



**One Albuquerque Homeless Advisory Council  
January 16, 2020  
Minutes**

**Attendees**

Lisa Huval (DFCS), Lovie McGee (AACA), Will Hoffman (North Valley Coalition), Yuko Kobayashi (NM Asian Family Center), Hana Gossett (NMCEH), Dennis Plummer (Heading Home), Jenny Metzler (AHCH), Connie Chavez (Barrett Foundation), Greg Morris (HopeWorks), Khadijah Bottom (Vizionz- Sankofa), Xochitl Campos Biggs (DFCS), Beth Brownell (Stronghurst), Penelope Buschardt (APS- Title I MVP), Gilbert Ramirez (DFCS)

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment from guests.

**Gateway Center**

**A. Updates**

- The Gateway Center is an emergency shelter that voters approved funding for last Fall
- Center will be centrally located and operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- It will serve people who are experiencing homelessness with services and housing
- Location has not been chosen

**B. Input Session**

- Held on December 14, 2019
- 180 people in attendance
- There were two goals for the session
  - Goal 1- hear from the community what kind of services they thought were important to offer at the Gateway Center
  - Goal 2- identify criteria to consider when selecting a site
    - Five potential locations were presented- community members were asked to evaluate the locations against the criteria they developed
- Common Location Criteria
  - Low impact on neighborhood
  - Ease of access to services
  - Ease of access to transportation
  - High level of safety and security for both people at the center and surrounding neighborhoods
- Potential Locations Presented
  - Former hospital on Gibson
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> & I40- no specific site identified

- Part of the UNM Health Sciences property
  - Current location- Westside Emergency Housing Center
  - Montessa Park
    - Participants felt that the former hospital on Gibson, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & I40 area, and the UNM Health Sciences property met many of the criteria they developed
  - Full report can be found on the City's website- cabq.gov
- C. Online Survey
- Asked questions about the same topics as the input session- services and location
  - Received just under 3500 responses
  - Goal is to get report out to the community by early February with the results of the online survey
  - Conducting focus groups with people experiencing homelessness at the following locations:
    - Albuquerque Opportunity Center
    - Westside Emergency Housing Center
    - Healthcare for the Homeless
      - Will post a report in February with the results of the focus groups
- D. Timeline
- Currently on track
    - Voters approved \$14 million in G.O. Bond funds in November
    - City formally requests support from key partners
    - The City did select an architectural firm to design shelter- Mullen Heller Architecture
    - Consultant presents final emergency shelter bed analysis at community meeting on December 10, 2019- final report can be found on the City's website- cabq.gov
    - Identified potential sites
    - Community engagement session on December 14, 2019
    - Meet with core service providers to map out how the new center will connect to a larger system of services
    - The City will ask for state capital outlay funds to support expanded services
  - Next Steps
    - Going to state capital to ask for state capital outlay funds on January 21
    - Architect to begin design will have to be pushed back- contract needs to be finalized and a site needs to be identified
    - Select a contractor
- E. Project Coordinator
- The City will be hiring a project coordinator to oversee the development of the Gateway Center
  - This position will:
    - Work with neighborhoods once a site is selected
    - Work with providers to figure out programming
    - Coordinate with the existing system of services
    - Put out RFP for who is going to run the center
- F. System Connection & Expansion
- The City wants to support the work that is already happening in the community
  - The City wants to work with and expand the system of services that are currently being offered

- A meeting with the Homeless Advisory Council as well as other providers will be conducted to understand who is thinking about expanding- are there places where the City can help support the expansion

#### G. Questions & Comments

- Do you know the status of asbestos in the hospital site? *Lisa did not know.*
- Suggestions for focus groups
  - God's Warehouse
  - Barrett Foundation
  - Food Pantries
  - Northwest Transit Center
  - APS- Title I
  - New Day
  - People who are less likely to go to a shelter
- Look through existing data- questions might already be answered
- City councilors and council staff can help with focus groups and providing new ideas
- The phrasing of number 10 on the timeline is confusing
- Has the City asked anyone to donate land? *Yes, we are currently asking partners to be part of this project, including donating land.*
- Has the City thought about using Facebook or Go Fund Me?
- When the RFP goes out, will the project coordinator be the supervisor of the RFP? *Yes, the project coordinator will oversee this process.*
- How many homeless people are there in Albuquerque? *We estimate there are at least 1500 people on any given night experiencing homelessness.*
- There is room for everyone to continue what they are doing- the Gateway Center can be built and agencies will continue to be used
- What's next? We open the Gateway Center and then what? *The Gateway Center is part of a broader strategy to address homelessness, including increasing the supply of permanent housing.*
- How long will people be able to stay at the Gateway Center? *We have not determined exact length of stay, but it will be more than just a few days or weeks.*

