



**Agenda**  
**Homeless Services System**  
**11:00 – 12:30**  
**September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Minutes**

**Meeting Participation Principles:**

- Past Progress – Many diverse, and respected voices have contributed to where we are today.
- Preparation - All background materials, minutes and project updates should be read, prior to meetings.
- Contribution – Every voice is elicited, uninterrupted, and heard.
- Distraction - Mute cell phones, avoid side-conversations, stay on-topic.
- Transparency – Acknowledge mistakes, provide upward feedback, seek differing opinions.

*Co-Chairs: Quinn Donnay (DFCS), Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty (Bernalillo County), Rodney McNease (UNM)*  
*Attendees: Steve Johnson (New Day), Carol Pierce (FCS), Lisa Huval (FCS) Yvette Ramirez Ammerman (CABQ consultant), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo), Heather Hoffman (Barrett House), Dennis Plummer (Heading Home), Margarita Chavez (BernCo), Brother Sean, Richard (Reed) Russell (AHCH)*  
*Neighborhood Representatives: Beth Browell, Marit Tully, Christina Apodaca, Doreen McKnight, Kadijah Bottom*

| Individual:  | Discussion/Needs/Gaps  | High Impact Strategies: |
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| Commissioner Pyskoty   | 1) Commissioner Pyskoty, Rodney McNease and Quinn Donnay opened the meeting by welcoming, thanking the participants and reviewing meeting participation principles (above).  |                         |
| Quinn Donnay   | 2) 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 homeless services system including core documents:<br>a. CABQ<br>b. BernCo<br>c. UNM<br>Q & A | 3) Meeting Purpose: To address system gaps and unmet needs with regards to the Gateway Center, while minimizing impact on surrounding neighborhoods.<br>4) We are tasked with finding system gaps and high impact strategies within the first 60 days of meeting<br>5) Quinn provided a quick overview of the Core Documents: Focus groups, Public meetings, Changing the Story, medical |                         |

