



**Minutes
Youth Housing Continuum Committee
4:00 – 5:30 pm
June 2, 2021**

Committee Purpose – To recommend proposed solutions to address the housing needs of young people ages 18-25 in Bernalillo County.

Meeting Purposes:

1. To bring all meeting participants up to speed with current information with updates
2. To address system gaps and unmet needs with high impact strategies within the first 60 days of meeting

Attendees:
<i>Co-chairs: Dr. Assata Zerai (UNM), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo Dept. Beh. Health), Nasha Torrez (UNM Dean of Students)</i>
<i>Attending - Dr. Assata Zerai (UNM), Laura Norman (CABQ consultant), Gilbert Ramirez (FCS-Beh Health Dep. Dir), Jack Siamu (YDI), Steve Johnson (New Day), Catie Willging (PIRE-Evaluator), Kashif Muhammad (BernCo), Josclylyn Huffmaster (BHI), Steven Serrano (Casa Q), BeAnna Chavez (CYFD), Brooke Tafoya (New Day), Diana Lopez (YDI), Hilary Stim (CYFD), Nasha Torrez (UNM), Gabriella Chapman and Courtney Thompson (New Day)</i>

Agenda Item/Person:	Discussion and Action
1.) Welcome and Intros and Approval of Minutes; Assata Zerai	Assata Zerai welcomed committee members; introductions made. Motion to approve minutes of March and May was made by Nasha Torrez. No dissention, motion to approve passed.
2.) Young Adult Shelter Update; Assata Zerai	Will be presenting the Young Adult Shelter White Paper to the HCC next week, per Assata Zerai.
3.) Youth Housing Needs Assessment; Catie Wilging	Catie Wilging reported that links were sent last week to 36 organizations in the County to do the Organizational Assessment Survey; so far, already 12 have been returned. Completed system level leader interviews. Small group meetings with youth and the advisory council are underway. Survey for youth has been revised. Ads with branding for the Youth Count have been created and will be circulating through social media and other distribution avenues. Brooke Tafoya shared that 5 people at New Day can assist when the youth count begins. An organization asked to participate did inquire as to whether the data would be used for system improvement; there is that expectation from those participating.

<p>4.)New Day Drop In Center and Street Outreach; Gabriella Chapman and Courtney Thompson</p>	<p>Guest presenters Gabriella Chapman and Courtney Thompson from New Day shared screen of their presentation. Mission of New Day is to “authentically connect young people to safety, community and themselves.” An array of programming is offered by New Day, and the Drop In Center is part. Drop In Center is referred to as “The Space.” Low barrier support for ages 16 to 22 who are experiencing homelessness or are otherwise disconnected. Located near San Mateo and Central (in Int’l District) near bus line. Drop In Center/The Space opened in January 2021 for limited capacity; renovations underway to allow more programming/space - to be completed August 2021. From January 2021 to present, 127 unduplicated youth served; 84 classes/activities offered. Location has been positive and important. Referrals to housing, job support, support services, mental health and substance use treatment, and more are made. Future supports when renovations are complete include full kitchen, food pantry, showers and washer/dryer access. Recently approved as a RAC (reception and assessment center) by Bernalillo County, to offer a space to youth on the edge of being suspended at school or to youth picked up by police for low-level misdemeanors. Street outreach makes a big difference in connecting with youth and ensuring they know of The Space.</p>
<p>5.) UNM Update, Nasha Torrez</p>	<p>Nasha Torrez shared screen with a presentation, Spring 2020 and Spring 2021 data, UNM Food and Housing Experience Survey. 2% of UNM students directly affirmed homelessness in the past 12 months in 2020; but that increased to 12% in 2021. 40% of UNM students housing insecure in 2020; but 43.5% in 2021. American Indian students, multiracial, international and trans/non-binary/gender-fluid students had higher rates. Some resources on campus but not enough (Lobo food pantry, women’s resource center, emergency loans and short-term emergency housing).</p> <p>Short-term Transitional Housing for UNM students concept: reviewed what other universities with robust programs are doing, and brainstormed with leaders throughout UNM; this would be temporary – <i>not</i> for students struggling with cost of higher education in general, which is becoming commonplace; single occupancy. Would research the efficacy of the pilot program; how did it help with retention and graduation rates. Infrastructure needed for this pilot program include a full-time person to assist with eligibility review and outside referrals, orientation, weekly meetings with students, data collection. In addition, would need a specialized resident advisor. Potential eligibility requirements include being current, full-time UNM students. Four weeks maximum stay in this on-campus program. Total pilot program cost per year, \$170,736.</p> <p>Gilbert Ramirez asked how the Student Service Centers fit in, and if UNM is going to start taking a social determinants of health approach at orientation to better understand what all students need. Feedback offered from Brooke Tafoya was to remove the term ‘transitional’ from title, as this has a specific connotation within housing provider community and suggests longer stays (‘emergency’ may be better word). <u>Will continue this dialogue at next meeting.</u></p>

Next Meeting: July 7, 2021, 4:00-5:30 pm