



**Minutes
Youth Housing Continuum Committee
4:00 – 5:30 pm**

May 5, 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), Jennifer Scacco (BernCo), Steve Johnson (New Day), Catie Willging (PIRE-Evaluator), Kashif Muhammad (BernCo), Josclylyn Huffmaster (BHI), Jennifer Weiss-Burke (Serenity Mesa), Steven Serrano (Casa Q), BeAnna Chavez (CYFD), Madeline Rafferty (CYFD)</i>

Agenda Item/Person:	Discussion and Action
1.) Welcome and Intros and Approval of Minutes; Jennifer Scacco	Jennifer Scacco welcomed committee members, and introductions were made. Motion to approve minutes of 04.07.21 was made by Josclylyn Huffmaster. No dissention, motion approved as distributed.
2.) Young Adult Shelter White Paper Recommendation	This was sent to Committee prior to the meeting. Understand that it has been submitted to HCC/City leadership. Jennifer Scacco shared screen and reviewed. Steve Johnson added that there are more tools in toolkit locally now, from vouchers to drop in centers and life skills coaching and transitional living beds. Consensus is that shelter should be very integrated with all these services, providing a conduit into all community options. Catie Willging added that Critical Time Intervention model, like case management on steroids for people exiting institutional settings and can be adapted for people leaving shelters; other studies show that this can link the young adults with services/resources intentionally. (criticaltime.org) Additional housing vouchers for youth may be available, per Gilbert Ramirez.
3.) Youth Housing Needs	Catie Willging with PIRE reported that had the IRB components approved for all processes except for the youth interviews; don't have that guide yet because waiting to talk to youth to develop it. Survey for the count needs to be finalized too. Thanks expressed to Assata Zerai and

4.)Assessment Update	<p>Jack Siamu for piloting the survey tool. Preparing to pilot test the provider workforce survey. Will be extending the count into Summer, helps because will allow staggering of capture/recapture counts; launching in June. Youth Advisory Board meeting was yesterday; another meeting next week. All received incentives for participation.</p> <p>Steve Johnson asked about a request to participate in focus group City/County doing on gaps in behavioral health services. Gilbert Ramirez explained that there is a joint project to update the work done in 2013/2014 and see what continues to be gaps after investment in and expansion of behavioral health services since then. This report should be done by July 15.</p>
5.)Supporting UNM Students in Need	<p>Assata Zerai discussed that UNM students who are housing and food insecure tend to be an invisible population. Did a needs assessment survey 1 year ago (doing another round now), learned that 20% of student population is food/housing insecure, and at least 2% of students are homeless using McKinney Vento definition. These numbers don't seemed to get captured in other local surveys. Nasha Torrez has been seeking resources for temporary housing; they do get requests for this. University doesn't have funding for temporary housing, but perhaps there is some way to use underutilize student housing. Assata Zerai clarified that temporary housing in this context is 3 to 4 weeks. Steve Johnson mentioned that the City offers vouchers for housing for youth, but it is difficult finding hotels that want to take youth – maybe there is some way to work together on this. <u>Assata Zerai will follow up on the idea.</u> Catie Willging asked other Universities have addressed this issue; Assata Zerai thinks that Nasha Torrez has done that research. UNM has a social worker works with Student Health Center and Dean of Students; the Committee would like this person's contact info so can share resources. BeAnna Chavez said that that the McKinney Vento definition is going to be changing, meaning that those who are doubled up will be considered homeless; she also said that a resource could be created, like the Blue Cards but for just youth services.</p>
6.)Next Steps, Agency Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Johnson shared that Brooke Tafoya will be the New Day CEO as of August. • In May, Casa Q opened first transitional living program, 4 units, for LGBTQ persons aged 18 to 22; will have on-site supervision and groups. Steven Serrano said now officially serves ages 14 to 22. Expressed thanks for City support and that of Quinn Donnay. He complimented New Day on their Drop In Center which he just toured. <u>Steve Johnson offered to provide presentation at future meeting on the Drop In Center</u> • Jack Siamu said that CET is a new YDI program funded by the County; receiving referrals already. Will be working closely with existing Crisis Teams. Also, moving in 4 young people into their own apartments through rapid rehousing. And, opening a 10-bed transitional living program in Rio Rancho in May.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2021, 4:00-5:30 pm