



**Minutes**

**Youth Housing Continuum Committee**

**4:00 – 5:30 pm**

**February 3rd, 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: Diana Lopez (YDI), Kashif Muhammed (BernCo), Joscelyn Huffmaster (BHI), 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), Laura Norman (CABQ consultant),</i>

<b>Agenda Item/Person:</b>	<b>Discussion and Action</b>
1.)Welcome and Intros; Jennifer Scacco	Jennifer Scacco welcomed committee members, and introductions were made.
2.)Minutes approval, Quinn Donnay	Motion to approve minutes of 01.20.21 was made by Assata Zerai, seconded by Joscelyn Huffmaster. Motion to approve passed.
3.)Young Adult Shelter, Jennifer Scacco and Quinn Donnay	<p>Quinn Donnay asked that the committee continue its discussion regarding details of a Young Adult Shelter. In addition, would like to review this committee’s section of the Coordinated Framework document. Quinn Donnay has been asked to prepare a 2-pg white paper on the Young Adult Shelter and what this project will look like.</p> <p>Updates of interest to committee from yesterday’s HCC meeting, specifically legislative priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jennifer Scacco and Quinn Donnay provided detail on a County legislative priority, which is to advocate for young adult and youth housing. Originally the focus only was on youth aging out of foster care system, but now is expanded to include youth who are not system-connected.</li> </ul>

- Another legislative priority highlighted at HCC was UNM's work around food insecurity. Nasha Torrez shared that the Provost has organized a Basic Needs Task Force. UNM is doing fundraising to create an endowment for ongoing funding for food pantry and housing insecurity. During the pandemic, food pantry is open only to UNM students. Prior to this, it was also open to community. HB133 is to provide funding for and create pilot programs much like what UNM is building. Nasha Torrez said that this legislation will benefit their efforts, but not clear yet on its precise details.

Quinn Donnay shared screen of the section of the Coordinated Framework that has "***Shelter for young adults (18-25)***" bullet, with many sub-bullets. Need to review each, update as needed; this document is being moved out of Draft status soon, so need as much current detail as possible. Quinn Donnay made live edits to the document.

-*Coordinated entry into shelter for youth:* Committee agreed this means a coordinated point for connections to other services (the Hub model), not necessarily entry into the Coordinated Entry HMIS system

-*Access to basic needs...:* no changes. Will invite architect to this meeting when closer to a firm location, so can have conversation about all elements of this sub-bullet.

-*ABQ Community Safety...:* Discussed need to be available to take guests in crisis. Clear parameters important, as not planning to take actively suicidal or those in need of detox. Discussion regarding the need for youth detox being an ongoing need in ABQ followed.

-*Storage space:* agreed very important, and there are many ways to structure storage. Steven Serrano recommended no lockers

-*Individualized support to target needs...:* Jennifer Weiss-Burke suggested there are lessons to learn from MDC and their re-entry program

-*Goal to exit individuals from system:* All agreed that this is the ultimate goal – provide support for young adults in need and in transition, assisting them to independence.

-*Approach based on engagement...:* Added trauma informed, harm reduction, strengths based, youth voice and choice

-*Care Coordination:* no changes

-Deleted sub-bullet "*high fidelity wrap around,*" as this will not be done on site, but instead will be referred to in the community

-*Behavioral health services:* discussed what would be provided onsite vs referred. Therapeutic environment is needed, but not necessarily therapists. Consensus that do need to be prepared for crisis intervention. Doing another screening/assessment or beginning to build a relationship with no services, can be problematic. Do warm hand-offs to and coordination with community providers. Consider remote and telehealth, for which private space needed. Is there a way to reduce number of screenings and coordinate, so welcoming environment and not alienating.

-*Employment and education support...:* Connect with community providers, doing very limited on site.

-*Life Skills classes...:* Connect with community providers, doing very limited on site.

	<p>-<i>Culturally and spiritually accommodating and affirming Space...</i>: Discussed flexible space that is multipurpose, to include spirituality. If space is multipurpose vs task specific (for example, not a chapel only) then can be used for worship, life skills or meditation.</p> <p>-<i>Multipurpose rooms</i>: could do life skills classes here as needed; worship area; meditation area</p> <p>-<i>Med management</i>: Can guests get meds filled while staying at the shelter? Discussed various approaches to this (on-call psychiatrist possibly), but consensus was that this is an important element, as is medication education.</p> <p>-<i>Indoor/outdoor rec space..</i> no changes</p> <p>-<i>Computer lab</i>: no changes</p> <p>-<i>Mail</i> is a new sub-bullet addition (so guests can have an address to receive mail)</p> <p>-<i>Accommodation for pets</i>: Kennels, yes. Possible to partner with Animal Humane for assistance. Requires planning for feeding, etc. Emily Martin shared that domestic violence shelters have done this well and we could learn from them in NM. Joscylyn Huffmaster added that there is also a shelter in Las Vegas that has this component too.</p> <p><b><u>Next Steps:</u></b> Quinn Donnay will combine information from today and previous meetings to create the 2 pg white paper; will send to the committee when done for input.</p> <p>Emily Martin will provide updates on the Needs Assessment at next meeting.</p>

**Next Meeting: Feb 17, 2021, 4:00-5:30 pm**