



**Minutes**  
**Draft**  
**Youth Housing Continuum Committee**  
**4:00 – 5:30**  
**October 14th, 2020**

**Committee Purpose** – To recommend proposed solutions to address the housing needs of young people ages 18-25 in Bernalillo County.

**Meeting Purposes:**

1. To bring all meeting participants up to speed with current information with updates
2. To address system gaps and unmet needs with high impact strategies within the first 60 days of meeting

<b>Attendees:</b>
<i>Co-chairs: Assata Zerai (UNM), Quinn Donnay (FCS), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torres (UNM Dean of Students)</i>
<i>Members: Brooke Tafoya/Steve Johnson (New Day), Gilbert Ramirez (FCS-Behavioral Health Dep. Dir), Hillary Stim (CYFD BHS), Yvette Ramirez Ammerman (CABQ consultant), Bill Wagner (Centro Savila), Diana Lopez (YDI), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo), Brittany Karnezis (Hands Across Time), Maya McNight (CYFD), Andrew Salazar (CYFD Fostering Connections), Alicia Salazar (CYFD), Cathleen (Caty) Willging and Samuel Fields (PIRE), Kelly Jo Parker (BernCo BHI), Samuel (PIRE), Jennifer Weiss-Burke (Serenity Mesa), Penelope Buschardt (APS Title I), Dennis Plummer (Heading Home), Carla Castaneda (Centro Savila), Kerry Moriarty (CYFD BHS), Dr. Art Kaufman (UNM-HSC Office of Community Health)</i>

<b>Agenda Items:</b>	<b>Discussion of Needs/Gaps – HIGH IMPACT STRATEGIES AT THE END -</b>
1) Welcome	All attendees were welcomed by co-chairs, introduced themselves and indicated their organizational affiliation.
2) Quinn Donnay	Minutes from Sept. 30th approved.
3) Quinn Donnay & Assata Zerai	<p><b>Quinn, Assata, Jennifer and Nasha provided a brief report on the HCC meeting:</b></p> <p>Quinn Donnay updated the YHC Committee: The umbrella Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC) has been provided a draft document with the Needs, Gaps and High Impact Strategies for Youth Housing. Our committee document, along with those from the other four committees have all been consolidated into one document and provided yesterday for review and approval. Especially, our work was very well-received! Once approved, the consolidated document will serve as the guiding document for the Homeless Coordinating Council and for all five committees going forward to set our direction over the coming year. This committee is ahead, as we are already looking at costs, community capacity, criteria, definitions, timelines, capacity, etc.</p>

**In summary our four (4) high-impact strategies are:**

- 1. Youth Housing Needs Assessment (count), which is long-term (repeated), as we do not know the true number of Youths' experiencing homelessness**
- 2. Youth shelter for ages 18-24**
- 3. Subsidized Housing for students at UNM/CNM**
- 4. Permanent Supportive housing Vouchers for young people with complex behavioral health needs**

**UNM Researchers Cathleen (Caty) Willging and Samuel Field were introduced and Co-chair Assata Zerai shared her screen to review slides to set the context of the needs assessment:**

Slide 1, 2, 3 were quickly reviewed: Discussion: Why a NEEDS ASSESSMENT is a top priority/strategy:

- Currently, we do not know the total number of homeless youth ages 15-25 in ABQ, currently youths' may be double- counted. Data from UNM does not track with other data to represent youths experiencing homelessness (it's about half). Also, "Point-in-Time" estimates do not accurately count youth. Rough estimates are difficult.
- Need youth focus groups, capacity of current providers, a survey of youth and the causes of homelessness.
- This group is charged by the HCC to identify Needs/Gaps/ High Impact Strategies
- Art Kaufmann, et. al, at the Office for Community Health at the UNM Health Science Center will lead the collaboration with Pacific Interest Research & Evaluation (PIRE).
- Approximately how many homeless youth 15-25 are there in ABQ?
  - rough estimate because they want to calculate an incentive of \$10-20
- In addition to enumerating homeless youth and conducting a needs assessment
  - would we like to know: demographic info and why they have become homeless?
  - Creation of Advisory Committee (youth experiencing homelessness)
  - Survey
  - Enumeration
- Citations:
  - "In 2019, single adults comprised about 3/4th of the 1,524 homeless persons that were counted in a single night in January."
  - "Each year an estimated 5,615 households experience homelessness."
- Original estimate of cost of \$114,000 is low, it might be closer to a \$300,000 project
- Cathleen (Caty) Willging introduced herself as an implementation scientist (i.e. how do you get people to do things they normally wouldn't do). She is the director of the Pacific Interest Research Group previously known as behavioral Health Center of the SW. She indicated they have researchers with experience in 'hard-to -find, hard to reach homeless populations for enumeration.
- Sam Field is a statistician (very new to the team). If there were a formal proposal Caty would build in a timeline and more in-depth focus groups with youths. Focus groups could be supplemented with an online survey for youths who might be couch-surfing, not on the streets. As well as:
  - Survey service providers
  - Organizational Assessment: readiness, preparedness, capacity
  - Training older youth to help with enumeration

Assata mentioned UNM's Needs Assessment (Food and Housing) with a representative sample out of 21,000 degrees seeking students, 2,300 experienced homelessness in the past year.

