



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO.



## Homeless Coordinating Council

### Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference

Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 9:45 am-11:00am

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

City Council 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=dFp0UnhuMExKQnNiRVNlbnZlA4Ry9yQT09>

**Passcode:** 473061

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## Minutes

### Introductions and Announcements

#### A. Introductions/Designees

Mayor Tim Keller, Chair of the HCC called the meeting to order at 9:48 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:* n/a

*Other individuals present (on Zoom)* Assata Zerai (UNM), Brie Sillery, Carol Pierce

(CABQ), Christina Apodaca, Denise Lin, David Parkinson (CABQ), Debra Bazan (CABQ), Doreen McKnight, Maria Griego, Jen Scacco, Jessica Dyer, Laura Norman Prescott, Lisa Huval (CABQ), Margarita Chavez (BernCo), Marit Tully, Nasha Torrez, Nathan Molina, Peter Rice, Quinn Donnay (CABQ), Rachel Biggs, Rodney McNease (UNM), Sara Keeney, Rosemary Blanchard, Tom Neale (UNM), Betty Valdez (BernCo), Heather Berghmans, Ken Martinez (BernCo) and William Hoffman.

## **B. Agenda**

No modifications to the agenda.

## **Public Comment:**

There were two requests for public comment, Brie Sillery NMCEH and Maria Griego, NM Center for Law and Poverty. Both Ms. Sillery and Ms. Griego used their time to request the HCC to endorse/support of HB 111.

## **Approval of January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

UNM President Garnett Stokes, moved to approve the Minutes and County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, 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**

Dr. Ziedonis, UNM started by mentioning that COVID infection rates and hospitalizations are more stable in part by keeping public health measures in place (social distancing, masks, and washing hands). These are important even if a person has been vaccinated. Dr. Z appreciated the support of the City Police, UNM and others to support the smooth process of getting people in the vaccination clinic hosted by UNM. Dr. Z. said they are waiting for the Federal supply to come at a higher levels to NM so more vaccinations can be provided to those who have registered.

Director Pierce, COA FCS added that through partnership with NMDOH a vaccination clinic at the WEHC was held and 112 people were vaccinated. These were people who were either 75 years of age and older or those who were younger but had chronic health conditions. There is also an effort to vaccinate those who are in the hotels that meet the same criteria.

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

Director Pierce, COA FCS - As of Feb 1, there are about 781 individuals that are in the care of one the City/County five hotels and the WEHC. Currently, there are 329 people at the WEHC and 431 are in the hotels and of which 196 are children. There are about 21 who are in the hotel that is specifically for COVID positive individuals.

Depending on their situation, there are also other options for people seeking shelter through other system partners such as Barrett House, Joy Junction and Safe House. There is continued effort to work with people to get them connected to housing through vouchers.

Deputy Director, Lisa Huval, COA FCS – mentioned that in the FY '21 budget, the Department has received \$2M in one-time money for housing vouchers and \$1M in reoccurring funding for housing vouchers. The one-time monies are set up as rapid rehousing (for helping people to quickly get into housing with time limited assistance to help them get back on their feet) and the reoccurring money is set up for permanent supportive housing (targeted for people with significant disabilities who need ongoing non-time limited support to stay housed). Deputy Huval stressed that the most effective way to keep people safe right now, is to ensure they have a place to call home and to be able to shelter there.

## **Legislative Priorities for Action:**

Mayor Keller and the committee briefly discussed the processes on how to appropriately support the bills during the session. Mayor proposed to allow additional time for the committee to review and read the bills and review to approve/support at another meeting.

### **HB 133: Support for Reduction in College Student Hunger (see attached)**

UNM President, Garnett Stokes – said that they are supporting this bill that is specifically focused upon providing \$100,000 to support a pilot program that would reduce college hunger to UNM students.

### **Support for Behavioral Health data/Children's Mental Health Act**

No discussion on this bill.

### **HB: 111 Support for the Housing Modernization Act (see attached)**

Maria Griego, NM Center for Law and Poverty – Ms. Griego was brought into the meeting to provide information on the HB111. This bill extends the timeframe for tenants to pay rent. The current law gives tenants three days after notice is given to become current on rent arrears before a landlord can initiate eviction case in court. This bill would allow tenants a minimum of ten days to become current. The bill also will allow for tenants to avoid eviction if they can pay of any rent including any other costs that may apply so they can stay in their home. The expanded timeframes will allow people to seek governmental rental assistance and give greater timeframes for the governmental agencies the ability to issue payment of rental assistance funds to landlords.

Deputy Huval added that this bill will also prohibit landlords from denying a potential renter because the renter has a housing voucher or because of their income source.

## **Support for the \$10 million Capital Request for Homeless Facilities:**

Director Pierce, FCS – briefly mentioned that the City’s capital request from the NM Legislature is \$10M for building out gateway facilities.

