## An Oral History of

## **Sharon Chamberlain and Kerry Deal**

4<sup>th</sup> Street | Prater Way History Project

Interviewed: April 11, 2012 Published: 2014 Interviewer: Jeff Auer

Interviewed together, Sharon Chamberlain and Kerry Deal discuss their work as Executive Director and Deputy Director/CFO, respectively, of Northern Nevada HOPES, a nonprofit community health center offering integrated medical care and support services at 580 West 5th Street in Reno.

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## SHARON CHAMBERLAIN AND KERRY DEAL

Interviewed on April 11, 2012 Jeff Auer, Interviewer

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Sharon Chamberlain

Kerry Deal

Auer: This is Jeff Auer speaking with Sharon Chamberlain, Executive Director of Northern Nevada HOPES And Kerry Deal, the Deputy Director and CFO for HOPES. Do you want to tell us how long you both have been working here? You can go back and forth.

Chamberlain: I've been here for eight or nine months, now, and came from L.A., so not very long.

Deal: I've been here three and a half years, and I grew up in Fallon, Nevada. I got my degree from UNR, but I lived in California for most of the time and then I came back and got the job here at HOPES

Auer: What does HOPES do? Just give a basic outline, assuming people don't know what HOPES does.

Chamberlain: HOPES is an agency that works with people who are living with HIV, and their families and partners and children. We provide clinical services and we have a pharmacy that has a lot of specialty and understanding in education around HIV medications and drug interactions. We also have a Social Services Department that works on helping people get linked into everything related to benefits— housing assistance and food benefits and Social Security and so on and so forth— as well as getting connected into drug treatment if somebody needs that or mental health services.

We also have a resource center for people who can just come and drop in during the day and access different services, use the computer for résumés or sit down and talk. HIV is very often an isolating condition, and it gives people an opportunity to get connected in the community.

Auer: What is the organizational structure of HOPES?

Deal: We're a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. We have a board of directors, with participation by

clients on the board, and then the executive director reports to the board and basically all the other departments report to the executive director.

Auer: But there are a lot of paid staff, though, is that correct?

Deal: Yes, we have twenty-six to twenty-seven employees. Most of those are full-time. The medical doctors are contracted with the University of Nevada School of Medicine. We do have our own full-time physician's assistant and RN and medical assistant in the clinic. We have two full-time pharmacists. We have a director of social services who is an LCSW, and case managers who work for the director of social services. Another service we provide is transportation, so we have a bus driver.

Chamberlain: And prevention education is a big part, so we provide HIV testing and education and services throughout the community.

Auer: Are you the only ones who do that in the Reno area?

Chamberlain: We are the only comprehensive HIV service provider in all of northern Nevada and we have clients who we serve in thirteen of the seventeen counties in Nevada.

Auer: Who are the clients of HOPES? It's a broad demographic, right? How would you describe them?

Chamberlain: I think the majority of our clients are men who have sex with men, gay men. We have a lot of clients who struggle and don't have insurance or oftentimes aren't working. We have clients who are homeless and struggling with drug use and mental health issues and have very complex lives. So really, our philosophy is meeting people where they are and then helping them to make positive change and become more stable in their lives.

Auer: But it's not just men, right?

Chamberlain: No.

Deal: We have women, and also we've had women who have given birth to children that we followed through their pregnancy and they were all born not positive—negative.

Chamberlain: Yes, I think we've got about 20 percent women and I think right now our youngest is maybe fourteen and I think our oldest is over eighty.

Auer: Can you tell me a little bit of history of HOPES as an organization?

Deal: HOPES was organized in March of 1997, so we've been here fifteen years. It was basically, from what I know, sort of a collaboration of the three major hospitals in the area—Renown, St. Mary's, and Northern Nevada—and the Washoe County Health

District. They were treating more and more people with HIV in their emergency rooms, basically, and were trying to come up with a solution to treat these people without them ending up in the E.R. So they got together and formed this nonprofit organization and applied for funding through the Ryan White Care Act, and that was basically how HOPES was started. They've been in different locations, but they have been in this current location on Fifth and Ralston for ten years, I guess.

Auer: But it's three buildings that make up HOPES, right?

