



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO.



Homeless Coordinating Council Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 9:00 am-11:00am

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

City Council President 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. Michael Richards, The University of New Mexico

Zoom Information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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MEETING MINUTES

Introductions and Announcements

A. Welcome and Introductions

Lawrence Rael, (Mayor Keller's Designee) Chair of the HCC, called the meeting to order at 9:07 am. A quorum of members were present.

The following voting members were present: Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty (BernCo), Councilor Isaac Benton (CABQ), Councilor Pat Davis (CABQ), President Garnett Stokes (UNM), Enrico Gradi (BernCO – Commissioner O'Malley's Designee) County Manager Julie

Morgas Baca (BernCo), and Lawrence Rael (CABQ – Mayor Keller’s Designee), Chamiza Pacheco de Alas (Designee for Mike Richards UNM)

Voting Members not present: n/a

Other individuals present (on Zoom): Charlie Verploegh (BernCo), Carol Pierce (CABQ), David Parkinson (CABQ), Debra Bazan (CABQ), Jen Scacco (BernCo), Jim Collie (BernCo), Lisa Huval (CABQ), Margarita Chavez Sanchez, Mark Childs (UNM), Nasha Torrez (UNM), Quinn Donnay (CABQ), Dr. Assata Zerai (UNM), Robert Baade, Rodney McNease (UNM), Xochitl Campos Biggs (CABQ) William Hoffman, Yvette Ramirez Ammerman (CABQ).

B. Acknowledgment of Designees

Mayor Keller - Lawrence Rael
Commissioner O’Malley– Enrico Gradi
Mike Richards - Chamiza Pacheco de Alas (UNM)

Approval of the September 1st Meeting Minutes

A. Handout: Sept. 1th Minutes

Julie Morgas Baca moved to approve the minutes. A second was made by Councilor Pat Davis. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

Discussion: Community Input for HCC Meetings:

Lawrence Rael noted that written Public Comments are accepted until the Monday at 5:00 p.m. prior to each HCC meeting on Tuesday. Individuals need to sign-up to speak at the HCC meetings, on a first-come-first-served basis. He noted there were no sign-ups for today’s meeting.

Discussion: Op-Ed Submission on behalf of Homeless Coordinating Committee:

Carol Pierce (FCS) stated that the Op-ed piece of the Homeless Coordinating Committee was submitted yesterday to the Albuquerque Journal. The signatories included the Mayor and all the elected officials from the Homeless Coordinating Council along with President Stokes.

Discussion: Committee Updates and Reports

A. Housing, Co-Chairs: Lisa Huval, Betty Valdez, Mark Childs

Lisa Huval, Mark Childs and Betty Valdez provided a quick update to the HCC. The first Housing Committee meeting occurred last Wednesday, Sept. 9th. This committee has an advantage due to the analysis prepared by the Urban Institute (available online) which identifies major needs and gaps of affordable rental housing for low income folks as well as a set of recommended strategies that would have the highest impact. The conversation largely centered on how we begin to prioritize these, where to start, recognizing that some of the high

impact strategies could be implemented much more quickly than others. The committee is sorting them out by timeframe. The committee is currently in the process of drafting a document which will lay out those high impact strategies with details. The committee is planning on sharing the draft with the full Homeless Coordinating Council, at the meeting on the September 29th for feedback and input.

B. Homeless Service System, Co-Chairs: Quinn Donnay, Commissioner Pyskoty, Rodney McNease

Quinn Donnay, Commissioner Pyskoty and Rodney McNease provided a quick update to the HCC. Quinn Donnay distributed an infographic synthesizing the committee's core documents involving medical respite. The first Homeless Service System committee meeting was held September 8th. Commissioner Pyskoty facilitated a community conversation involving all members in a discussion of needs, gaps and high impact strategies. One of the high impact strategies identified was to develop additional capacity for medical respite in Albuquerque. Quinn Donnay indicated the idea of medical respite is for homeless individuals who are not sick enough to go to the hospital, nor assisted living, yet need a supportive environment to recover from illness or injury. The end goal is for these individuals to eventually be brought into permanent housing.

In Albuquerque there is currently a need for respite care since there are only currently 37 medical respite beds, shared between the Barrett House Foundation and the Albuquerque Opportunity Center. This committee is proposing, as a high impact strategy, to have 25 respite beds apart from a shelter population, providing an extra level of safety in which individuals could recuperate.

