



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO.



## Homeless Coordinating Council Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:45 am-11:00am

Chair, Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque  
Vice-Chair, County Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty, Bernalillo County

City Councilor Pat Davis, City of Albuquerque  
City Councilor Isaac Benton, City of Albuquerque  
County Commissioner Debbie O'Malley, Bernalillo County  
County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County  
President Garnett S. Stokes, The University of New Mexico  
Dr. Douglas Ziedonis, The University of New Mexico

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### Zoom Information:

**Please click the link below to join the webinar:**

<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/91862122122?pwd=dFp0UnhuMExKQnNiRVNiZzA4Ry9yQT09>

**Passcode:** 473061

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## Minutes

### Introductions and Announcements

#### A. Introductions/Designees

Lawrence Rael, Chief Operations Officer and HCC Designee for Mayor Tim Keller, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. A quorum of members was present.

*The following voting members were present:* Councilor Isaac Benton (CABQ), County Manager Julie Morgas Baca (BernCo), and, Dr. Douglas Ziedonis (UNM), Commissioner Debbie O'Malley (BernCo), President Garnett Stokes (UNM), Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty (BernCo)

*Voting Members not present:* Councilor Pat Davis, (CABQ)

*Other individuals present (on Zoom)* Terry Babbitt, (UNM) Assata Zerai (UNM), Brie Sillery, Carol Pierce (CABQ), Doug Chaplin, (CABQ), Isaac Padilla (CABQ) Denise

Lin, David Parkinson (CABQ), Debra Bazan (CABQ), Enrico Gradi (BernCo), Jen Scacco (BernCo), Jessica Dyer, Laura Norman Prescott, Lisa Huval (CABQ), Margarita Chavez (BernCo), Nasha Torrez, Nathan Molina, Peter Rice, Quinn Donnay (CABQ), Rodney McNease (UNM), Bobby Sisneros (CABQ), Kinsey Cooper (CABQ), Sara Keeney, Tom Neale (UNM), Ken Martinez (BernCo), Betty Valdez (BernCo), William Hoffman, Sunny Sampson, David Dixon, Trina Wheeler and Celia.

**B. Agenda**

No modifications to the agenda.

**Public Comment:**

**A. Please refer to the statement “Special Procedures for the HCC Meeting”** posted at <https://www.cabq.gov/family/partner-resources/meeting-minutes-agendas/homeless-coordinating-council>

**B. People may sign up on a first come first serve basis and will be given 1.5 minutes to present.**

Mr. Sunny Sampson was provided 1.5 minutes to provide public comment to the Committee

**Approval of February 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Councilor Benton, moved to approve the Minutes and Chief Operations Manager, Lawrence Rael seconded the motion. There were no objections to the draft minutes and they were so approved.

**Update: COVID-19 System Status Update**

**A. Vaccination Update-Dr. Ziedonis**

Carol Pierce started with an update on vaccinations at the WEHC acknowledging the partnership with DOH and UNM Medical students. There was a total of 94 individuals that received their second vaccination and 13 who received their first of two vaccinations. Following DOH guidelines, the individuals that received vaccinations were 75 years or older or those younger with chronic health conditions. We are working with partner agencies to contact those who were scheduled but not present to receive their second vaccination.

Dr. Ziedonis mentioned that the State overall is doing better and daily COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths are trending down. UNMH is busy and full and remaining over census. In context of vaccinations folks have to remember where we are that the virus is still present and we need to remember to follow all public health precautions, such as wearing masks, keeping distance, and washing our hands. Dr. Ziedonis shared that there is a bit of anxiety about variants of COVID and most recently Brazil has a new variant in which people who already had COVID are having it again. Dr. Ziedonis suggested we talk more about the COVID variants at a future HCC meeting but will forward a link from UNM internal medicine for the committee to read about. UNM is also following DOH guidelines on who gets vaccinated and putting a lot of

energy and thinking about health equity and how the community can feel a trusted partner in getting vaccinated. UNM is applying for additional federal research grants to see if capacity can be increased to reach out to the community. Lastly, the vaccinations were dependent on what comes through federally and now Johnson and Johnson which is a one-shot vaccination and was approved last week and so we are hoping to see how many of those we will get. UNM will implement distribution of the vaccine as soon as we can get the vaccination doses.

Lawrence Rael thanked UNM for their partnership in utilizing the UNM medical students to help with the efforts of this work. Dr. Ziedonis also acknowledged UNM College of Nursing and College of Pharmacy who are working side by side with the medical students and are involved in tracking and tracing and learning in that area too.

#### **B. System of care for people without homes**

Carol Pierce briefly talked about the system of care for people without homes to update acknowledging the partnership between the City, County, State and UNM as we expand the ability to keep people who are vulnerable who are older and more at risk for COVID through our wellness hotel systems. In the last week there are roughly 900 people in the system. This number includes those out at the WEHC. Of the 900, 200 are youth under age 18. The fast track for housing program is in place which uses a housing navigator who works with people on site. The UNM Office of Community Health, Pathways Program is a part of the program as well.

