



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2014

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City, County, State and UNMH Partner in Addressing Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Homelessness in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE – A bipartisan group of elected officials representing the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico announced today a collaborative effort to address the issues of homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse in Albuquerque. A Working Group and a Task Force will be formed to make recommendations to policy makers about coordination, resource needs and programs.

The group met last week, along with representatives with subject matter expertise from each entity and UNMH, to identify members of a small, core Working Group and to establish a process for identifying members of a larger advisory Task Force. They also outlined responsibilities of each group.

The Working Group will consist of a representative from the City, County, State, UNMH, District Court and Metro Court. Funding for a paid coordinator was included in the budget recently passed by City Council for the upcoming fiscal year beginning in July. This group will take input from the Task Force.

The Task Force will include a variety of stakeholder representatives, including the elected officials, consumers, service providers, funders, insurers, advocates, crises response and corrections. A webpage on the City of Albuquerque website has been set up at <http://www.cabq.gov/council/task-force-on-mental-health>, where those interested in participating in and contributing to the dialogue can submit a letter of interest and a résumé.

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