## **Support for the more services and secure housing options for transition-aged youth. There is a need to appropriate funding to develop more resources and housing for youth ages 16 to 24 who are in need of behavioral health resources, intensive case management, wraparound services and/or supportive housing. (BHI Initiative)**

County Manager Morgas Baca – briefly discussed the support for this which will allow for services and more resources and housing for youth in these age groups.

## **Discussion: Treasury Money for Emergency Rental Assistance**

Director Pierce, FCS – briefly talked about the partnerships to ensure alignment between the City, the County and MFA to have weekly meetings to discuss eviction prevention and emergency rental assistance to make this process as easy as possible for our community members. In light of the pandemic, the opportunity recently came to all States to receive treasury money for emergency rental assistance and the State of NM received about \$160M in which the City was awarded \$24M. More information about this money in the future will be forthcoming from the Treasury Dept.

Deputy Huval added that the funds are for renters who are at 80% Area Median Income (AMI) to pay rent and utility arrears. It can also be used to help low and moderate income renters to pay rent and utilities going forward as well, for up to 12 months. These households need to have been directly or indirectly impacted by COVID and also at risk of homelessness or housing instability.

County Manager Morgas Baca stated they have \$5M for this purpose as well.

## **Updates: HCC Committees-High Impact Strategies**

### **a. Coordinated Street Outreach**

Deputy Huval, FCS – shared that the focus continues on implementing the high impact strategies identified under this group.

1. Establish a street outreach agreement that all community originations who provide street outreach services would sign onto. This would establish a foundation for a shared commitment to collaborate and participate in data sharing and collaborative meetings to coordinate street outreach activities.

2. Create Street Outreach Coordinator position – This position will coordinate all of the different outreach providers.

## **b. Youth Housing Continuum**

Quinn Donnay, Gateway Coordinator, COA FCS – shared on the progress of the Youth Housing Committee. The Committee has made progress on one of the high impact strategies for the group, which is the need for a Youth Housing Needs Assessment. The assessment encompasses counting the number of youth experiencing homelessness as well as defining youth homelessness as most young people may not identify as homeless. The assessment will also serve as an organizational assessment to examine core agencies serving youth locally to understand services provided as well as their mission. In addition to the local Youth Housing Needs Assessment, there will also be a Statewide assessment spearheaded by CYFD.

Quinn also stated that the Committee has also discussed the need for a young adult shelter serving those who are ages 18-25. This would be a smaller operation of about 20 beds. If a shelter was pursued, permanent supportive housing vouchers for young people as they transition would be important for long-term support to live independently.

## **c. Homeless Services System**

Quinn Donnay – shared on the progress of the Homeless Services System Committees high impact strategies and focusing on emergency shelter and looking at specific demographics that include individuals as well as families and young adults. She mentioned the importance of emergency shelters are the potential acquisition of specific properties (GMC) as well as collaborative conversations that are taking place with HopeWorks. The COA and UNM are working on a research and evaluation ask regarding the understanding of neighborhood impacts with existing services as well as proposed services in any gateway locations. In addition, the committee is working on a lived experience survey for those who have had lived experience. This survey will focus around how emergency shelter and day to day operations will look as well individual needs for someone who will stay there and what needs to be part of these campuses to be effective.

## **d. Affordable Housing**

Deputy Huval – shared on the progress of the Affordable Housing Committee and the high impact strategies. One of the high impact strategies is to develop more affordable housing through regulatory infrastructure and funding support for affordable housing development. The committee is working with the COA Planning Department to do an analysis of existing zoning code and the IDO (Integrated Development Ordinance) to understand where the IDO could promote affordable housing and where affordable housing might be prohibited. There is also an interest to increase funding for affordable housing, new construction and preservation as well as vouchers and identifying dedicated sources of funding. The committee has begun to research potential strategies at the local and state level.

### **e. Facilities**

Lawrence Rael, COA, Chief Operations Officer shared on the current discussions of the Facilities Committee and most recently conversation related to the County’s Tiny Homes Project and getting people housed under this project. COO, Rael briefly touched on GMC and waiting for a hopeful resolution on litigation to move forward on the acquisition of the property. The Committee discussed making needed repairs to the WEHC to improve the general appearance as well as needed improvements to the HVAC systems as well as adding a kitchen to support the need to provide meals to those who are staying there. The committee is also in conversation with HopeWorks pertaining a collaborative agreement for a north downtown facility to help integrate their work and the potential for a small-scale facility near 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mountain.

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

UNM President Stokes provided this update pertaining to Research and Assessment projects. President Stokes announced that Suzanne Reagan and Reina Ehrenfeucht will be working with the COA and County on both of the research projects. President Stokes will be setting up separate meetings with all people identified to move ahead on these projects.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:45 am-11:00 a.m.**