#### Westside Emergency Housing Center- Updates and Discussion

##### A. New Pick-up & Drop-off Location

- New location is at Steelbridge (2<sup>nd</sup> Street just North of I-40)
  - For women and families with children including men who are part of families with children
- Steelbridge offers tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3pm -6pm
  - Tutoring is also available at Barrett House, Safe House, and New Day
- A meeting will be set up to discuss how to get kids who are staying at the Westside Emergency Housing Center to and from school on time

##### B. Cold Weather Numbers

- Increase in numbers because of cold weather
- Overflow pods are being used (9-10)
  - An RFP has been put out for overflow pods

### C. Questions & Comments

- Is there a place, during the day, that families can go to when children are sick? *Steelbridge currently services as the drop off and pick up location for families staying at the Westside Emergency Housing Center. However, there is a gap in the middle of the day when they are closed.*

### Affordable Housing- Updates and Discussion

#### A. Workforce Housing Bonds

- Voters did approve \$5 million in workforce housing bonds
  - Can be used to construct housing for low and moderate income New Mexicans
- An RFP will be put out this spring to find developers to build affordable housing

#### B. Rapid Re-Housing

- \$2 million in this year's budget for rapid re-housing
  - The City has entered into contracts with the Barrett Foundation and HopeWorks to administer this program
    - Three-year contract
  - Each partner will provide up to one year's worth of rental assistance and supportive services

#### C. Urban Institute Study

- The City entered into a contract with the Urban Institute
  - A well-known national group that does affordable housing analysis
- The Urban Institute will be conducting an affordable rental housing analysis for our community
  - What is the gap in our community for affordable housing for very low-income people
    - People at or below 30% area median income
  - How many more units of affordable housing does there need to be for people in this income bracket
- The Urban Institute will be here in late January to conduct in-person interviews
  - In late Spring they will be back for a site visit
    - Their report will be presented
- The City will be looking at the existing array of affordable housing programs in our community and where there are opportunities to increase and improve affordable housing
  - This will consist of looking into current policies as well as the budget

#### D. Questions & Comments

- Domestic violence victims remain on the mortgage even though they are no longer residing in the home which prevents them from being able to apply for affordable housing. What can be done about this? *We will talk with the Urban Institute about looking at the particular challenges that survivors of domestic violence face.*

### Built for Zero- Updates and Discussion

#### A. New campaign

- National effort to help a group of committed U.S. communities end chronic and veteran homelessness
- The City joined Built for Zero last Summer

#### B. Coordinated Entry System Data

- The City will be using coordinated entry system data to understand what's happening with homelessness in our community
  - The City's coordinated entry system data will begin reporting into Built for Zero every month starting January 2020
  - This will help the City understand how many people are entering homelessness in Albuquerque, how many are exiting into permanent housing, and how many are exiting into permanent housing but then returning into homeless
  - What is the overall number of people experiencing homelessness
  - This information will allow the City to understand if the things that are being done has an impact on homelessness

C. New Meeting

- Chronic Homelessness Case Conferencing
  - A group of front-line providers will meet every month with Coalition to end homelessness
  - Will work collectively with people who are on the list and are struggling to obtain housing

D. Questions & Comments

- Does anyone keep data on hotel vouchers? *We contract with several agencies to provide motel vouchers, and they do provide information on numbers served in quarterly reports.*
- How are you going to help people get a job and keep them out of homelessness? *This will be an important part of the Gateway Center.*
- Should we form another committee?
- We are making a lot of progress as a community in our narrative around the steps we're taking and the steps we're taking are crucial

**Council Member Updates and Announcements**

A. Metro Court

- Homeless support initiative
  - Made a lot of changes in the last 6 months
  - Open to coming to present their re-design of helping people with misdemeanors, a suspended license, or failed to appear in court who are experiencing homelessness
  - Agencies can apply to be an approved provider under the homeless support program
  - Improved method to expedite the judicial system

B. Coordinated Street Outreach

- Foundational work has been done
- Going to get recommendations from experienced organizations on what the next steps will be
  - Meeting February

C. Neighborhood Impacts

- Meetings are on pause

**Next meeting: Thursday, April 16, 2020 at Barel Community Center from 3pm- 5pm**