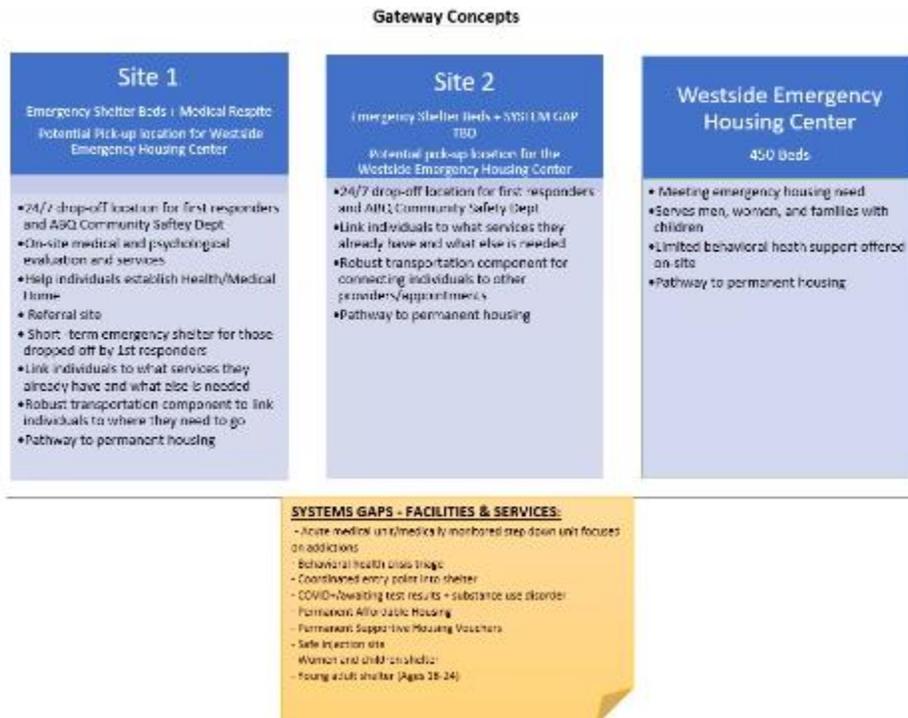
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|  | <p>respite, site ranking (currently old-Gibson/Lovelace Hospital, Coronado Park and surrounding areas). City has been appraising parcels of land with the concept of a Gateway shelter with limited neighborhood impact and the goal of addressing the shortage of shelter beds (we have shortages for every demographic: families, women and children, youth, etc.)</p> <p>6) We also have a massive shortage of Affordable Housing – which another Committee is working on.</p> <p>7) WEHC will remain open</p> <p>8) Medical respite beds for people experiencing homeless who are medically fragile, in need of pre/post operation care.</p>  |  |
| <p>Commissioner Pyskoty led members in:<br/>Introduction of Committee Members</p> <p>a. Who are you, where are you from, and what do you think you can contribute to the committee?</p> <p>b. What would you like to see as the group’s major achievement?</p> | <p>Commissioner Pyskoty moderated introductions, affiliations, vision for this meeting:</p> <p>Rodney McNease: UNMH Psychiatric Emergency Care– 10-15% of patients are potentially homeless. Approx. 5-10% of overall UNMH patients</p> <p>Quinn shared the “Gateway Concept” graphic (Exhibit #1 below)<br/>Current Facility:</p> <p>WEHC – 450 emergency shelter beds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing for men, women, families with children (not for unaccompanied youth)</li> <li>• Limited behavioral health, social services, basic health care on site</li> <li>• Pathway to Permanent Housing</li> </ul> <p>2 New (Potential) sites (Gaps):</p> <p>1) Emergency Shelter Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/7 drop-off for first responders and Abq. Community Safety Dept.</li> <li>• Pathway to permanent housing</li> <li>• Robust transportation component</li> </ul> <p>Medical Respite Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24/7 onsite medical and psychological evaluations and services</li> <li>• 24/7 drop-off for first responders and Abq. Community Safety Dept.</li> <li>• Link to current services and services needed</li> <li>• Pathway to permanent housing</li> <li>• Robust transportation component</li> </ul> <p>System Gaps Facilities/Services</p> <p>Acute Medical Unit</p> <p>Step-down unit focused on addictions</p> <p>Coordinated entry into shelter</p> <p>COVID: housing, testing, results</p> <p>Substance abuse disorder</p> <p>Permanent Housing support Vouchers</p> <p>Safe Injection Site</p> | <p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b></p> <p>-Acute Medical Unit</p> <p>-Step-down unit focused on addictions</p> <p>-Coordinated entry into shelter</p> <p>-COVID: housing, testing, results</p> <p>-Substance abuse disorder</p> <p>-Permanent Housing support Vouchers</p> <p>-Safe Injection Site</p> <p>-Women and Children</p> |

