

**Pathway Goal:** Community Partnerships    **Report:** Year-End: May 2018  
**Action Item #** 7-1

**Action Item Description:**

Goal: Help solve community problems.  
 Action: Identify UNLV resources and expertise that may be employed to assist in capacity building designed to help address the most pressing community needs.

**Submitted By:**

Name	Department
Sue DiBella	Office of Community Engagement

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**Working Group Members:**

Name	Department
Carlton Craig	School of Social Work
Sue DiBella	Office of Community Engagement
Helen Neill	Greenspun Urban Affairs
Patty Cook-Craig	School of Leadership and Public Policy
Vivek Sah	Lee Business School
Shawn Gerstenberger	School of Community Health Sciences
Natalia Samoylova	School of Social Work
Garth Winckler	Community Member
Rae Lathrop	Community Member
Gillian Barclay	Community Member

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**Process and Timeline: Provide a brief summary of the year-long process for your working group.**

Framed through the American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare (AASWSW), this subcommittee works “to champion social progress powered by science. It’s a call to action for social work researchers and practitioners to:

- Harness social work’s science and knowledge base;
- Collaborate with individuals, community-based organizations, and professionals from all fields and disciplines; and
- Work together to tackle some of our toughest social problems.”

1a) Identify local issues, needs assessments, and relevant community organizations associated with each of the 12 grand challenges, and b) to identify current UNLV faculty expertise in each area.

2. Working Group #7 will recommend focus on one of the grand challenges (End homelessness) initially as a pilot and seek support for pursuit of this focus by the UNLV Top Tier leadership.

3. The group will utilize the findings of the GA on needs assessment, UNLV expertise, and relevant community groups on the issue of homelessness.

4. Meetings of UNLV personnel (deans and faculty with expertise in the area) and community groups will be scheduled for discussion of a project plan(s) within the area of homelessness.

5. Project teams will emerge from the discussion; each project team will research grant opportunities to pursue in partnership with relevant nonprofits.

6. Grants proposals will include funding for postdocs in order to build UNLV non-faculty research staff (supporting the Top Tier Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity Goal) and to provide the project (and its faculty leaders) with the personnel to produce deliverables.

**Describe what has been accomplished so far this year.***Harness social work’s science and knowledge base*

Dr. Carlton Craig, the director of the School of Social Work and co-chair of Working Group #7, has developed a conceptual framework that uses a systems level approach and is transdisciplinary in nature (see attachment). This model incorporates the “12 Grand Challenges of Social Work” with the goal of developing practice-based research networks in the community that facilitate collaborative grant writing to address community problems. The ultimate goal is to increase prevention programs, promote UNLV collaborations with the community, increase application of evidence-based practices, and advance community resilience. This year, the working group chose homelessness as its focus. A School of Social Work GA (working 20 hours per week with Dr. Craig) has developed a list of campus experts on homelessness (and related subjects) and has identified and synthesized several gaps analyses on the subject of homelessness as well as needs assessments from across the nation, Nevada, and for Clark County.

*Collaborate with individuals, community-based organizations, and professionals from all fields and disciplines*

Numerous collaborations with the homelessness service community have been developed thus far. Dr. Craig has applied to be a member of the Continuum of Care Committee starting in 2018 which is a steering committee for homeless resources and services in Clark County. He has met with several members and a subcommittee that represented Clark County human services and a number of other homeless serving agencies in Clark County (e.g., Nevada partnership for Homeless Youth, The Nest, and Sands Corporation). Social Work had a presence at the 2017 Southern Nevada Youth Homelessness Summit. A number of social work students volunteered their help with the focus group session. GA Natasha Samoylova attended and took notes for the committee. Dr. Craig was a co-author of a white paper titled, "The State of Youth Homelessness in Nevada" that was presented by two of the keynote speakers, Drs. Patty Cook-Craig (UNLV School of Public Policy and Leadership) and Jennifer Guthrie, Ph.D (UNLV Department of Communications) (Cook-Craig, Guthrie, Sousa, Craig, Tudor, Word & Jacobowitz, 2017).

*Work together to tackle some of our toughest social problems.*

**1. Identify local issues, needs assessments, and relevant community organizations associated with each of the 12 national grand challenges and identify current UNLV faculty expertise in each area.**

The goal of the project that began in the beginning of fall was aimed at reducing homelessness through effective community-university partnership. The novelty of this project required a multidimensional approach. We started by identifying the extent of the problem, as well as local key players and university faculty interested in this population. On the national level we explored homelessness, current interventions used, and different subpopulations within the populations of interest. Several subpopulations were identified: homeless youth, including sexually trafficked children, immigrants and refugees; LGBTQ youth; homeless veterans; homeless families; homeless single adults; and chronic homeless people often with mental illness and/or substance dependence.

