



**Homeless Services System  
11:00 – 12:30  
September 7, 2021  
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: Erin Engelbrecht (Mayor’s Office), Margarita Chavez Sanchez (Bernalillo County), Rodney McNease (UNM)*  
*Attendees: Erin Engelbrecht (CABQ), Cate Reeves (Presby Med Svcs), Rodney McNease (UNM), Marit Tully (Near North Valley NA), Margarita Chavez Sanchez (BernCo), Reed Russell (AHCH), Mario Cruz (Parkland Hills NA), Christina Apodaca (Martineztown/Santa Barbara NA), Deiandra Cole (Block by Block), Cristy Hernandez (CABQ), Deb Bazan (CABQ), Lisa Huval (CABQ), Beth Brownell, (Stronghurst NA)*

<b>Individual:</b>	<b>Discussion/Action</b>
<i>Welcome and Agenda Overview, Erin Engelbrecht</i>	Erin Engelbrecht welcomed committee members and introduced Cristy Hernandez, Gateway Administrator with CABQ; then provided agenda overview.
<i>Introduction of committee members and approval of minutes, Rodney McNease</i>	Minutes were not distributed to members; will go out next month prior to meeting for review and approval then. Committee members introduced themselves.
<i>Gateway Center Admin Policies – Update on Discussions and Upcoming Discussions, Lisa Huval</i>	Lisa Huval provided background: City released draft operations plan August 3, posted online. Accepting community feedback. It was focused on the external aspects of the Gateway Center. Then, started working on Administrative Policies, which are more internal focused on what is going on inside the Gateway Center. Hope to have draft posted online by end of this week. Had a good meeting with District 6 representatives and service providers on August 16 where presented a few core principles/plans of the Admin Policies for discussion. Scenario presented in terms of bed capacity was once fully phased in would have 100 beds for single adults plus serve 25 families with children. Over the course of a year, would be serving about 400 adults and 100 families. Will have a Homeless Advisory Council meeting at the end of September, where will discuss the Admin Policies there – this Council includes Service Providers and Neighborhood Representatives. Questions for Lisa; Reed Russell asked about

<p><i>Covid Care – Bernalillo County and City of Albuquerque, Margarita Chavez Sanchez and Lisa Huval</i></p>	<p>capacity related to the WEHC. Lisa Huval said that City is not planning on closing the WEHC any time soon; some day, when enough beds are central in City is the vision. Under typical circumstances, the WEHC can serve 450 per night; with Covid protocols that require social distancing, fewer people are served.</p>
<p><i>Bernalillo County Updates, Margarita Chavez Sanchez</i></p>	<p>Margarita Chavez Sanchez reported that County continues to provide Covid vaccinations and preparing to deliver third doses. Promoting flu shots as well.</p> <p>Lisa Huval reported that City worked with several partners to build a system of care to protect people experiencing homelessness from Covid 19. At height of pandemic, working with partners, were operating 3 wellness motels. The City operated 2 and County 1. On June 30, closed 2 of those motels – the ones serving single adults – because those adults all had an opportunity to be vaccinated. Kept the wellness motel for families open, and it serves approx. 100 families with children nightly. Heading Home operates it, and City also contracted with ABQ Healthcare for the Homeless and UNM Pathways to provide services and housing coordination there. Use this time at wellness motel to exit into permanent housing; have had some success in this effort. Also at height of pandemic had 2 isolation hotels with the State of NM, safe place for those to isolate. Had scaled this back to a few rooms, but with Delta variant are scaling back up to increase number of rooms. Continue to partner with DFA on Emergency Rental Assistance; both the City and the State received money through US Treasury for rent and utilities. The two joined forces for one joint program – ABQ got about \$24 million, and as of last week, about \$14 million had been awarded to ABQ renters. At WEHC, continue to have medical staff for screening, testing, isolating related to Covid as necessary. Stay open there 24/7 with meals, a change made during pandemic. Offer Covid vaccinations at WEHC too. Marit Tully asked about Covid care at encampments, and Lisa Huval said that ABQ Healthcare for the Homeless and First Nations provide medical in the field including Covid related. Reed Russell added that this is still done; in addition, the outreach team continues to hand out ‘covid backbacks’ which have an array of supplies and will continue to as long as supplies last.</p> <p>Margarita Chavez Sanchez said County is making headway on the Hope Village project; applications being taken for this housing opportunity by Bernalillo County (60 day window to apply). Hope Village is for homeless or precariously housed adults with a behavioral health need; permanent supportive housing. 42 units at this ‘single site’ project adjacent to Hope Works off 3<sup>rd</sup>. Requested that this committee to help distribute this information widely. <a href="https://www.bernco.gov/community-services/blog/2021/09/02/bernalillo-county-hope-village-supportive-housing/">https://www.bernco.gov/community-services/blog/2021/09/02/bernalillo-county-hope-village-supportive-housing/</a></p> <p>In addition, the County is working to purchase land for a second location for a similar project to be built; focus on families and veterans at this site. County hosted a ribbon cutting at Cares Campus recently, now offering detox for 48 clients with semi-private rooms. Clients can complete their first couple days of detox in open floor with clear line of site, then move into semi-private room which encourages longer engagement in treatment because clients feel more comfortable. Construction/renovation on the former detox floor is underway, and it will become the Observation and Assessment unit; increasing from 20 to 60 people by end of this calendar year. Have started Suboxone maintenance at Metro Detention Center; for many years only Methadone</p>

<p><i>UNM Updates, Rodney McNease</i></p> <p><i>Wrap Up, Gateway Center or GMC final questions</i></p>	<p>provided. Have issued an RFP for Senior Peer Case Management; the pandemic has highlighted the deficit and the need for this age group. Currently soliciting applications for people to participate in the BHI Subcommittees; particularly looking for people with lived experience. <a href="https://www.bernco.gov/department-behavioral-health-services/blog/2021/07/08/seeking-community-members-to-serve-on-behavioral-health-committees/">https://www.bernco.gov/department-behavioral-health-services/blog/2021/07/08/seeking-community-members-to-serve-on-behavioral-health-committees/</a></p> <p>Rodney McNease reported that a Crisis Triage Center on UNM campus adjacent to the UNM psychiatric center is being developed. That facility will also house a rebuilt psychiatric emergency dept; made sense to relocate all to one location. An architect has been working with them on design, which will be done in the next couple of months. A living room model will be incorporated; a range of services offered to include an observation unit. Will have opportunity to create some expanded child psychiatric services too. Looking at developing other program pieces with the County, addressing gaps in the continuum of care; will work collaboratively with County and its Care Campus in order to manage different levels of acuity. The group working on medical respite continues to have discussions to make a model proposal for consideration.</p> <p>Lisa Huval added Gateway Center/City has applied for Conditional Use Permit, and the hearing regarding this application will be on Sept 21.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>First Tuesday in Oct is next meeting: Oct 5, 2021</b></li> </ul>

**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