C. Coordinated Street Outreach, Co-Chairs: Xochitl Campos-Biggs, Commissioner Collie, Dr. Denise Lin (in absentia)

Xochitl Campos Biggs and Commissioner Collie provided a quick update to the HCC. The second meeting of the Coordinated Street Outreach occurred on September 10th. She noted a commonly identified need with regard to individuals experiencing homelessness is the lack of service availability for these individuals in the time period between 5pm and 8am and on the weekends. This is the time when service providers are not working or are closed, so the Albuquerque Police Department and first responders are often called upon during this timeframe.

Ms. Campos Biggs reported on the "Social Dispatch" project she has been developing with Commander Josh Brown (North Valley Area Command) to provide a software application to APD officers who are working swing and graveyard shifts, enabling these officers to identify and refer homeless people to social service assistance as needed. Utilizing City resources already in existence, could potentially be a high level strategy to address homeless needs in the evening and nighttime hours, without the need to post a criminal complaint (such as panhandling or trespassing). A second high impact strategy would be to have a coordinator

who would work with both the APD and all service providers to ensure less duplication and more coordination of services to homeless individuals.

Garnett Stokes, UNM President, citing the growing population of homeless individuals on Central and surrounding UNM, indicated her interest in receiving more information on the “Social Dispatch” project and to connect with UNM Police Dept.

D. Youth Housing Continuum, Co-Chairs: Quinn Donnay, Jennifer Scacco, Assata Zerai and Nasha Torrez

Quinn Donnay, Jennifer Scacco, Assata Zerai and Nasha Torrez provided a quick update to the HCC. The first meeting of the Youth Housing Continuum occurred September 2nd. The committee is composed of youth service providers, CYFD, County, City and others. The focus of the committee is on the unmet needs and the high impact strategies to leverage funding and support for youth (ages 18-25). Co-chair Dr. Assata Zerai, gave a preliminary report on a UNM student survey which indicated up to 40% of respondents (2,700) were ‘precariously-housed’. Dr. Zerai has initiated a meeting with four (4) researchers at UNM to determine if they could assist the committee in quantifying a baseline number of youths experiencing homelessness. Quinn Donnay noted that we have the data on foster youth, juvenile justice, and youth who are accessing behavior health services, but we are missing the number of street youth that are out on the streets.

The Co-Chairs reported the next part will be having a conversation around behavioral health needs and how they intersect with housing needs. A common refrain is that a significant percentage of homeless youth require a higher level of care. One member commented, if our community is unable to reach out to homeless youth in need, they are at risk of chronic homelessness later in life.

The committee's first high impact strategy identified, was the necessity to undertake a youth housing needs assessment.

E. Gateway Facilities, Co-Chairs: Lawrence Rael, Commissioner O’Malley, Tom Neale, and Councilor Isaac Benton.

Lawrence Rael, Councilor Benton, Commissioner O’Malley, and Tom Neale provided a quick update to the HCC. Members of the Gateway Facilities Committee and others toured the Lovelace Medical campus on Gibson last Friday, September 11th. The City is finishing the appraisal of the facility, including an environmental assessment. One aspect highlighted by the tour is that it is a large site - which creates great opportunity, but, the size also something which would have to be managed carefully. A meeting will be set up with the Governor's office and Department of Health because both already have a variety of services, including behavioral health services currently being provided by state funded agencies.

Discussion of Meeting Time Change:

Lawrence Rael brought an item to bring to the Council regarding the time of the Council meetings. The Mayor would like to attend but has a conflict with his children's APS schedule. He requested me to ask you all for your indulgence in considering moving the time from a nine o'clock meeting to a 9:45 am meeting. Commissioner Charlene Pyskoty, commented she is fine with the time change, and suggested the need to schedule the upcoming meetings for an hour and a half considering the extent of information under consideration. Chamiza Pacheco de Alas noted (proxy for Dr. Richards) that the UNM policy across the board has been to be flexible for children's educational needs. It should apply to the Mayor, just like it applies at all.

All HCC members concurred.

Summary of Next Action Steps

All committees are currently working on a concise document outlining needs and gaps with high impact strategies per the request of the HCC and will bring a draft for review to the HCC at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 29th, 2020 9:45 am-11:15 a.m.