Deal: Right, this Admin Building is a home that was built in 1906, and I think I mentioned to you that it is on the Historic Registry. The other older home was moved here from Hill Street in downtown Reno when they built the new art museum, and they donated the building and then HOPES paid to have it moved. Then the property behind that faces Fifth Street, I think many years ago was an old motel and then it was turned into a dental professional complex. When HOPES purchased it, there were still several dentists who were in that complex. Most of them now have moved to other locations and we've moved most of our services over into that area.

Auer: Does this have a name, this mansion we're in?

Deal: It's the Humphrey House, I believe.

Auer: Okay. Is there a long history about it? I'm assuming it's famous.

Chamberlain: It is one of the houses that the first governors used to entertain in, so it was their party house, apparently. There's a significant amount of history and, actually, we can get you a piece of that. We just recently a received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Society to do some restoration and those kinds of things. It all has to be done in periods and colors. I have a long write-up, if that will be helpful.

Auer: Yes, that would be great. And the other house that's on Ralston closer to Fourth that was moved has always fascinated me. It looks gorgeous. Why was it saved, though? Was there a history to that one?

Deal: I don't know the history of that house, but like I said, when they built the new art museum in Reno, the house had to either be torn down or moved, and so it was donated to HOPES, and I think with some assistance from money from the state, they were able to move that house over here, because it's old. I don't know if it's as old as what we call HOPES House here, but they didn't really want to tear it down, especially where a nonprofit could utilize it. That was the history behind that.

Auer: I'd like to ask you some questions about Fourth Street, now that we've sort of gone through HOPES and got a little basic about it. Do you think transportation issues play a big role in the health of the Fourth Street corridor?

Deal: I would say they do, because I think the people who live in the neighborhood

vicinity probably are less likely to have private transportation, and so public transportation is very important. Even for clients who utilize HOPES who live in this area, it's very crucial.

Auer: You used to have your administration at another house that was closer to Fourth, but you've moved, is that correct?

Deal: It wasn't admin. Admin has always been in this building on the corner of Fifth and Ralston. What was over in what we call Hill House, because it was on Hill Street, was our client drop-in center and some of our development people and events people were also housed in that building.

Auer: And you had to move them out of there because what was going on?

Deal: Yes, there were some issues with particular people who lived in an area that faced Fourth Street, and particularly with prostitutes who were coming in. It didn't create a great environment for our clients to be in, as well as our own employees.

Auer: I assume the organization wasn't pleased about that when that was happening, right?

Deal: No, I don't want to say it was scary, but it was a concern.

Chamberlain: It was before I was here. I think that there were some specific instances, but I also just want to say that some of the sex workers in this area are also people who we need to be reaching and so it's very important for us to create a welcoming environment. I think one of the things that we've been talking about is an environment where people are welcome, they do feel safe, and one of our challenges there was that it was staffed primarily by development people, right, Kerry?

Deal: Right.

Chamberlain: It wasn't the case-management folks and our mental-health folks and other people who were trained on how to get people connected with services who were manning that building. I think as we begin to do more outreach and engage some of the higher-risk populations who do frequent that Fourth Street corridor, we'll structure that differently.

Auer: What would you say are some of the greatest transportation needs within the corridor?

Chamberlain: I feel like what I hear from clients is that there's not enough transportation in general, that the transportation is not frequent enough and it's not expansive enough.

Deal: As far as reaching to the outlying areas.

Chamberlain: Yes, it's a really challenging process if somebody needs to get from our place down to access for healthcare, which is down near the Atlantis. It takes hours on the bus, and I think that that's significant, and for people coming out to access services here trying to come in along the Fourth Street corridor, it's a challenge.

Auer: Do you think there are any transportation safety needs or safety issues on the corridor? Is the traffic too fast? Are the sightlines especially bad?

Deal: I think where Fourth Street intersects with Virginia and Sierra in the center of town, that area is very congested with the casinos and stuff. I think that the congestion is not so bad on West Fourth Street. I don't go down on East Fourth very often.

Auer: But over here you wouldn't say that it's much of a problem?

Deal: We don't have any problems, no.

Auer: Do you think the number and arrangement of lanes for cars and buses should be modified in any way? If you were to be an urban planner and change it around to make it more efficient, to make it work better for, let's say, the clients, do you think anything needs to be done? Does the bus system need to be revamped in some way for people, would you say?

Chamberlain: Are there bike lanes?

Deal: I was trying to recall. I think there are. On Ralston, I've seen now they have that bike lane.

Chamberlain: Yes.

