



## RNCoC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

- When:** August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, 1:30 PM  
**Where:** via Teams  
**Who:** Rural Nevada Continuum of Care Steering Committee  
**Why:** To discuss addressing homelessness in Rural Nevada

### **Present Members:**

Jackee Stewart, Churchill County Social Services  
Christie Contreras, Carson City Health and Human Services  
Tish Morgan, Nevada Housing Division  
Dawn Tann, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Rural Clinics  
Wendy Nelson, Frontier Community Coalition  
Jamal Cunningham, Nye Communities Coalition  
Jennie Martin, Nye County Health and Human Services  
Karyn Smith, Nye County Health and Human Services  
Melanee Sampson, Nations Finest  
Rhiannon Baker, Lyon County Human Services  
Jackie Rhea, Advocates to End Domestic Violence  
Tess Fairbanks, Vitality Unlimited  
Kacey Hansberry, Vitality Unlimited  
Kara Fraki, Reno VA  
Kessa Lee, Eddie House  
Alex E., Bitfocus (representing Kelly Robson)  
Jim Peckham, F.I.S.H.  
Additional members and partners present via call

Michele Fuller-Hallauer, Winged Wolf Innovations  
Brandon Hallauer, Winged Wolf Innovations

### **1. Public Comment:**

#### **Summary:**

- **Jim Peckham (F.I.S.H.)** announced a “Celebrity Waiter” fundraiser on October 25 at Carson City Community Center. Details will be circulated via RNCoC email.
- **Michele (on behalf of Mary Jane Ostrander):** Read her retirement announcement effective **September 4, 2025**, with gratitude for RNCoC and endorsement of Winged Wolf’s coordination role. She encouraged continued innovation, advocacy, and community contributions toward the coordination contract.

## **2. MCO Presentations, Medicaid Expansion Updates**

**Presenters:** Kevin Murray (Silver Summit) & Heather (CareSource)

- **Summary:** Medicaid will expand housing supports/services in 2026. Services include specialized case management, housing transition support, housing deposits, tenancy sustainment, and medically tailored meals. Launch will begin in Clark/Washoe then expand to rurals.
- **Clarifications:**
  - Providers will bill Medicaid directly through new “housing supports and services” provider type.
  - Screening and tenancy supports are separately billable.
  - Prior authorization is required, but turnaround expected to be quick.
  - Existing Medicaid providers will amend contracts; new providers must obtain credentialing.
- **Action Items:**
  1. Providers interested should start with NPI numbers and review credentialing checklists.
  2. Sign up for state Medicaid housing services updates.

Silver Summit/CareSource to continue presentations with COCs

## **3. Election of New Co-Chairs**

**Context:** Both co-chair positions were vacant due to retirements/resignations (Mary Jeanne, Jackee).

**Nominations:**

- Karyn Smith (Nye County HHS)
- Tessia “Tess” Fairbanks (Vitality Unlimited)

**Motion:** Jim Peckham moved to elect Karyn and Tess as co-chairs. Seconded by Kessa Lee.

**Vote:** Unanimous approval.

**Result:** Karyn Smith and Tess Fairbanks elected as new RNCoc Steering Committee Co-Chairs.

## **4. CoC Coordination (Standing Item):**

**Update:**

- DPBH Rural Clinics contract executed.
- Carson City contributed \$11,000; Nye County committed \$10,000 (MOU pending).
- Four previously unfunded contract elements are now covered:
  1. PIT reports/breakouts,
  2. HUD/state/federal advocacy response,
  3. Producing Meeting Minutes and Agendas for sub-committees
  4. Qualitative and quantitative data to inform and develop strategic recommendations for the CoC
- Remaining shortfall: ~\$24,000.

## **5. Standing agenda items for updates:**

### **Nevada Housing Division:**

**Summary:**

No updates at this time.

**Bitfocus:**

**Summary:**

2026 HMIS Standard Change: Awaiting HUD approval; release expected October 1, 2025 (date may change).

**HMIS/Release of Information Policy**

**Proposal:** Shorten release periods to align statewide (written from 5 years → 3 years; verbal from 6 months → 3 months).

**Discussion:** Agreement that 3 years balances client rights with program continuity.

**Motion:** Christie moved to approve; Jim seconded.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

### **Veterans Administration**

**Summary:**

No updates at this time.

**Lived Experience Outreach**

**Kessa presented draft flyer** to recruit participants with lived experience. Feedback included:

- Add RNCoC logo and website.
- Clarify coverage of all 15 rural counties.
- Ensure editable contact section for local agencies.
- Adjust graphics to avoid misinterpretation.

**Action:** Brandon to provide RNCoC logo and coverage map. Kessa to revise the flyer accordingly.

## **6. COC Coordination & HUD NOFO Updates**

**Summary:**

**2025 HUD CoC Competition:** Imminent with significant changes expected. Street outreach and transitional housing likely allowable. Unsure if new funding will be available (may require reallocations).

**Concerns:**

Priorities diverging from Housing First emphasis.

Anticipated “banned words list” for federal applications.

**Action Items:**

Winged Wolf to monitor NOFO release closely.

Committee to plan consistent language use in applications.  
Governance Charter approval postponed; needs scheduling.

**Motions:** N/A

**Vote:** No Vote Necessary

## **7. Coordinated Entry HUD TA**

### **Summary:**

RNCoC accepted for HUD TA cohort. Participants: Wendy Nelson, Christie Contreras, Christie (Nye County), Jackee Stewart. They are Bi-weekly sessions with one-on-one coaching.

**Suggestion:** Add cohort updates as standing agenda item.

**Action:** Co-chairs agreed to include updates monthly.

### **Public Comment:**

### **Conferences:**

- Nevada Housing Coalition, Oct 15–16, 2025
- Nevada Homeless Alliance Statewide Conference, Nov 29–30, 2025
- Homeless Youth Summit, Nov 14, 2025

**F.I.S.H.:** Tours available for agencies interested in learning about services.

### **Next Steps/ Action Items:**

1. Winged Wolf to circulate Carson City FISH “Celebrity Waiter” fundraiser info to the full RNCoC distribution list.
2. Medicaid interested providers to begin credentialing prep.
3. Winged Wolf to send Kessa RNCoC logo and coverage area map
4. Kessa to revise lived experience flyer with RNCoC branding and regional coverage.
5. Winged Wolf to circulate HUD banned words list once validated.
6. Governance Charter to be added to September agenda.
7. Reinstate Coordinated Entry working group as standing agenda item.
8. Add HUD TA cohort updates to future agendas.
9. Continue funding outreach to close ~\$24,000 gap in coordination contract.
10. Winged Wolf to send info regarding upcoming conferences

**Next Meeting:** September 18, 2025

**Co-Chairs:** Karyn Smith & Tessia Fairbanks