

NNBHC Meeting

May 12, 2020
9:00 -10:30 AM
Zoom

Sandy Stamates. Welcome to our first Zoom meeting. Explained NNBHC to the group. Invite your friends who you think would benefit from attending. All of us got here because someone invited us, and we've been having this meeting for 5 years now. Introductions.

Agenda Item #1 – Volunteer of America – Austin Pollard

375 beds have been added to the Events Center spaced apart at least 6 feet to give people a place to go.

Gospel Mission and Catholic Charities are still available for meals and showers but there is a lack of services for homeless right now because things are closed.

They have instituted bracelets with a color system for showers, going to get meals, etc that allows for social distancing procedures so that everyone is not in the same place at the same time.

There has only been one positive case of COVID-19 this whole time. The goal right now is to get people connected with what they need. There is a need for water right now in non-reusable bottles to limit germs. As summer approaches there will be a need for sunscreen/protective measures from the sun.

NNAMHS campus is complete and will hold women and kids. Families will begin moving first starting in May. The men's shelter will be on Record Street. The women's shelter has been delayed until August so they will hopefully be at the NNAMHS campus by the beginning of June.

Q: Is the homeless shelter taking new people now? There was someone who could not get in early on during the state lockdown.

A: We have not turned people away the whole time. We are not turning people away and have restricted our banning procedures to allow even more people in. We are doing everything we can to make sure people have somewhere to go.

Q: What is the city of Reno's stance on camping in parks? They seem to be changing their policies on it and allowing camps.

A: I cannot speak to the city of Reno. I know the focus has been keeping people safe and trying to make sure everyone has a safe place to be.

- Offered by participant: The CDC has policy that says you can not disperse encampments unless you can offer housing. For the time being, encampments will only be asked to disperse so long as that policy is followed.

Contact Information: apollard@voa-ncnn.org

Agenda Item #2 – Reno Ambassador – Grant Denton

Things are better for us right now. There are not as many behavioral issues right now because people have their own space and aren't on top of one another due to social distancing procedures. We are closer with them and have been able to engage and talk with them more.

We are taking more time when it comes to safety and social distancing procedures to keep things safe and keep everyone happy. The behavioral issues have not gotten worse, and we have all gotten to know people better.

There is a disconnected idea that a bunch of homeless people in one place is negative and it is not. We are starting to see an improvement in things because the rules are being followed. People are happy here and we are helping to reinforce real life applications that will help them when they leave.

Q: I know a lot of programs are closed right now but what do you see going forward?

A: 10% of the population makes 90% of the noise. When there are too many issues over something, you have to shut it down. There are three groups when it comes to the homeless populations I work with: skill, hill, and will. We need to look at these three groups and focus on helping them. Skill: teaching them a skill and work ethic. Hill: Mental and physical disability that will limit their ability in the future. Will: A way to teach them and something to drive them. These groups can be worked with individually in a way that will help each group flourish and learn.

Q: Have you had any interaction with the folks that have been screened out of the Events Center and then taken them back to the isolated housing? I am just curious what the conversation is about that? Are people afraid or numb to it at this point?

A: I would say it is more numb. People are wearing masks and gloves but it is not really the main topic of conversation here. This is a cultural thing. We have survived by sharing and helping each other. While we encourage use of masks and distance or not sharing, people aren't really doing that. The only reason it is a topic of conversation is because of how the outside has changed.

Q: Are you seeing more people due to the increase in unemployment?

A: No. Not yet. It could be a shadow of what is happening but we have a lot of open beds right now.

Q: How has this situation impacted your ambassadors? Is the city supporting those who have been on the front line?

A: I don't know that it falls on the city to support us. If we aren't qualified then we aren't qualified. We have a unique situation where we are able to protect ourselves. It does take a toll because if you are going to be good at what we do, you have to love people and part of that is being close to people. Showing support, hugging. It is hard. But it takes fortitude and emotional stamina. The city is supportive and I don't know what they can do for us. There is a dip in morale.

Contact info: grantadenton@gmail.com

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments/Community Announcements

NAMI family class has been moved to Zoom and we added an additional family meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays.

VA Mental Health Summit at Renown Sept 29th – A virtual meeting will also be available regardless of if in person is possible. The subjects will be Rural Health and Telehealth, Families, Vocational Rehab

Renown is offering all behavioral health services virtually. We are offering our intensive outpatient services for behavioral health. First responders and healthcare worker support groups are being offered. MAT and all other services still being offered.

Reno Behavioral Healthcare Hospital is proud to offer partial adolescent outpatient treatment– six hours a day, five days a week where children are safe but they are able to go home to sleep at night. Contact us at: 775-393-2200

Town Hall: Tuesday May 19th 5:30 – 7 on zoom. There will be a panel with panelists from different lines of work

Willow Springs Update: We have been deemed a recovered facility and can accept new admissions! We are no longer taking children; our admissions will begin at age 12. We have opening for adolescent boy beds at this time. Our staff is now fully trained and we have full PPE so that we can offer safe and effective treatment.

CASAT Training is offering webinars to take place of in person classes for everyone. We have made classes available for gambling counselors who could not attend the gambling conference, interns, and an LADC/CADC test prep course. We are also offering a Nevada only Psychological First Aid in June and you can email jward@casat.org to be put on the listserv for the NNbCH meetings [Join Our Email List](#) here for the CASAT Training listserv.

Next meeting is August 11, 2020. Location will be determined closer to event and announced through the listserv with an RSVP link as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT

All information regarding the NNbCH Meetings has been moved to a new website:

<https://casatondemand.org/nnbhc-2/>
