



**Approved Minutes**  
**Youth Housing Continuum Committee**  
**4:00 – 5:30**  
**September 2nd, 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>
<p><i>Co-chairs: Assata Zerai (UNM), Quinn Donnay (FCS), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torres (UNM Dean of Students)</i></p>
<p><i>Members: Amanda Santiago (Centro Savila) Josclynn Huffmaster (Supportive Housing Coalition) Maya McKnight (CYFD Beh. Health), Steve Johnson (New Day), Brooke Tafoya (New Day), Carol Pierce (FCS), Stephen Serrano (Casa Q), Jack Siamu (YDI), Lisa Huval (FCS) Jennifer Weiss-Burke (Serenity Mesa), Gilbert Ramirez (FCS-Behavioral Health), Hillari Lipton (CYFD), Jeff Beg (APS Title 1 Representative), Farra Fong (CYFD), Hillary Stim (CYFD), Yvette Ramirez Ammerman (CABQ consultant), Bill Wagner, Amanda Santiago (Centro Savila), Diana Lopez (YDI), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo)</i></p>

<b>Agenda Items:</b>	<b>Discussion of Needs/Gaps</b>	<b>Action Items &amp; High Impact Strategies</b>
1) Welcome and Introductions: Assata Zerai	All attendees were welcomed by co-chairs, introduced themselves and indicated their organizational affiliation.	
2) Quinn Donnay introduced Yvette Ramirez Ammerman	Quinn introduced Yvette Ramirez Ammerman, (M.Ed., formerly with UNM-HSC, and currently contracting with CABQ). She has considerable experience working with homeless-serving agencies and individuals, and will be assisting all the committees with organization, logistics and accountability.	
3) Current status of youth system for individuals 18-25: a. CABQ b. BernCo. c. UNM	<p><b>Co-chairs:</b> Overview of Youth System for 17-25 year olds. These youths are largely underserved and undercounted, the ‘system’ is characterized by inadequate data. We <b>do</b> know about of youths in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-juvenile justice</li> <li>-behavioral health</li> <li>-foster care</li> </ul> <p>But do not have a grasp of the true needs.</p>	

<p>d. Input from others</p>	<p>Jennifer Scacco (BernCo) \$800,000 partner with City “Community Connections” 18-24 year-olds, they contract with Casa Q, Serenity Mesa and others, but unanswered questions remain:          -What research do we need to accomplish?          -What is the appropriate type of Housing for this group?</p> <p>Nasha Torres UNM Dean of Students – reported this age group is the typical age range for students at UNM and CNM. There is a group currently working on food insecurity as well as housing insecurity. Under her purview are the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partner with Roadrunner for students food pantry.</li> <li>- Partner with Nusenda - Center for financial capability – 1<sup>st</sup> generation, financial planning, etc.</li> <li>- Partner with Nusenda “Powering Success” – financial education, micro-loans for students.</li> <li>- Student Health And Counseling (SHAC) staffed with Social Worker to access resources. Social worker indicates of students she serves, 60% students are housing insecure. Students report they are afraid of City shelters and shelters do not have a place to study.</li> </ul> <p>Assata Zerai (Food and Housing Survey) with UNM Office of Analytics provided a preliminary report on a survey (2,700 students surveyed. (The study included undergraduates, graduate students and students in professional programs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2% of respondents directly reported homelessness in the past 12 months.</li> <li>- 11% are precariously housed i.e., sleeping in car, not feeling safe at home, sleeping outdoors or in a shelter, couch-surfing, etc.</li> <li>- 40% of students were housing insecure.</li> <li>- Latinx and American Indian had highest incidence of housing insecurity at 52% of respondents.</li> <li>- Non-binary and LGBTQ+ students reported higher incidences of both homelessness and housing insecurity, particularly high rates among gender fluid and Trans individuals.</li> <li>- Over 20% of students face the double-burden of housing insecurity and food insecurity.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Zerai and Nasha Torres both noted there is no subsidized housing on campus.</p> <p>Gilbert Ramirez provided an overview of the City’s 18-24 Youth Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First problem-based Request for Proposals (RFP) to better serve 18 – 24 youth/young adults. Centro Savila and NMCAN are providing free counseling services, and workforce training skills. Could provide data and outcomes in the future.</li> </ul> <p>Hilary Lipton CYFD – Connecting youth to Community Behavioral Health Services. She reported on a recent meeting with CYFD Dep. Sec., Commissioner O’Malley, Martin Chavez, Betty Valdez Director of the County Housing Authority and invited the YHC committee to make a presentation to this group. She noted CYFD</p>	<p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b>          -More research on this group</p> <p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b>          -Subsidized housing with supportive services available on UNM campus.</p>
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has a legal mandate under the 'Fostering Connections Act' to extend housing to older youth, they are looking to expand capacity and leverage funding in this area. She indicated she would be able to provide additional data if requested.

