Homeless Coordinating Council: Gateway/Facilities Committee Meeting
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference
Friday, March 12, 2021, 10:00am-11:00am

City Councilor Isaac Benton, City of Albuquerque
County Commissioner Debbie O’Malley, Bernalillo County
Director Thomas Neale, The University of New Mexico
Chief Operations Officer Lawrence Rael, City of Albuquerque
BHI Steering Committee Member Robert Baade, Bernalillo County

Public Zoom Information:
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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MINUTES

Introductions and Announcements

i. Welcome and Introductions

The following members were present: Ike Benton (CABQ), Debbie O’Malley (BernCo), Thomas Neale (UNM), and Lawrence Rael (CABQ).

Other individuals present (on Zoom): David Parkinson (CABQ), Quinn Donnay (CABQ), Doug Chaplin (CABQ), Carol Pierce (CABQ), Brie Sillery, Sara Keeney, Tina Kachele, and Peter Rice

New and Ongoing Activities

ii. Discussion – Facilities Updates
Gibson Medical Center

The committee members began by discussing the Gibson facility (GMC) and that the closing documents are getting finalized and that the contract states that ownership can be taken on May 1st 2021. There is still some work to be done on inspections and committee members decided to prioritize the shelter location of the building. Members are also still trying to understand long term budgeting implications both for the city’s programming and the general operations of the facility. The resources they have suggested are case workers, medical support provided by the university, possibly a family shelter and substance use recovery resources. Information to the neighborhood will also be released and members will be setting up a meeting date with community. There were also conversations on the best way to care for mental health concerns such as connecting with Agora, 911, or other case managers.

Westside Emergency Housing Center (WEHC)

The next topic was the Westside housing center. Staff is still working towards helping contain the spread of the virus in the facility and fortunately have kept a low amount of cases. There operations are also in use 24/7 for those who are at that facility. The staff has also scheduled inspections for the kitchen area of the facility. They have also assigned blue pods for isolation and quarantining and are partnering with MDC to be able to house folks coming out of the system if needed.

North Downtown Facility

The City is in the process of getting appraisals and environmental inspections scheduled on potential properties.

Other – Tiny Homes Village, Encampments

The Tiny Home Village is continuing development and working towards more construction. Members discussed the continuum of housing as a system and how encampments, Tiny Homes Village, and shelters all potentially fit.

2021 Legislative Update

No legislative update was discussed.

To Confirm: Meeting Schedule – Next Meeting Friday, March 26, 2021 @ 10:00am

The committee concluded and adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.