



**Minutes**

**Youth Housing Continuum Committee**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**January 20th, 2021**

**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: Dr. Assata Zerai (UNM), Quinn Donnay (FCS), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torrez (UNM Dean of Students)</i>	
<i>Members: Gilbert Ramirez (FCS-Beh Health Dep. Dir), Laura Norman (CABQ consultant), Karla Castaneda (Centro Savila), Diana Lopez (YDI), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo), Kerry Moriarty (CYFD BHS), Joscelyn Huffmaster (BHI), Madeline Rafferty (CYFD), Penelope Buschardt (APS), Steve Johnson (New Day), Hilary Stim (CYFD), Brooke Tafoya (New Day), Dr. Assata Zerai (UNM), Quinn Donnay (FCS), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torrez (UNM Dean of Students), Bill Wagner (CentroSavila), Emily Martin (CYFD), Jennifer Weiss-Burke (Serenity Mesa), Steven Serrano (Casa Q), Kelly Jo Parker (Juv Prob BernCo), Steven Brooks (BernCo)</i>	

<b>Agenda Item/Person:</b>	<b>Discussion and Action</b>
1.)Welcome and Intros; Dr. Assata Zerai	Assata Zerai welcomed committee members, and asked all to provide introductions using preferred pronouns.
2.)Minutes approval, Dr. Assata Zerai	Minutes from 1.6.21 meeting were approved.
3.)Young Adult Shelter, Jennifer Scacco and Quinn Donnay	This meeting and the next will focus on the Young Adult Shelter. First element discussed, ‘Size.’ Discussed 10 to 16 beds. Economy of scale needs to be weighed. Other considerations include, male, female, transgender; separate buildings or same? Do we have sense of actual demand/need? Will be for over 18 remember, not kids. Gilbert Martinez shared on screen a 2017 YRRS Survey for gender identity and shelter/housing need projections. What do we know about 18 to 24 year olds at the WEHC and wellness motels? Gilbert didn’t have but could get. Brooke Tafoya shared that recently at New Day they identified 10 age 18 to 24 year olds who will not go to existing adult shelters for various reasons; these are 10 known so assume there are more. Consensus was that space needs to be flexible, organic, able to evolve.

*'Target demographic'* next discussion item, 18 to 24 was confirmed as the right target. But if age 17 ½ can be included; Kelly Jo Parker can get data on how many they see through probation in this age with needs. How would this work with minors and adults in same shelter? Need to study that further. Bill Wagner recommended space be culturally inclusive, welcoming for various ethnicities and languages.

*'Services and Hub Model'* next discussion item, to which Brooke Tafoya shared what has worked for their newly-opened Drop In Center is to create a safe space, and street outreach team has built connections. Jennifer Scacco pointed to the importance of having peers / people with lived experience. Substance abuse services. A complaint that Jennifer Weiss hears often is that clients must redo assessments each place they enter; if there is a way to access assessments from other providers would be nice not to do again at shelter. Meet the clients where they are; find out what they need, and it may be something simple. Basic case management. Street outreach partnerships. Steve Johnson posed the question of whether services at the shelter should actually be few; instead, connect them with agencies already doing the work. Harm reduction, needle exchange, Narcan availability mentioned in chat box. Where would the young adults go during the day? Partner with drop-in centers. Gilbert Martinez suggested exit planning needs to begin Day 1, so does not become warehousing. Bill Wagner offered that 10 people (if the size was 10 beds) having/sharing the same single therapist would not be good. Should utilize lessons learned during Covid and maximize telehealth options – need phone/zoom/confidential space. Kelly Jo Parker offered that young probationers she works with do not necessarily function as adults when they turn 18. They may need a short-term place to be to come up with a plan, or could take up to 30 days. Hub and integrating services seemed to be the preferred approach.

Gilbert Martinez shared that many lessons have been learned at the WEHC, including that a strong site manager/coordinator is pivotal.

Detox with CARES campus, perhaps with a special pathway for young adults. Housing vouchers should be woven in at shelter.

Bill Wagner asked about school and how that would be addressed. Assata Zerrai shared that CNM does have some staggered schedule courses to make entrance more flexible. UNM is less flexible to enter at times other than semester starts. Penelope Buschardt reminded that all the young adults at the shelter would qualify for McKinney Vento Act services; some 17 to 21 year olds could still be in high school.

Diana Lopez at YDI shared that Project Adelante does a hub concept. Agrees that this shelter should not be the provider of everything.

Karla Castaneda asked about young parents; how will they be able to access this shelter with their children? Fathers with children, as well as mothers.

Steve Johnson said that he does not envision this shelter to be like/look like New Day's, and Diana Lopez said that she also did not envision it looking like Amistad either.

Brooke Tafoya mentioned that there is a need to create comfort but also a sense of movement; this is a stop, not a long-term stay.

Quinn Donnay shared that the Services Committee under HCC has a list of things they felt were important for this shelter – (ie, kennel spaces) and she will share that list with this committee.

Penelope Buschardt reiterated that it is important to go into an admission with an exit in mind; what is on the opposite end, and do we need to create it? What are the other pieces/services needed for the full expression of this idea?

Steve Johnson said that you have to have people stay long enough to connect them; they need to settle down to make the next smart step. Length of stay was discussed, and the consensus was up 30 days, and it should be made clear in a positive way from the beginning.

Rapid Rehousing needs to be built in, as this is a big gap.

Quinn Donnay suggested that maybe something could be included in the Youth Housing Needs Assessment being prepared that would gather helpful information for this shelter's services.

Quinn Donnay provided updates:

-Gibson Medical Center purchase by the City is in process but delayed due to feuding sellers; could be March for a close, or much later. Relative to this property, what does the group see there as services for youth/young adults? It is 572,000 total square feet of space. Youth Detox? Youth shelter? A tour later is possible, if this committee or a subgroup would be interested.

-Second announcement was the HopeWorks as approached the City about wanted to create a shelter for single men and single women on their campus. Discussions are underway.

Last, Quinn Donnay will bring the coordinated framework document back next meeting for review and discussion – will sent it out ahead so committee members can review prior.

**Next Meeting: Feb 3, 2021, 4:00-5:30 pm**