



One Albuquerque Homeless Advisory Council
August 22, 2019
Minutes

Will Hoffman (North Valley Coalition of Neighborhoods), Hana Gossett (NNMCEH), Janel Shisler (DFCS), Peter Rice (DAN), Laura Anderson (Studio Southwest Architects), Evelyn Kuhn (AHCH), Louie McGee (AACA/CAIR), Pastor Chuck Aragon (Gods Warehouse), Rowan Wyman (DNA), Katie Knipe (Heading Home), Bobby Ehrig (VIC), Penelope Buschoelt (APS Title I Homeless), Lee Gamelsky (Lee Gamelsky Architect), Connie Chavez (Barret Foundation), Dennis Plummer (Heading Home), Jessica Kelly (UNM HSC), Leonette Archuleta (BCHD), Christian Blair (Creamland Dairies), Khadijah Bottom, Vizionz-Sankofa, Jenny Metzler (AHCH), Brian Alarid (New Mexico Prays), Christian Apodaca (SBMT)

Public Comment

There was no public comment from guests.

Report outs from the Coordinated Street Outreach and Neighborhood Impacts Workgroup

The Coordinated Street Outreach workgroup has released a survey to learn more about existing street outreach efforts. They have also developed a shared definition of outreach, principles and categories of outreach.

The Neighborhood Impacts workgroup identified a list of issues impacting their neighborhood as a result of homelessness, and some specific solutions to those issues. They are now focused on a few short and long term issues/solutions. The short term goals are:

- 1) The City needs to develop a clear process for cleaning up human waste, needles and trash that are the result of homelessness. The City needs to communicate that process to neighborhood residents and businesses. The process and communication should clearly account for who is responsible for what on public and private property.
- 2) The City should expand the number of trash cans and syringe disposal boxes in neighborhoods most impacted by homelessness.

Some of the comments in regard to these updates were:

- There are two patterns of people experiencing homelessness – downtown to near north valley and the international district. May times when people gather in one place they are looking for shade
- Trash cans can be an issue because people will set them on fire
- Robinson Park has lots of trash can, but still has lots of trash
- Big trash cans are key

- Responsible trash pickup needed after outreach involving food. This is also why providing food within a building is important.

New Emergency Shelter

Lisa Huval and Gilbert Ramirez gave a presentation on the City's plans for new emergency shelter and other strategies for addressing homelessness

Homeless Advisory Council members and guest raised the following questions and comments:

- There should be a chapel on site
- Is this a stand-alone question, or will it be part of another question on the ballot?
- Have specific programs been identified for the new shelter?
- Need to include APD and AFR in the planning process.
- How do we best help people with mental health issues?
- Is there going to be an income stream to provide bus passes to the new shelter?
- Important to work with families experiencing homelessness, and to help children access safe shelter. We also need to make sure kids are connected to services
- Homelessness needs to remain the focus of the new shelter.
- Important to separate people with active substance abuse issues and mental health issues from families with children
- 30,000 square feet does not seem like enough space for 300 people
- In the conceptual site plan, the dog space is larger than open space for people.
- Will there be security?
- What is the current % of people being transitioned into housing at the Westside Emergency Housing Center (WEHC)
- Concern that we are pushing the new shelter to do too much.
- Allowing walk-ins is not a good idea. Instead the City should consider a separate triage/assessment location away from the shelter.
- Concern that the new shelter will not have an impact on homelessness in our community, because it is not adding any new shelter beds (if WEHC is closed)
- Concern that women may not access the shelter if men are also at the shelter
- Will there be time limits
- People who will be using this shelter are part of our community, important to connect them to our community
- Street outreach is really important part of our system. Not just about putting everything in one place.
- Hopeful that this will have an impact on our community
- We should consider building the facility in a way that it can be an asset to the community, and be converted to another use in the future when a shelter is no longer necessary
- Architects can design a good health space
- Concern about impact on neighborhoods, particularly older neighborhoods

Next meeting: Thursday, October 17th from 3pm – 5pm at the Los Duranes Community Center.