Deal: They just recently did repaving and put in new sidewalks here last summer, so that's definitely helped because they were pretty bad in this area. But on Fourth Street, I think they have bike lanes, which I think would be important. I don't know about East Fourth Street, because it seems like it's narrower over there.

Auer: Yes, I'm not sure that they actually have bike lanes. Do you feel like traffic moves quickly enough?

Chamberlain: Really just that one little section downtown gets a little congested, both with pedestrians and vehicles, people just walking out in the street and stuff.

Deal: Well, and a lot of times, too, they close off part of it for street events and things like that, so, actually, I try to avoid that area.

Chamberlain: Yes, I completely avoid that area.

Auer: Would you say that more buses are needed?

Chamberlain: Yes, I feel like it. I mean, unfortunately, I haven't ridden the bus yet, so I can't say firsthand, but I need to do that. What we hear from our clients consistently is that there's not enough public transportation.

Auer: Why do people get stuck behind buses all the time on Fourth Street when you're a driver, or have you even noticed that at all? Has it been a problem?

Deal: I have noticed that. I guess because there is no place to pull over, and if you get behind the buses and then they stop, the traffic congestion just adds to it and you can't pass.

Chamberlain: Yes, that's happened to me too.

Auer: Do you think there should be a turnoff-type situation, if that was possible, for the buses.

Deal: Yes, so that people who are in that right-hand lane could continue on if the bus is making a stop to pick up people.

Auer: Do you think Fourth Street is pedestrian-friendly?

Deal: I don't think East Fourth Street is all that pedestrian-friendly.

Auer: Why not?

Deal: Just because it seems narrower and, I don't know, it just doesn't feel pedestrianfriendly.

Auer: You're sort of referencing the split between West Fourth Street and East, and they seem to be looked at differently. But there are some similarities, right? It is still the same street.

Deal: Right.

Auer: But you're feeling that Fourth Street is not as much a problem over here in the western part as you would say in the eastern part?

Deal: Yes, that would be my feeling.

Auer: Do you have a negative perception of East Fourth Street, do you think?

Deal: I probably personally did, I guess. It's just one of those areas when I was here going to college. You really didn't go down on East Fourth Street, and particularly, I think, before they built the baseball stadium and you had Lake Street and it was just a seedy kind of area.

Auer: And so that's still your perception, or has that changed at all?

Deal: I think it's improved somewhat, definitely with the development of the ballpark and the Freight House District, although that's not directly on Fourth Street.

Auer: It does impact it.

Deal: It does seem like that. Yes, it seems better. I don't feel unsafe to drive there, but it's not a place I hang out.

Auer: Would you feel safe walking down the street there?

Deal: Yes. Well, in the daytime. [laughter] I'm sorry.

Auer: It's fine. This is interesting. Sharon, since you're new to town, you must have impressions of it too. You're coming from Los Angeles. What's your impression of it?

Chamberlain: I don't know that you want me to say this, but I guess you can conclude whatever you want. To me, Reno is small and it's not L.A., so when I hear about Fourth Street and the different areas—that it's a little seedy here or there—it's just not my impression, because Reno, to me, feels extremely safe. I haven't yet found the part of Reno where I wouldn't walk around at night or I couldn't hold my girlfriend's hand or any of that kind of stuff. It's fascinating because some of the people here say, "Oh, I wouldn't walk downtown and hold my boyfriend's hand," or "my girlfriend's hand," and it doesn't feel that way to me, so maybe I'm just naïve.

Deal: Yes, I'm leery of holding my boyfriend's hand.

Chamberlain: Yes, it's so interesting.

Dean: He came here just recently—it was six months ago—from the Midwest and he wants to do that, and I still have that perception that it's like it was twenty years ago here in Reno, that—

Chamberlain: It's not safe.

Dean: —somebody might drive in a truck and shoot you or something.

Auer: I realize we didn't go through this on tape. Can you tell us a little bit about your backgrounds? That seems to impact your perceptions as well. Sharon, do you want to say where you grew up, where you're from originally?

Chamberlain: I originally grew up back east in a small southern area and then ended up out in the Bay Area for years, and really, all over the place, including Oregon and most recently in Los Angeles for about five years. So a lot of big cities, but then also smaller places—what this town actually reminds me of is Eugene, Oregon, and we talk about it all the time.