|  | Women and Children Housing Subsidies  | Housing Subsidies   |
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|  | <p>Beth Browell – Stronghurst Neighborhood advocate. Concerned about schizophrenic homeless needing food and a shower. How can we better support individuals?</p> <p>Brother Sean, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; Iron men’s emergency shelter with 60 beds, 6 months addiction program, meals for 75 – 250, six days a week.</p> <p>Christina Apodaca – Martinez town advocate, concerned about economic impact, health and sanitation. Where do we direct homeless individuals in need? Where is the Gateway Center going to be?</p> <p>Dennis Plummer Heading Home, Albuquerque Opportunity Center (AOC), staff Westside Emergency Housing Center (WEHC) in psych units. We need to create a master housing plan inclusive of a master shelter plan.</p> <p>Doreen McKnight – Wells Park neighborhood association (area includes Coronado Park), heavily impacted by Homeless-serving agencies is advocating equitable distribution of services – it appears discriminatory to place services in historically low-income minority majority areas. She notes there are currently 5 service providers in her neighborhood. Concerned about the discussion re: Gateway in the neighborhood, and if food, showers, case management services are located in the Gateway it would be duplicative, if these do not exist it encourages foot-traffic in neighborhood. She would like to see dedicated, extensive financial resources for more than sidewalks, and lights – real re-development funds.</p> <p>Heather Hoffman is interested in working toward creating more cohesion around a clear pathway to housing and independence.</p> <p>Kadijah Bottom – 17 neighborhood associations. Interested in programs for women and children, supports the Gateway on Gibson, emphasis on services with those with mental health issues. Question of consent – are people experiencing a psychotic episode really able to consent to care?</p> <p>Marit Tully – Near North Valley Neighborhood Association. Marit indicated the neighborhood association has a good relationship with homeless service providers in the area, but she noted the changes to the neighborhood in the last five (5) years since homeless services have become more concentrated in the area have been detrimental. Specifically, Ms. Tully spoke to several issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business closures, installation of fencing, changes the feel of the neighborhood/community</li> </ul> | <p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b></p> <p>Extensive financial resources for more than sidewalks – real re-development funds for impacted neighborhoods.</p> <p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b></p> <p>Housing options for acute intellectual and physical disabilities and substance abuse.</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Necessity for better treatment for people experiencing homelessness, giving people shelter for the night, or a meal and forcing them back on the streets, is inhumane.</li> <li>• High need for more permanent supportive housing.</li> <li>• Attention needs to be paid to the socio-economic, racism issues of placing a high density of homeless services in one area thus devaluing property values.</li> <li>• Improved support for property owners and businesses in the area is necessary and should include tax breaks, improved sanitation, and the creation of a Public Safety District with dedicated police officers.</li> <li>• A significant, dedicated and sustained infusion of funds from City and County officials – combining their individual discretionary funds to provide funding for the next five (5) years would be one option exhibiting a real commitment of government resources.</li> <li>• Need concrete steps forward, not just more discussion.</li> </ul> <p>Richard (Reed) Russell -AHCH Master Housing Plan is Critical. Scattered site Vouchers. Many people who are elderly, or have psychiatric or intellectual disabilities cannot live alone. Many people already have relationships with service providers, so we need to avoid duplication of services at Gateway Center.</p> <p>Steve Johnson (New Day) – working on gap in services for young adults. Have extended continuum of care to jobs programs for 17 - 24 year-olds, located near San Mateo and Central to distance from concentration of adult homeless. Youth’s don’t qualify for children’s services and feel adults’ services are unsafe. Federal research indicates the fastest growing population is under 24, it important to catch youth early, so they don’t move into the adult pipeline of homelessness, Young people tend to be more malleable. When this age-group starts to experience psychosis they are unable to use the services we’ve designed. Typical mental and behavioral health services do not work for this population. What we have now is ineffective.</p> <p>Margarita Chavez from BernCo, Director of Behavioral Health Services “Care Campus”, which includes the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public inebriate intervention services,</li> <li>• Post-acute care</li> <li>• Detox</li> </ul> <p>15% identify as homeless, with a disproportionate majority of Native Americans. She believes the Gateway center is part of a larger continuum of primary Behavioral Health care of which the Gateway is a piece – not the answer. What we know does not work is simply giving someone a housing vouchers. Question about Medical Respite terminology and what staffing requirements it entails. Wants service improvements to be achievable and attainable</p> | <p><b>High Impact Strategies:</b></p> <p>Improved support for property owners and businesses in the area including tax breaks, improved sanitation, and the creation of a Public Safety District with dedicated police officers.</p> |
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| <p>4) Next steps, reflection, and closing</p> <p>Things to consider:</p> <p>a. How to keep discussion focused?</p> <p>b. Any additional info needed to inform group?</p> <p>c. Other core documents from other agencies?</p> | <p>Lisa Huval Dep Dir. of Family and Community Services introduced herself to the group, as did Carol Pierce Director of Family and Community Services. Carol underscored what we are developing is a Continuum of care, and we cannot discuss these issues in siloes, all 5 committees are engaged,</p> <p>Rodney McNease closed out the meeting– reminder to read core documents, we will have more documents to share with the group</p> <p>Yvette Ramirez Ammerman noted major themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable relationships for homeless, neighborhoods, businesses</li> <li>• Master (integrated/humane/safety), housing &amp; shelter plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Meeting will be held, September 22nd, 11:00am-12:30pm.</b></p> |  |
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**Exhibit #1**



**Core Documents:**

**CABQ:** Focus Group – People With Lived Experience, Gateway Center Site Ranking Report, Gateway Center Online Survey Report, Gateway Center Public Input Session, Changing the Story document, Assessing Shelter Capacity Report (Barbara Poppe and Stephen Metreaux report), Gateway Concepts document, Medical Respite Community Needs Assessment

**UNM:** UNM Hospitals 2020 Community Health Needs Assessment

**BernCo:** Bernalillo County Healthcare Task Force Recommendations: 2014