the safe camp.

Chair Jardon expressed appreciation for the presentation and for RISE's proposal for administering a safe camp. She wanted staff to research safe camps in other communities. She noted information about treating individuals with severe mental illness was not included in the presentation. She knew there were often barriers for treatment which needed to be addressed. She wanted information about possible uses for CARES funds for infrastructure and personnel associated with homelessness issues.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

20-052C **AGENDA ITEM 9** Board update on efforts to find a location for a longer-term shelter location for adult males to provide for adequate social distancing. City of Reno.

Acting Assistant Reno City Manager Arlo Stockham said staff had been working to secure an additional shelter site to be used during the COVID-19 (C19) pandemic to accommodate social distancing. He indicated a site had not yet been secured but staff would continue searching for a long-term site more suitable than the Reno Events Center (REC); they wanted to report back to the Board during a future meeting. He noted a plan was in place to reopen the day use facility at Record Street. He said staff would also establish contingency plans in case an alternative shelter site was needed before a long-term facility was identified.

Member Delgado requested clarification about the reopening of the day use facility. He asked whether people would stay there or only use it during the day. Mr. Stockham said there were some veterans and special needs individuals who would continue to stay there overnight. The main change would be opening the day use center, which was outside of the center and would provide people a place to find shade during the day.

Member Delgado asked whether capacity would be enforced. Mr. Stockham said it would be. He noted the center was over capacity according to the C19 guidelines, which was the reason the REC was used. He said a larger facility was needed to shelter people while maintaining social distancing.

Member Delgado asked whether Mr. Stockham could provide capacity numbers. Mr. Stockham said peak capacity was between 350 and 375 individuals housed at the REC if the entire building was used, and approximately 100 people could be sheltered at the Record Street facility. He said the possibility of using an outside tent structure in the parking lot would be considered but it would only provide shelter for an additional 100 people. A larger site was needed to provide shelter to everyone in need for the duration of the C19 guidelines.

Member Delgado asked about the capacity of the overflow shelter and whether programming was provided at the site. City of Reno Housing Neighborhood Development Manager Monica Cochran replied the County was currently using the overflow shelter for women, so it was not used for overflow. She said it was a 24-hour

facility which housed approximately 70 women. She said staff performed assessments for the day use area and determined approximately 100 individuals could safely use the area during the day.

Member Delgado summarized there was capacity for 100 day use individuals at the Community Assistance Center (CAC) with about that many staying the night. Ms. Cochran disputed this, saying people were still staying at the REC because the CAC was closed due to C19 with the exception of a few people who were allowed to use restrooms and mail facilities. She said the plan was to open it so the people staying at the REC would have somewhere to go during the day. She noted the temporary showers would be moved to the other side of the campus to provide more space and fire access.

Chair Jardon said there were currently 75 women at the women's shelter. She expressed appreciation for the work done at that facility to house those women while Our Place was completed. She asked for an estimated date when Our Place housing would become available. Assistant County Manager Kate Thomas responded the anticipated date of completion was August 15.

Chair Jardon observed the women at the overflow shelter had pets with them. She requested information about how allowing pets in the shelter and using crates for pets worked out. She asked how many people stayed at the REC each night. Ms. Cochran replied there were approximately 225 to 250 men staying overnight. She said the number of individuals was much higher when the weather was colder but there had been a decline with the warmer weather.

Member Berkgigler said pets would be allowed at Our Place when the women were moved to that location. She stated there were currently 80 women at the Our Place facility.

Chair Jardon indicated there were only men staying at the REC. Ms. Cochran said that was correct but there were discussions about allowing women back into the REC if the overflow shelter was over capacity.

Chair Jardon expressed concern about the 250 individuals at the REC who would need to be relocated because events were scheduled for that facility. She said alternative solutions were needed while a long-term location was arranged. She stated she would request a special meeting to discuss relocating those 250 individuals by August 1. She wished to know the viability of using the Edison Way housing project.

Member Berkgigler recalled there had been discussions about using a large tent structure similar to those used at the jail for overflow housing. She thought Commissioner Hartung worked with an Incline Village resident who had some tents he did not want. She asked whether there was an update on the status of those tents. If the tents were still available, she thought the Board might want to discuss a location for them during the special meeting. Chair Jardon thought the tent was analyzed and deemed not viable. Ms. Cochran said that was correct.

There was no public comment or action taken on this item.

20-053C **AGENDA ITEM 10** Board members announcements, reports and updates to include requests for future board agenda items.

Chair Jardon requested a special meeting for Monday, July 20 to discuss safe camp possibilities including operations, funding, and potential locations. She also wanted to discuss interim housing for individuals who were currently at the Reno Events Center. She wished to consider the Edison Housing project as well as other options which might be available.

Member Dahir requested updated information on the homeless veteran and youth population. He said he tried to stay in touch with Eddy House, but he wanted to know who the primary contact was for those vulnerable populations. He thought they were the best investment of time and resources in terms of seeing results.

Chair Jardon noted the new point of contact for the Board would be Acting Assistant Reno City Manager Arlo Stockham. She reiterated her request for a special meeting on July 20 and asked the Built for Zero team to attend the meeting.

In response to Member Dahir’s queries, Member Berkbigler noted Our Place would have 50 beds for teens in addition to the 50 beds available at Eddy House. She suggested the Board needed a report on the work done with homeless teens. She thought Human Services Agency Director Amber Howell could provide information on that issue. She said she could attend the special meeting on July 20, but she had an appointment at 9:30 a.m. which she would need to accommodate.

Chair Jardon called for public comment but Assistant District Attorney David Watts-Vial said public comment was not taken on Agenda Item 10.

20-054C **AGENDA ITEM 11** Public Comment.

Using the Zoom app, Mr. Jay Kolbet-Clausell mentioned the women staying at the former overflow shelter called it Our Place to Grow. He noted they had a small committee and the Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality would provide funds for the women to spend to improve services.

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11:13 a.m. There being no further business to discuss, on motion by Member Dahir, seconded by Vice Chair Lawson, which motion duly carried on a 6-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned.

NEOMA JARDON, Chair
Community Homelessness Advisory Board

ATTEST:

ASHLEY TURNEY, Reno City Clerk

*Minutes Prepared by:
Carolina Stickle, Deputy County Clerk*