My partner have two little kids and we moved here because our perception of Reno is that it is so much safer and a little bit out of the rat race that we felt we were in in Los Angeles. It never stops. It's just constant. And since being here, it does feel so much more relaxed. It's a different culture and the people are different, but I found it extremely warm, extremely friendly, and it feels very safe and welcoming with good parts of town.

I think the reason I don't go down East Fourth Street is because I didn't know that there was anything down there. Is there even anything down there? I guess I see it more like, almost an industrial area. And I have to drive home that way. It's just not a place that I visit.

Auer: There's a gay bar on Fourth Street. Have you guys gone to Cadillac Lounge?

Deal: I have been in there, yes.

Chamberlain: No, really?

Auer: Yes.

Deal: They've actually done a couple of fundraisers for HOPES, too.

Chamberlain: Is it a nice, like, comfy lounge?

Deal: Kind of more what I would call the old Reno gay bar kind of feel.

Auer: Can you explain that? As somebody who's been here a long time, I know what you're saying, but it's important we get this down for history. What does that mean? [laughs]

Deal: It means that you're not sure you really want to have somebody see you going in there, or you wonder if your car is going to be safe when you come out, and it feels dark, although that one does have windows. I'm thinking of the 5 Star downtown that is very dark with no windows, or Carl's down on South Virginia—that old gay bar thing, park in the back and walk through the back door.

Chamberlain: Yes, I've been to Carl's.

Deal: And you're wondering, like, should I drink off this counter? [laughter] But anyway, it definitely has more of that feel of the old gay bar, whereas, actually, the Patio, which is right next door here, I think of all the gay bars in Reno, is probably the one that I feel the most comfortable in, and it's definitely a mixture of men and women, but it doesn't feel sleazy and I actually don't mind parking my car in their parking lot.

Chamberlain: It's bright and has a little outside area, yes.

Deal: And they have fans to circulate the air and all that kind of thing.

Kerry, you were saying you were born in Fallon.

Deal: I was born and raised in Fallon, which is just an hour east of Reno, which was a very small town, and you felt very safe growing up there. You knew most of the people in the town. I guess the biggest challenge was being gay or not really understanding being gay and definitely being afraid to disclose that in such a small town.

Then I came to Reno to go to UNR, where I got my degree in accounting, and Reno always felt safe, and that's when I started coming out and going to some of the gay bars in Reno. This was '77 to '79.

Of two of gay bars I first went to, one was way out on West Fourth Street— Dave's VIP Club.

Chamberlain: Is it there still or is it gone?

Auer: It's gone.

Deal: It's changed hands, yes. I don't know.

Auer: The owners are the same women. It's a lesbian couple.

Deal: No, no, no, they're the lesbian couple who own the Patio, but they sold it about two years ago to somebody from outside the area.

Auer: No, Kelly Rae and Pam Haberman own it.

Deal: Oh, no, I was thinking of Katie-

Chamberlain: I thought it was sold to another—

Deal: --Katie and Nina, but they sold it to--

Auer: See, I didn't know Katie and Nina owned Dave's at one point.

Deal: Yes, I can't think of what it was called, because I was there on the last night when they owned it because they had a big party.

Auer: Was it Reflections?

Deal: Reflections, I think they called it, and supposedly it was sold—I thought it was a guy and he was going to turn it into a straight bar, but I don't go out there, so I don't know if it's changed hands again.

Auer: No, according to the property records—I've been talking to them—they own it, so—

Deal: Oh, it must have sold then again, because I wondered if that guy was ever going to make it a straight bar.

Chamberlain: Is it a straight bar now or is it a gay bar?

Auer: It seems like it's a straight karaoke bar, but it's kind of confusing, like it's open at odd hours. I can't get a handle on what's going on with it.

Deal: Yes, but I do know that Katie and Nina owned it because they had a big party, the last day when they were closed. But the other gay bar that's not there anymore, I think was on East Fourth, so, I mean, the exact opposite side of town. It was called the Forum.

Auer: You used to go to the Forum?

Deal: Yes. [laughter]

Auer: I found somebody. I've been looking for people who can talk to me about this. The Forum is a famous seventies disco that was in Sparks.

Chamberlain: Oh, wow.

Deal: Yes, because it was just right there on the line, kind of.

Auer: Yes, what was the Forum like?

Chamberlain: You were going to the disco. [laughter] I love it. He sings karaoke, too.

