



City of Albuquerque Domestic Violence Task Force

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 11, 2020 starting at 1:30 pm (MST)
Location: <https://cabq.zoom.us/j/443674524?pwd=QzhtYUJvSXhydUI3akQzNjRCd3R0Zz09>
Contact: Sandra Archuleta

Task Force Members Present:

Torri Jacobus, Chair
Dawn Begay, Vice-Chair
Vincent Galbiati
Jessica Fierro
Joseph Burke
Sandra Archuleta
Celia Yapita
Melissa Ewer
Linda Stone
Pamelya Herndon
Michelle Aldana
Claudia Medina
Liza Wolff-Francis
Johnny Wilson
Gail Starr

Task Force Members Absent:

Pam Wiseman
Larry Koren
Angel Charley
Elena Giacci
Kena Chavez Hinojos
David River
Larry Hinojos
AnhDao Bui
Zane Stephens
Nancy Montano on behalf of Councilor Peña

City Staff Present:

Gilbert Ramirez
Crystal Velarde
Susan Vigil on behalf of Councilor Borrego

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order by Chair Torri Jacobus at 1:35 pm.

II. Updates from Chair and Vice-Chair

- a. Vice Chair Begay stated she is working with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and will be focusing on the vulnerable populations. Currently Chair Jacobus and Vice-Chair Begay are asking for assessments to identify what resources are available during this pandemic. They are interested in who has housing available or hotel vouchers for victims and what services are still being provided during the pandemic. Several task force members provided this information in advance of this meeting. Others will provide it today. Chair Jacobus compile the information into one document for use the task force members, the EOC, and members of the community.

- b. Vice-Chair also shared she is aware some courts are doing early release and it can affect the families of DV. Also, the tribal nations are closing their borders and people who commuted are unable to return home.

III. Updates from the City: Gilbert Ramirez Deputy Director in Family and Community

- a. Mr. Ramirez shared that City Council approved one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in social service money to be used for COVID-19. They do not have the parameters yet, however there will be an application process. Mr. Ramirez will be sharing more information with Chair Jacobus and Vic-Chair Begay as it becomes available to him. They will oversee sharing that information with the DV Task Force. He is asking that the members of the task force focus on areas where there are gaps in service and figure way to use the money in those areas.
- b. The State of New Mexico is working with the EOC. They have secured a hotel for persons experiencing homelessness who are also experiencing domestic violence, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are waiting results, and for people who are have substance abuse problems and are unable to be in a treatment facility. Those who have tested positive or are awaiting test results will be placed first. Followed by persons experiencing homelessness and domestic violence. There are currently 107 rooms available. The public will be able to access this hotel by contacting the EOC. This is available for all state residence. Vice-Chair Begay will get more information as to if they will all be at the same hotel or if there are separate hotels for survivors of domestic violence.
- c. Mr. Ramirez shared that the city is tracking family dispute calls during this time. There was a significant spike in calls the week of March 15th through the 21st. However, the District Attorney is saying their numbers are different for charges.
- d. Radio Lobo is willing to allow any members of the task force to go on air and share information regarding services they are providing to the Spanish speaking community members. The City also has a standing KRQE platform where the agencies can share information on services available and how the public can access them.
- e. Mr. Ramirez shared there are four organizations, one in each quadrant in the city who have some supplies. They offer food boxes, diapers, wipes, and hygiene products. They also have rental assistance which is limited but available.
- f. Ms. Susan Vigil also touched on the Corona Virus funding recently approved by City Council. She stated it was bill R-20-30 which is the relief money for non-profits effected by COVID and not covered under the CARES Act. She reiterated the application process is not in place yet, and the actual funding should be coming back into the economy in about September. There will also be a review committee and they will decide who is approved for the funds and how much they will get. There is more information on Legistar for those who wish to review the bill there.

IV. Community Partner Changes and Updates

- a. Claudia Medina with Enlace Comunitario stated all their employees are working from home at this time. They continue to receive calls. However, they are not a shelter. They do have attorneys, counselors, life skills facilitators and case managers available. They are offering parenting classes and healthy relating classes

online twice a week. Their focus is on domestic violence calls where the victims are trapped at home with their abusers. They are working on safety plans for those individuals. They are also doing legal restraining order applications through e-filing. They additionally offer peer-led support groups every Friday from 4-5 pm.