Diana Lopez from Youth Development Incorporated (YDI) underscored the enormous need for youth housing in this transitional age. She reported on their Federally funded program for transitional housing through Human Services Department (HSD) can serve up to 12 youth for up to an 18 month period. In 2018-2019, they've received over 402 referrals and were only able to serve 89 youth. They partner with Casa Q, YDI, Serenity Mesa, State BHSD dept and through a 'strengths-based' approach have served some youth who are now enrolled at UNM. Also have BernCo Behavioral Health Initiative (BHI) funds to provide outpatient services, and two (2) federally funded street outreach groups.

Jennifer Weiss-Burke discussed Serenity Mesa which serves 14 – 21 years-olds in a 90 day (to 4 months) substance abuse treatment program. From the time they arrive at SM staff are working on their discharge plan – where are they going to go and what are they going to do? Partner with Casa Q, New Day, and YDI on transitional housing. Currently working with two fourteen-year-olds who are too young for most programs with 16 year age requirements. Is this a legal issue? Young adults 18-24 not accessing City shelters (unsafe), living on the streets. SM is considering doing their own outreach esp. for those with substance abuse needs.

Brooke Tafoya (New Day) recently received federal youth street outreach grant (as did YDI), an intensely competitive grant. They are also supported by a grant from BHI for a drop-in center. There's not enough places for young people to during this pandemic. They have a 21 bed transitional living program, 17 beds funded by FYSB and 4 funded by CYFD, in which they can house youths for 18 months. The typical waiting list is 20 to 24 individuals – which is ongoing. Some are waiting 4-6 months. Brooke will run data on how many drop-off the waiting list before receiving housing services. Youth in the program, who are most successful in moving to stable housing, their stay averages 14 months and they've had significant life-skills training. Need more options for variable and flexible options for housing. Federal funds cannot not be used for youths exiting juvenile justice system even when the courts mandate they cannot return home. There are few options for these youths to go. How can we (collectively) serve these youth?

Hillari Lipton replied that juvenile justice is supposed to cover transitional housing, although there are still questions on the qualifications. Definitely need to work collectively on behalf of this group!

**High Impact Strategies:**

-Expand capacity to meet needs of 402 youths who are denied services.

**High Impact Strategies:**

-Youth outreach focused on individuals with substance abuse needs

Brooke will follow-up with data on how many 'fall-off' the wait list.

**High Impact Strategies:**

-More flexible and variable options for youth housing  
-programs that are able to serve youth for 14 months before moving to stable housing.

-Need to investigate issues with youths' exiting juvenile justice.

	<p>Casa Q serves individuals 14-18, at 18 they are required to leave. The average stay is 6-9 months, currently, eight (8) youths are in stable housing. It is a struggle to serve youths that are not CYFD clients (e.g. those who are from ‘community referrals’ – families/friends calling and asking for help). In January they will be able to rent 3-4 apts for youth graduating from the program. They have 3-4 clients who are part of the “Fostering Connections” program. High-risk status of LGBTQ+ individuals served by Casa Q, even with all the services and connections Casa Q provides (building natural supports, life skills, etc.) when they graduate they often become homeless again. These are historical gaps.</p> <p><b>Jeff Begg</b> from APS Title 1 referenced the Students Residency Questionnaire (SRC) placed in every students’ registration packet which showed 2,100 students are ‘housing insecure’ (McKinney-Vento Homeless Act definition). Huge gap in housing for these APS students. Youth can’t ‘sign’ themselves into a shelter, they need the right to shelter, without the (currently required) transition in guardianship. They are on a state group working on this issue.</p>	<p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b>          -Youth’s “Right to Shelter”, so they are able to ‘sign’ themselves into a shelter, without the currently required transition in guardianship.</p>
<p>Quinn Donnay, Steve Johnson, Yvette Ramirez Ammerman, Nasha Torres, Assata Zerai, Brooke Tafoya, et. al.</p>	<p>1) Next steps and closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue to build ‘Shared Vision’</li> <li>- Youth Housing Needs Assessment</li> <li>- Sharing of Youth Homeless Demo Project Proposal (New Day/YDI/Serenity Mesa) as a blueprint (condensed version?)</li> <li>- referred to one of the core documents</li> <li>- Find ways to leverage Public/Private/Business Developer funding</li> <li>- Funding for Youth who are not traditionally “systems involved”</li> </ul> <p>Quinn noted the other Committees reporting to the City/County/UNM Homeless Coordinating Committee, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinated Street Outreach</li> <li>- Gateway</li> <li>- Housing</li> <li>- Homeless Service Systems</li> </ul> <p>Carol noted all meetings are open to the public and minutes are available online: <a href="https://www.cabq.gov/family/partner-resources/meeting-minutes-agendas/homeless-coordinating-council">https://www.cabq.gov/family/partner-resources/meeting-minutes-agendas/homeless-coordinating-council</a></p>	<p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b>          -Continuum of care for youths which includes shelter in a context of job training, college, natural supports          -Ways to leverage Public/Private/Business Developer funding          - Youth Housing Needs Assessment</p>
<p>Other:</p>	<p>Parking Lot:          - Youth with lived experience</p>	

Next Meeting: Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-5:30 pm