Deal: I was taken there by one of my fraternity brothers who was supposedly bi, but I remember good times at the Forum because it was more dancing, whereas Dave's had dancing, too, but the Forum just, I don't know, it was the spot to go to right then.

Auer: Did Dave's feel sort of older, like its time had passed or it was starting to feel old by the time you were going there?

Deal: Yes, and it was like you pulled up in there and drove up this old driveway, and they had all those motel rooms that were pretty sleazy. [laughter]

Auer: So those were the two first gay bars you went to?

Deal: Right.

Auer: Wow. Okay, and the Forum was definitely a gay disco, right?

Deal: Right, from what I recall, yes, although I think other people went there to dance.

Auer: Did it feel safe there, in that location?

Deal: Yes, it was one of those that was right on the verge where you thought, is this okay? But it was fine. The others were then down on South Virginia, like the Chute and 1099, where I didn't go much, but now that one's closed and the Chute has been gone, I guess, for a long time.

Auer: This is interesting because you have two completely different impressions of the gay community because you're just coming here and you've been here a long time.

Deal: Or came back after a while.

Auer: Yes. What are your impressions of the gay community in Reno, Sharon?

Chamberlain: I feel like it's large. I feel like there actually are a lot of different connection things that happen, like with Spectrum and the different listservs and those kinds of thing that go out. It seems like parts of the community are very active. It seems like a lot of support for HOPES comes from the community, but also, as large as it is, it also feels very small, and it seems as though there are a lot of dynamics that have impacted the way people interact and the way certain groups work or don't work together.

Auer: Are you talking about the history that the groups have had together?

Chamberlain: Yes. I don't know a lot about it. I feel like oftentimes when I'm talking to people, I get earfuls of, "Oh, well, you don't know about them," and, "Oh, well, what about this," and HOPES and former centers and the current centers and everything. People know each other.

Deal: That's interesting for me, because after I graduated from the university, I moved to the L.A. area for about five years, and I've also lived in San Diego, so I've lived in the larger areas, which is totally different feeling with the gay community. They had a lot of gay business and professional associations and things like that. But then I also lived for a time, or twelve years, on the central coast of California near San Luis Obispo, and that area reminds me more of Reno as far as the gay community because there were a lot of gay people there, most of them were couples, but there were no gay bars.

We had an organization that was the Gay and Lesbian Alliance that did put on some social events and put on Pride and things like that, but you had to kind of get into these little groups, or there was the group that went camping and then the group that would go to dinner. That's kind of what I see here in Reno, too. There are these groups that you get in, whether it be through a church or Spectrum and they have different interest groups. I think overall, too, it might be better now in Reno with the gay men and the lesbians kind of working together, because it seemed before that, it was very separate. But I was just coming out in my last couple of years of college, so it was all new and hard to get a handle on. Auer: Would you guys say that there's still sort of a bias in Reno towards the LGBT community?

Deal: I think it's much improved, but I still think that there is that segment of the good old Nevada boys' network kind of thing, and driving around with your shotgun in the back of your truck. But I think Reno has definitely changed and I think that even like here with HOPES, a lot of people didn't even know HOPES was here for a long time and now they're aware of it.

I think there's still a stigma, particularly with HIV and AIDS, but I think, in general, towards the gay community, people are recognizing that we are part of the community and we also have disposable income. I felt really in a lot of restaurants and stuff now, they know that you're obviously together with another man and it's not uncomfortable, whereas thirty years ago when I was in college, I would have felt differently.

Auer: So back then, you definitely would have faced some sort of discrimination. It was much different, is what you're saying?

Deal: Well, in fact, this one friend who first took me out to the gay bars and who I'm still very good friends with, he and his partner live in Berkeley. They've been together thirty years. But he got kicked out of the fraternity that we were in at the university because he was gay. I had just graduated, and he was a year or two behind me and they kicked him out because he was gay, although, when they looked at the alumni of that fraternity, there were several gay people.

Auer: I want to go back to your referencing the clique aspect of Reno's gay community. You're saying it's the little group situation. How would you say HOPES' reputation is within Reno with the different groups? They can make up their minds based on what went down a while ago and it can be hard to sort of undo things, is my impression.

Chamberlain: I hear lots of different stories, and I wasn't here, but there were some very challenging times with the gay community, and HOPES lost a lot of support over the years, but I feel like folks are much more open now about looking at things again with fresh eyes. I've been told that by people, "Okay, we're kind of ready. We still hold this. We're still not happy about whatever, but let's see what happens. Let's see what H.O.P.E.S does." And that's one of the things that we want to move towards in the community is being more of a community place for the LGBT population.

