In November 2008 Las Vegas hosted the “Ready for Life Nevada Dropout Prevention Summit.” A key concept to arise from this summit was: “The vision that emerged was for all Nevada youth to be “ready for life” and supported by a community ethic that values education, links youth to workforce opportunities, and creates a safe learning environment for students.”\(^1\) The primary group responsible for the organization and programming at the summit was The Nevada Public Education Foundation (NVPEF). The Nevada Public Education Foundation is focused on helping Nevada’s youth succeed through “innovative practices and solutions: to help students become ready to learn, achieve successful transitions, promote equity and access, and cultivate exceptional people, (NVPEF) must develop and support innovative practices and solutions.”\(^2\) One of these solutions that will help develop students become ready to learn; a solution that will help students and young adults succeed through the challenging transitional phases; that will help students cultivate their minds and equitable and accessible educational situations the involvement of a mentor.

Mentoring in southern Nevada is performed in many ways by various organizations. The act of mentoring can be providing a big brother or sister program, after school programs for youth, or even job training for adults. Clark County’s Southern

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\(^1\) Ready for Life Statewide Action Plan for Nevada 2010 Progress Update

\(^2\) Mission Statement @ Nevada Public Ed. Foundation.
[http://www.nvpef.org/about.php](http://www.nvpef.org/about.php)
Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) is one of the organizations that coordinate, audit and fund mentoring programs in the Las Vegas valley. The SNRPC sees a great need for mentoring programs in the valley. Mentoring programs work fluidly in coordination with the SNRPC’s Committee on youth and Committee on Homelessness.

The SNRPC has not yet established a policy on what a legitimate mentoring program is and how the funding, when available, should be dispersed. The SNRPC has tasked our group to establish criteria by which mentoring programs could be judged in coordination with the mission of the SNRPC.

After meeting with the representatives if the SNRPC, our group decided that the project could be broken down into three specific areas of need: data collection, data analysis, and creation and implementation of criteria.

First, data collection is needed. There is virtually no data that exists on mentoring and mentoring programs in Clark County. Without some level of data there is no way to properly analyze what independent mentoring programs deserve or can show the most need for of public funds. This data will seek to describe what a mentoring program is and what effective programs do and how they best serve the public.

The data collection method chosen is a survey. The survey will be given to both organizations currently using SNRPC monies to fund/provide mentoring and also those organizations that would like to apply for monies and become SNRPC funded mentoring programs in the future. The survey consists of questions that are both quantitative and qualitative in nature and will seek to not only describe a legitimate mentoring program from the view of organizations of various types, but will help give qualitative insights as to how these organizations can implement or improve their existing programs in coordination and cooperation with the mission and goals of the SNRPC. At times
questions within the survey seem redundant, but that was done with the purpose of solidifying intentions and noting trends within responses.

The survey is designed in several different parts to serve various purposes. The first portion of the survey is set up to describe the organization completing the survey and is useful in providing some quantitative data. This data can be used to compare the organizations to each other and help describe the organizations that do and do not provide mentoring in Clark County.

**Survey Questions 1-3**

1. **ORGANIZATION/AGENCY NAME** ________________________________
2. **TYPE OF ORGANIZATION** (Please check all that apply):  
   - FEDERAL GRANT ☐  
   - STATE GRANT ☐  
   - REGIONAL GRANT ☐  
   - NOT FOR PROFIT ☐  
   - PRIVATE DONATION (ONE SOURCE) ☐  
   - PRIVATE DONATION (MULTIPLE SOURCES) ☐
3. **CURRENT STAFF COUNT**:  
   - PROFESSIONAL______________  
   - VOLUNTEER______________

The second set of questions is also quantitative and seeks to give data specifically tailored to mentoring and describe how the organization provides mentoring within their individual organizations in an attempt to give useful insight to the general operations of existing programs in the valley.

**Survey Questions 4-11**

4. **DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDE MENTORING?**  
   - YES / NO
5. **DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION REQUIRE MENTOR TRAINING OR CERTIFICATION?**  
   - YES / NO
6. **IF YES, WHAT IS THE DEMOGRAPHIC OF YOUR MENTORING?** (Please check all that apply)  
   - PRE-TEEN 12 YOUNGER ☐  
   - HIGHSCHOOL 13-18 YRS ☐  
   - TUTORING ☐  
   - POST GRADUATE/GED ☐  
   - JOB SKILLS/FINDING ☐
7. DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION REQUIRE BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR MENTORS AND TUTORS?
   YES    /    NO

8. WHAT TYPES OF MENTORING PROGRAMS DO YOU PROVIDE?

9. IF YES, HOW LONG HAS YOUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDED MENTORING?
   1-5 YRS ☐       6-10 YRS ☐       11-20 YRS ☐       20+ ☐

10. HOW MANY MENTORS DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION HAVE?
    EXISTING_________________                   DESIRED_________________

11. IF YOUR ORGANIZATION DOES NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDE MENTORING, DOES IT WISH TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE IN THE FUTURE?
    YES    /    NO

The final series of questions is designed to give qualitative data into the analysis. These questions allow the various organizations to describe both themselves on a deeper level, but also describe what they expect from mentoring in Clark County. This line of questions gives the SNRPC the ability to gain insight to the opinions of the organizations in the mentoring field and how the judge themselves and others who wish to provide this service to the community.

Survey Questions 12-18

12. WHAT TYPE(S) OF MENTORING PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROVIDE IN THE FUTURE?
13. WHAT OTHER SERVICES DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION PROVIDE?
14. WHAT MUST MENTORING PROGRAM MINIMALLY PROVIDE?
15. WHAT IS THE BENCHMARK FOR EFFECTIVE MENTORING?
16. WHAT DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION DO TO ENSURE THAT THE MENTORING PROCESS IS OPTIMAL?
17. IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOUR MENTORING PROGRAM OR MENTORING PROGRAMS IN GENERAL BE IMPROVED?
18. IF YOUR ORGANIZATION WERE TO RECEIVE FUNDING, WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE GOALS OF THE ORGANIZATION?
After meeting with the SNRPC is was suggested that the surveys be given to various organizations in electronic form in order to gain the most optimal feedback. The SNRPC will send out the survey (in lieu of the survey’s creators) in order to legitimize the process in the minds of those asked to complete the survey.

The survey creation step of the project will most likely be all that the group can process in the project timeline. However, the data analysis and implementation will need to be done by future groups. It is the intent of the group to provide a means by which effective data can be obtained through the survey process, and through thoughtful analysis of this data a criteria can be formulated in cooperation with the SNRPC.