Next, we explored interventions, examined issues at the state level, and outlined the gaps analyses. These analyses produced several themes, including lack of affordable housing; issues with shelters, including narrow operating hours and limited availability of beds; limited transportation options; lack of animal services for those who have animals; lack of 24/7 food pantries in locations that are easily accessible; lack of a one-stop location where homeless individuals can have their many needs met; challenges with informational guides to services for homelessness; criminal justice issues; and healthcare for homeless populations.

**2. Working Group #7 will recommend focus on one of the grand challenges (End homelessness) initially as a pilot and seek support for pursuit of this focus by the UNLV Top Tier leadership.**

Homelessness has been identified as the first of the 12 challenges to be pursued, and members of Working Group #7 were selected for the special expertise they bring to this subject. This group met for the first time Nov. 30, and a presentation on the work-to-date was made. Additionally, meetings have been held with deans and directors of relevant programs.

**3. The group will utilize the findings of the GA on needs assessment, UNLV expertise, and relevant community groups on the issue of homelessness.**

Based on the information gathered, the working group will pursue several short- and long-term action plans, including:

- Continuing to meet with agencies and organizations providing services to the homeless and developing sustainable partnerships
- Supporting faculty/student scholarly activity on the issue of homelessness
- Partnering with/supporting UNLV's Hope Scholars Program
- Exploring use of technology to reach students who are food insecure
- Assisting agencies with creating more accessible homeless services guides

**Identify next steps.**

1. Meetings of UNLV personnel (deans and faculty with expertise in the area) and community groups will be scheduled for discussion of project plan(s) within the area of homelessness.
2. Project teams will emerge from the discussion; each project team will research grant opportunities to pursue in partnership with relevant nonprofits.
3. Grants proposals will include funding for postdocs in order to build UNLV non-faculty research staff (supporting the Top Tier Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity Goal) and to provide the project (and its faculty leaders) with the personnel to produce deliverables.

**What will your final product be at the end of the year? Such as, what metrics which will be used to assess your progress/achievement, will a report be generated, etc?**

The following products will be produced this year:

- A report on the findings of the School of Social Work graduate assistant.
- A list of community agencies and organizations the provide services to the homeless.
- A list of UNLV faculty with expertise in the area of homelessness or a related subject area.
- A meeting of UNLV faculty with expertise in the area of homeless or related subjects will be convened with representatives of key agencies and organizations serving the homeless.

**You may have reference material to attach to this report. Select from the list.**

No additional reference material

**OR**

Any material generated by this working group (if completed at this time)

*Local Community Needs – Addressing Homelessness*

**Additional information to include (optional).**

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**End of Mid-Year Report**  
**Remainder of the report will be completed in May.**

### Year-End

This portion is to be completed in May.

#### 2017-18 Accomplishments.

Carlton Craig reported that Working Group #7 developed a conceptual model as to how to engage the community with a transdisciplinary approach that ultimately focuses on developing practice based research networks in the community. Addressing homelessness was the community problem chosen to address this year after adopting the twelve grand challenges of social work. In the past eight months, a social work GA was provided by the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs in order to assist with data collection and community engagement meetings. The following are the tasks accomplished so far: co-chair was nominated and elected to the Continuum of Care board for Southern Nevada as the university representative; meeting with over 15 community agencies/groups; two white papers on homelessness (one presented at a conference); participation in the Nevada partnership for Homeless Youth Summit in partnership with Sands Corporation; meeting with the Hope Scholars Program; development of an UNLV expert list to engage community on homelessness; met with ad hoc homeless committee for UNLV; met with UNLV Food Pantry reps; and made progress on an app to address food insecurity on campus.

#### SWOT Analysis: Determine the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats presented in the data.

Strength(s)	Development of community partnerships
Weakness(es)	Limited staff and resources
Opportunity(ies)	To collaborate with a number of agencies that have expressed a desire and need to partner with UNLV; possibility of a number of research-based collaborations and grant writing opportunities
Threat(s)	GA graduating, so lack of continuity; lack of resources and time; challenges maintaining connection between university and community to sustain collaboration

#### 2018-19 recommendations and next steps

- What does the SWOT analysis reveal?
- What should the goals / activities be for the subcommittee?
- Who should be responsible?

Procure another GA and finish UNLV expert list as well as socialization of the academic community to the problem-based network model. Continue to work on food insecurity app and consult legal regarding its development. Dr. Craig will continue on the Continuum of Care board as the university representative for southern Nevada. Will continue to develop community partnerships and possibly develop white papers for publication.

You may have reference material to attach to this report. Select from the list.

No additional reference material

**OR**

Any material generated by this working group

**Additional information to include (optional).**

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**End of Report**

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