Auer: Why do you think the community didn't rally around HOPES all the time? It seems so odd to me. It seems like that's one organization that everybody would say, "We're behind because we need it."

Deal: I think in most cities that was the case. They just had problems with some of the personnel who were here and there were some financial issues, and I think it created a negative image, and that's what split some people off, but I really feel like with Sharon now being out in the community, they feel like H.O.P.E.S is being run like it should be

and that we really are providing such a needed valuable service in the community.

As we move forward, we'd like to become a health center for the LGBT community and really, like when we've had some of the mixers, a place where people feel they can gather.

Auer: When you were at UNR, you felt you couldn't be out?

Deal: Right, because I was at UNR from '75 to '79. We didn't even have a gay group on campus. It was very closeted. And, like I said, I also remember being out at Dave's and you'd run into professors from the university, which was really bizarre, and they were like, "Oh, my god." [laughter]

Chamberlain: Wow.

Auer: So it was sort of like everybody expected it to keep quiet if you ran into each other at Dave's, one of those situations?

Deal: Yes, it was just, I don't know, a very secretive kind of thing.

Auer: Sharon, where have you gone in the gay community since you've come to Reno? What are the places that you've checked out?

Chamberlain: Well, different bars, not the Cadillac Lounge, and I've just tried to meet with some of the different folks, like the Reno Gay Page. What's that guy's name?

Auer: Paco.

Chamberlain: Paco and the Littlest Big Sisters. Actually, I just sent them a thank you. We're trying to get them all to come to Fresh Mex, my restaurant for Dining Out for Life, and then we're going to go to the Five Star after that, and then I've been finding out, just asking everybody who I meet, "Hey, who in the community do you think that I should meet?" So from that, I've been going and meeting different people who are known in the community for whatever reason, and it's been good.

Auer: Sounds like you really like it here.

Chamberlain: I do. I love it.

Auer: Some people move here and it's not for them, and they just don't stay.

Deal: I think the worst part was when you first came here, it was cold and this building is old, and she was so cold that she'd have the heater on right next to her. [laughter]

Chamberlain: I was so cold. It was horrible.

Deal: We put these window inserts in-

Chamberlain: It helped.

Deal: —and it helped tremendously.

Auer: This is a gorgeous building. It really is pretty. Do you guys want to say anything more?

Chamberlain: You know what I worry about is that, because you see it all the time in cities, like in L.A. and look at Venice now, it doesn't look at all like it did twenty years ago.

Auer: You mean with the gentrification?

Chamberlain: Yes. That Fourth Street corridor is where a lot of our clients live, and what I wouldn't want to see happen is some kind of sweep, where the little hotels and the little apartment buildings and those kinds of things disappear, because we need that and we need to have a place for them.

I mean, can it improve and can we get better transportation and help build up that environment and community so that there's more neighborhood pride in it and it's beautified? Yes, but I think that we need to do that keeping those people there, and I don't agree and never have agreed with "Let's move everybody out and then make it into something fantastic." Let's make it fantastic for the people who need it who are there now.

Auer: What do you guys think of the motels? That's a remnant from when this was the highway.

Deal: Well, some of them, I think, they've maintained better than others. But if friends are coming to Reno and they're not going to stay with me, it's not a place that I would recommend them to go stay in a motel. But I agree with Sharon, I would hate to see them just come in and totally change it. It's not what the area is, and then those people wouldn't have any place to live.

Auer: Do a lot of clients from HOPES live in the hotels on Fourth Street?

Deal: Yes, because we have housing assistance, and sometimes, or at least on a temporary basis, they stay there.

Auer: Yes, there's a lot. So if those motels were gotten rid of, where would your clients go?

Deal: It's hard to find.

Chamberlain: Because the transportation isn't great, and because we're located here, it's very beneficial to have a place where if someone just lost their housing and needs a place

to stay for a week or two weeks, that we can put them somewhere.

Auer: Do you think the area around Fourth, Fifth, and Keystone has been the best location for your organization just geographically, if you could be anywhere in the city? Has it served you guys well, do you think?

Deal: I think that it is a fairly central location, which is good. It's also good being close to St. Mary's, and we do work with them some, but I think they got it because the property was available. I don't know all the details of that transaction.