

# Minutes

# Supportive Housing Subcommittee

October 4, 2016

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

1 Civic Center, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Type of meeting:** 6th meeting: Single Site Housing Model Discussion

**Members Present:** Robert Baade, Constance Banuelos, Ricki Bloom, Sister Agnes Kaczmarek, Jennifer Sena, Lisa Huval

**Members Excused:** Michelle Valencia-Stark

**Staff Person Present:** Michael Robertson

**Technical Advisors Present:** Laine Snow for K. Meador

**Meeting Observers:** Margarita Chavez (presented)

## Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:07 by Dr. Paul Hopkins, meeting chair, and seconded by Betty Valdez. The two subcommittees met jointly on this occasion with Paul Hopkins facilitating.

## Discussion to Approve Agenda

Agenda approved by acclamation.

## Discussion to Approve Minutes

Minutes from September 14 meeting moved to be approved by Nancy Jo Archer and seconded by Kathy Finch

## Key Items of Discussion

### Update on Members

Dr. Ann Waldorf, of the UNM Dept. of Psychiatry, was added to the Community Support Services Subcommittee. Lisa Huval, Co-Director of NM Coalition to End Homelessness, was added to the Housing Subcommittee. It was noted that updated sign in sheets reflect updated members and voting status.

### Old Business

#### ABCGC Update.

- Doug Chaplin, Director of the City Dept. of Family & Community Services, presented a picture of the City's behavioral health funding. Mr. Chaplin noted that the City was committed to a single site housing project and has \$2 million in capital investment for the project.
- It was reported that the County Commission voted to proceed with a proposal to hire a behavioral health advisor. City Council members of the ABCGC recommended that all members of the ABCGC be involved in vetting the decision.

- Subcommittee chairs of the Behavioral Health Initiative presented briefly to the ABCGC their respective subcommittee updates. The ABCGC extended their support to the subcommittees and encouraged their independent involvement with the Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) process.
- The ABCGC approved the Youth Transitional Housing proposal and the Community Engagement Teams (CET) proposal.

### **New Business**

- The Joint Subcommittees initiated a discussion of the single-site housing model and compared it with scattered-site housing. A presentation of the two models was given by Margarita Chavez, Special Projects Coordinator of the County. An informational document was circulated to the subcommittees, which was not a proposal but a paper to be used to build a proposal based on a Housing First model. The Housing First model was additionally presented.
- Lisa Huval noted that data on the needs of the intended population to be served should be provided (e.g. are these homeless persons with behavioral health needs; what services and who specifically need services; how many, etc.). A discussion took place about the severity of the population's behavioral health needs that should be served and whether or not 24/7 supervision would be necessary, and how many individuals could be served through scattered-site housing vs. single-site housing.
- Concerns over needed data were also expressed. Dr. Paul Hopkins asked what input the two subcommittees should receive from the BHI staff to respond adequately to a proposal. The following data is requested:
  - obtaining appropriate data on the prospective client population;
  - clarity on decision-making as to whose needs are best met by the types of housing models discussed;
  - what would be the admission criteria for proposed housing; and
  - any housing project proposed should be respectful of individuals' autonomy, fashioned to be normalizing for individuals as much as possible; and that the housing model under discussion was in no way intended to be a residential treatment center.
- Ricki Bloom requested to have specific providers that work with individuals with behavioral health and housing needs come to talk with the subcommittees about the problems and needs of this population.
- It was agreed to invite representatives from NM Solutions, St. Martin's Hospitality Center and UNM's ACT team to present at the next meeting.
- Public Comment noted addressing the issue of “tent cities” and to include cultural sensitivity into the work of the subcommittees.

### **Housing Subcommittee Breakout Portion of the Meeting**

- The subcommittees broke into their respective groups. Following are notes captured by Betty Valdez, including the comments and needed information discussed during this portion of the meeting.
  - What does the single site look like?
  - Is it one single site project or is it several?
  - Has the site been predetermined? Why?
  - Unanimous feelings were discussed. Members do not want an “institution feel” single

site. They wanted more of a “Community Centered” project. A “home” atmosphere that provided some independent living. Members expressed that they Do NOT want a “hospital setting” or Residential Treatment Center (RTC) type of housing project.

- Be thoughtful about where you put this single site project. Avoid known problem areas.
- Subcommittee members requested a roadmap of the dollars and upcoming proposals.
- Data and demographic information was requested. Did not feel comfortable with answering or designing proposals any further when they did not have information on specific populations to be served and what housing needs should be provided for (e.g. number of individuals with behavioral health needs that are homeless or precariously housed). This would allow decisions to be made on need; not on feel.
- Suggestion was made that more of this project be completed and the subcommittee would vet it. It was made clear that this approach, as applied with previous proposals, was not viewed as “rubber stamping.”
- Members requested to be informed when RFPs are to be posted so they can inform their contacts in the community.
- The questions were asked, who needs the services and what were the outcomes from other agencies serving the populations that were identified? Also requested were some knowledgeable individuals that serve the identified populations to make presentations to the subcommittee(s).
- What goes into the single site project? Who is doing the funding of the building conversion? Were some of the dollars for this capital outlay coming from the Behavioral Health dollars?
- Did UNM gather data on the population and are they also getting costs information?

#### **Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Next meeting: October 12, 4:30-6:00 p.m. at Domenici Center for Health Sciences Education  
1001 Stanford Dr. NE, Room TBD – Please check with the receptionist.