- b. Gail Starr with ABQ Sane stated they continue to see victims at the Family Advocacy Center. They do have some access to hotel vouchers through the Rape Crisis Center. They are using masks and are taking extra precautions to keep everyone safe from COVID-19. ABQ Sane is operating 24 hours a day. It is important for people to call ahead of time. She also reported they are seeing an increase in attacks against homeless women. Ms. Starr also requested all agencies keep their eyes open for child abuse. She read a study that there is an increase in children being trafficked over the internet in order for their parents/guardians to make money.
- c. Vince Galbiati with the Domestic Violence Resource Center stated they are working remotely. They are still operating. He did have concerns regarding the pipelines for them to other resources and agencies as other are reporting a drop in calls. He stated their victims needs for housing/hotel vouchers, clothing and food are direr. He expects numbers to go up possibly in September when people are allowed out again. Jessie Fierro stated it makes it a little difficult that they don't have eyes on them. Whereas, before they were able to physically see them and if they were bruised. Having telephone interviews limits that ability. They are asking if victims have injuries but again cannot see for themselves. She also feels this is a partial reason for the decline in victims being seeing. She also stated they are working on videos for APD officers to inform them of DVRC's services. Ms. Fierro stated some of her advocates informed her that Haven House has room available.
- d. Commander Burk stated they are working with the phone company to get the Family Advocacy Center's phones working properly. They were able to update their website last week to show all current information. FAC provider is working remotely and the front office is not staffed. The website is updated with all contact information. APD is fully functional and some detectives are working remotely. Those detectives do come in as needed.
- e. Melissa Ewer with New Mexico Children's Alliance stated they are hearing from officers and detectives there is an increase in child abuse. She stated they are available to still do video interviews for the children who are part of any abuse situation. They are doing in person interviews as well as telehealth visits.
- f. Liza Wolff-Francis with Casa Forteleza they are still providing services remotely. They are working with HIPAA compliant video conferencing. The Rape Crisis Center is referring people to Casa Forteleza. They are busy but are not turning people away. They are continuing to call and check in on people, answer questions although people are not wanting therapy over the phone. Stated the Mexican Consulate is providing information as to where food is available and other resources. Casa Forteleza is also providing information on Facebook.
- g. Johnny Wilson with Father's New Mexico stated they are not meeting face to face. He would be willing to if that were needed. However, they are working remotely and continuing with their meeting via zoom.

- h. Celia Yapita with Catholic Charities shared they are all working from home. All their programs are running electronically. They are still providing childcare. She also stated they have a meeting with a funder scheduled to discuss some no strings attached funding for housing. They are trying to use as a onetime offer for rental assistance or hotel vouchers. This is not a long-term payment. It is not a large amount of money and she feels it will go fast. However, she is trying to limit the access to the funding if it goes through. She will share the information once it is available. She also stated their website has COVID related information and Census information in different languages. They are also working on providing know your rights information in different languages.
- i. Linda Stone with First Nations stated they are operational. They use telehealth for intakes. They have run out of hotel vouchers at this time.
- j. Pamela Herndon with the NM Coalition Against Domestic Violence stated they are operational. All shelters are open and have reduced the number of staff on duty. They are also providing hotel vouchers but are finding they are expensive. Most of the services are remotely. Ms. Herndon will share a link with Vice-Chair Begay from the IRS where individuals can go to request their stimulus checks.
- k. All agencies are concerned about the decrease in calls and referrals. However, they all believe once people are allowed out of their home the numbers will drastically increase. Commander Burke did encourage anyone meeting victims to inform them the sooner they report the sooner they can be helped.
- l. Vice-Chair Begay will work on getting more information to the task force about the hotel referral process through EOC. She will also reach out to shelters for information regarding if they are offering extended stays. EOC is currently looking into transportation and how to do that safely. Asked the task force members to provide what services they have for walk-in and remote, who is taking new clients, what the referral process and eligibility requirements are for their agency and access to other languages. Also, would like to know what barriers they are coming across. Ms. Medina stated that agencies who receive money from the city provided this information to Lisa and that maybe a place to get the information.

V. Announcements

- a. EOC is trying to set up portable restrooms throughout the city. They are hoping to set up hand washing stations as well.

VI. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm by Chair Torri Jacobus.

Torri Jacobus, Chair

5/13/2020
Date