- Sam added: survey could include enrollment question to avoid double counting college students

Caty turned it over to Sam who referenced Chapin Hall, and discussed the methodology of the point in time method (avoids duplication).

- 3 components
  - Community components (shelter-based)
  - Street-based with sites where youths are located
  - Organizational assessment
- He is familiar with representative sampling. How many individuals do we need to sample to have an accurate representative sample? He estimated 1,000 at 35 sites, sample might be anywhere from 1,000 to 45. Midpoint would be 500-600. Numbers need to be re-visited with updated information.

Steve Johnson, Caty, Assata discussed the “definition” of homelessness – whichever definition used could narrow the enumeration parameters. It was suggested to use the broadest possible definition so it could include: HUD Definition, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Poppe definition, APS (2017-2018) definition (Note: 818 APS students were unaccompanied without a guardian). Members agreed it will be necessary to design a counting system to be broadly inclusive.

Several committee members expressed concern about the visibility of homeless youth. For instance skate parks are not likely to have homeless youth, they are far more likely to be couch surfing. The point was made, young people have different resources than adults. Typically when the count is conducted by providers serving the adult population, youths are vastly undercounted.

Steve Johnson referenced SAMSA statement from 2 years ago, “young people under 25 are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.” He asked the PIRE researchers if they had more information about that statement. He later sent the study citation to Caty for review.

Gil Ramirez asked about the budget for the Point-in-Time count? Would this be similar?

Dr. Art Kaufman joined the group, mentioning that UNMH serves about ½ of the homeless youth population. He emphasized engaging the leadership of youth-serving agencies, because, in his experience, the needs of youths are so different.

After discussion, the group highlighted the following:

- What data do organizations already have (secondary data analysis)?
- Organizational survey: a qualitative assessment of existing agencies utilizing implementation science
- Need to have a methodology which can FIND youth
- What are the factors which restrict-or-expand capacity to serve youth?
- Need to build in incentives for survey completion

Regarding the scope, Caty noted it looks more like a NIH level survey.

Dr. Kaufman queried what are the timeframes? What are the HCC’s expectations? The proposal from the committee should clarify the timeframes, for instance if the funding were received in December 2020, when would the survey be completed? How detailed of a proposal needs to be submitted to this committee? He noted, research is often disconnected from policy-makers, how do we make this timely?

Gil Ramirez added, the moratorium on evictions ends in January. February and March will likely see an upswing of families and youths experiencing homelessness.

	<p>Later in the meeting Brooke Tafoya (New Day) elaborated on the increasing strain on families during COVID will likely increase the number of in youths 15-24. Often both families and youths needed help several years ago and didn't receive it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diana Lopez confirmed this situation from meetings with YDI shelter staff (example of a family with mom who is pregnant, has other kids, and the 17 year-old needs to move out)</li> <li>- We don't want these youths to end up on the streets or in detention</li> <li>- Quinn and Diana asked about youths under 18, which may become a facility licensing problem, (provided example of two 11 year-olds who needed to be placed). Penelope from Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) reinforced this problem, indicating they're having large families in need of housing, plus 16-17 year-old's asking about emancipation.</li> </ul> <p>Gil Ramirez asked how do we integrate this survey with the Youth Risk and Resiliency Study, so we have ongoing, systemic, and state-wide data available on youth's. Everyone in the community would have access to the data esp. for grant writing, similar to the Poppe study, and Urban Institute study which are available online.</p> <p>Quinn summarized the process: the HCC will approve and adopt the document. The HCC will advise how much funding will CYFD, City, County, UNM contribute to efforts. She stressed this is the beginning of the conversation with more detail to follow.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b> Caty will focus on a proposal for the qualitative assessment. She noted Office of Community Health (Art Kaufman) and PIRE have the capacity to undergo this research in a timely fashion.</p>
All	<p>Quinn suggested next steps as <b>having detailed meetings for each</b> of the four (4) major <b>High Impact Strategies</b>: By acclamation the members agreed to have the next meetings dedicated to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>1) Youth Housing Needs Assessment</b> (including Qualitative Assessment – accomplished today)</li> <li>- <b>2) Subsidized Housing for UNM/CNM</b></li> <li>- <b>3) Shelter for 18-25 young adults – 24/7</b> (Jennifer Scacco/Quinn Donnay)</li> <li>- <b>Youth Supportive Housing Vouchers</b></li> </ul>

**Next Meeting: Oct 28th, 4:00-5:30 pm**