#### **C. Expanding COVID learning in relationship with hospital emergency rooms**

Carol Pierce acknowledged the great working relationship with all our emergency rooms and specifically with UNMH Emergency Dept. when it pertains to someone without a home who was impacted by COVID and how the person could be connected to the safety net system. We want to build on that learning for the people who come through the UNMH Emergency Department. The City wants to build on this system established with UNMH Emergency Dept. to develop a similar system for people who come into the Emergency Dept. with gunshot wounds. The City has a program called the Violence Intervention Program (VIP) that helps people who have been impacted by gun violence or other types of violence. When there is a gunshot wounds presenting in the ED, then with a connection to VIP, the client can know about potential assistance.

President Stokes deferred to Dr. Ziedonis and asked if he had someone in mind. Dr. Ziedonis said he would be happy to discuss in more detail as it's an important issue to not only by supporting the victim but to include supporting families. Dr. Ziedonis offered to follow up as UNM has had some conversations on managing that both with crisis intervention in the community as well as supporting through behavioral health services.

### **Update: Legislative Priorities**

Isaac Padilla thanked Dr. Damron, UNM and County Manager, Julie Morgas Baca for their help and the meetings where they discussed what priorities there are and where they could work together. The main issue that they focused on was the VIP that was just discussed earlier (HB102). There is a good working relationship with the County, City, and UNM working together on joint pieces to address issues of homelessness and mental health.

Carol Pierce added that we have an update on the Housing Modernization Act and its importance in the shared commitment to get people housed. The Act has pieces about eviction diversion to be proactive to keep people safe. There were conversations with the Apartment Association/ Legal Aid to really move that forward and it was in the House Judiciary yesterday. Lisa Huval added that HB111 passed the Judiciary and is now on the House floor. Upon passing the House, it will then move over to the Senate. This legislation involved negotiation with lawmakers and stakeholders who would be impacted by the bill. One of the changes negotiated was the removal of the language that would have prohibited 'source of income' discrimination including housing voucher which is disappointing from the housing committee perspective as it's important to make sure that people can use their vouchers to rent high quality apartments across the city. There is still reason to celebrate because the protections for renters allowing for longer period of time to cure if they are behind in rent payments or longer times to exit the unit if they are evicted as an important part of making sure that people don't end up homeless.

Isaac Padilla added that Mayor Keller made some calls about our request for money (\$10M) to for the gateway centers. Legislation should be coming down soon and will provide a report on what projects were funded to the HCC committee at the next meeting.

#### **Update: GMC**

##### **Emergency Shelter**

Lawrence Rael briefly discussed that the GMC property had been in litigation with the owners of the property and reported that it had been settled in court. The City has entered into a purchase agreement of \$15M for the property and should close on the property by the end of April. The County has agreed to put \$1M of bond proceeds that voters approved in November 2020. The City Council also appropriated money in the general fund budget for this year. Collectively pulling all these resources allows us to take ownership of the facility allowing for a health and social service center that will include services for those who are unhoused in our community.

Carol Pierce talked about the need for emergency shelter beds and the supports needed including medical support, case management and peer support for people as they come in for shelter. There is a continued need to create the pathway back out into the community. Emergency beds for single men and women and the need potentially for families is the priority. It is important to emphasize when talking about more than one gateway and the need or interest for family shelter whether it's at the GMC or potentially elsewhere. The need for a family shelter, medical support and medical respite along with UNM's potential involvement was discussed. Follow-up conversations with UNM will occur.

The County's expertise on peer support, case management and housing is important. County Manager, Julie Morgas Baca identified Margarita Chavez Sanchez for follow-up along with Clay Campbell.

Lawrence Rael added as conversations are moving from conceptual conversations, these items are not necessarily action items but more about getting the right people from each organization connected to start exploring these subjects and to make sure the city is not making decisions without having the benefit of having the point of view from all as it relates to what we do moving forward.

Councilor Benton asked for a possible report or presentation from the Homeless Services Systems (HSS) Committee at next meeting since the conversations today are specifically related to the work of the HSS as it pertains to respite family shelter and some of the specialized shelter needs.

**Update: Research and Assessment Opportunities-UNM**

**A. Review of existing data to quantify permanent housing needs for different populations (e.g. group homes, scattered site and single site)**

President Stokes said that a group of 17 people met to discuss and that the University created a homelessness research committee to coordinate all resources to contribute to solving these issues that engage in creative problem solving and evidence-based decision making and the best use of resources effectively. Janet Page Reeves will be a key leader in the research effort and of most benefit to this group is to have some idea of the timeline that's been proposed for doing the work related to existing data related to evaluating the impacts and benefits and looking into what needs to be done in the short and long term. The group will identify and catalog all data sets that exist related to the gateway project by April 1. By May 1 the group will consolidate the teams of UNM and researchers. By June 1, we hope to have all the data use agreements in place and approvals by July 1 with access to all the datasets. By November 1, have completed the work on preliminary research projects. By December 1, develop reports for the HCC. President Stokes said she will share the entire timeline in writing within a week or well before the next meeting.

**B. Evaluate Impacts and Benefits: People Served, Neighborhoods, Community**

**Summary of Next Steps**

Mayor asked for continued the discussions on possible medical respite and family shelter, peer and case management as well as including the committee updates at next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:45 am-11:00 a.m.**