



**"One Albuquerque Homeless Advisory Council"
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019**

Attendees: Bobby Ehrig, (NMVIC); Delores Gomez, (BCBSNM); Hana Gossett, (NMCEH); Christina Apodaca, (SBMT); Beth Brownell, (Stronghurst); Tom Antram, (French/GACC); Pastor Chuck Aragon, (God's Warehouse); Will Hoffman, (ABQ Interfaith, NVC); Richard A. Mansfield, (New Beginnings Church); Skye Devore, (Tractor Brewing); Jessica Kelly, (UNMHSC); Dennis Plummer, (Heading Home); Amy Malick, (ABQ Faithworks, NM Street Safe); Eloy Padilla, (Creamland Dairies); Christian Blair, CFS, (Creamland Dairies); Denise Lin, (UNM Dept. of Psychiatry); Jenny Metzler, (AHCH); Lisa Huval, (COA Deputy Director); Marit Tully, (NNV); David Cooper, (Minister Fellowship of Albuquerque.); Connie Chavez, (Barrett Foundation); Gina Naomi Dennis, (District 6 Coalition); Xochitl Campos Biggs, (COA FCS)

Welcome and Introductions

Members introduced themselves, and Lisa Huval went over the purpose of the Homeless Advisory Council:

- Provide community members impacted by the issue of homelessness with an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns on how to best address homelessness
- Create a venue for the City to share our concrete strategies for addressing homelessness with community members and hear their ideas, concerns, questions and feedback
- Explore, develop and act on opportunities for collaboration with community members to support the City's strategies for addressing homelessness and its impact on the community

One Council member indicated that the phrase "and the impact of homelessness" also needed to be added to the first two bullets.

Public Comment

Community members had the opportunity to provide public comment.

- Pastor Chuck Aragon from Gods Warehouse, which is located on Tennessee and Central, thanked Mayor Keller and the Committee for starting a pick up point for the West Side Emergency Housing Center at God's Warehouse. He has received input from people in the area who are very appreciative and feel safe by having a pickup on this side of town. The pickup schedule is 7 days a week at 6:00 pm on the corner of Tennessee and Central SE.
- Lisa stated that this is the example of a collaboration that could come from the Homeless Advisory Council. At the first Council meeting, Pastor Mansfield offered God's Warehouse as a potential pick up location.

Update and discussions on City strategies

Increasing emergency shelter beds

In order to increase the number of year round emergency shelter beds, the City decided to keep what used to be the winter shelter open year round. We are now calling this the West Side Emergency Housing Center. Lisa recognized the critical role that Heading Home has played in making this happen, as the agency that the City contracts with to operate the shelter. The WEHC is also now open 24 hours on Saturday and Sunday, and the City is providing break and lunch on Saturdays because that is where there is a gap. About 250 people stay at the shelter each night over the last couple months, including single adults and families with children. The County will be providing case managers and UNM (with support from Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless) will be providing medical services, starting this spring. The City has done modest renovations at the shelter to create space for the case managers and medical services, and has brought in internet access.

The City secured \$985,000 in state capital outlay funding for a new shelter, and voters will be asked to approve \$14 million in GO Bond funds this fall for a new shelter. So altogether, we hope to have almost \$15 million to build a new shelter that is more centrally located. A site has not yet been identified for the shelter. The City plans to start working soon with the community to figure out what services may need to be provided at the shelter, and basic design elements. The City also plans to hire a consultant to help us determine the total number of emergency shelter beds needed in our community. Some Council members indicated that the City should consider contracting with someone locally to do the shelter bed analysis, but others pointed to the need for an objective assessment. Council members also pointed to the need to partner with local philanthropists and corporations.

Increase supportive housing vouchers

The Mayor has included \$2 million in new funding for housing vouchers in his FY20 budget; this is non-recurring funding. We currently have about \$8,000 in the One Albuquerque Housing Fund, and will be partnering with Supportive Housing Coalition to disperse these funds.

Report out from the Work Groups

Coordinated Street Outreach Report presented by Jenny Metzler (AHCH)

This group is focused on engaging people who are not housed, and connecting and building relationships with people and not all may be ready to engage at the moment. We are developing a shared definition of coordinated outreach and philosophy of care, and categories of outreach.

Neighborhood Impacts Report presented by Gina Naomi Dennis (District 6 Coalition)

We are using the lens of s like living in the neighborhood being impacted by people experiencing homelessness. We have come up with a list of impacts, such as human waste, trash, needles, all of which raise health and safety concerns. We are then thinking of solutions to these impacts and will take them one at a time.

Draft Homeless Encampment Ordinance:



Lisa Huval and Nick Bullock, City Assistant Attorney, presented a draft homeless encampment ordinance that the City has been working on. Currently, the City receives calls about encampments on public property often through 311, the Mayor's office, City Council office. The public outreach program manager in Department of Family and Community services is the main person for responding to these encampments and coordinating other City departments as needed. The goal of this ordinance is to formalize, and improve, the process for responding to encampments.

Some of the questions/comments raised during the presentation were:

- What about encampments on private property? It is not helpful if this is just referred to code enforcement, who then issues a violation to the property owner. Overall City needs to do better job communicating to private property owners on what to do about encampments.
- Concern about the whereas statements, and the assumptions imbedded within them.
- Why is this an ordinance, rather than an internal policy? If needs to go to council, is another type of legislation more appropriate – i.e. a resolution. Usually purpose of ordinance is to deter criminal activity, but we are saying intent is not to criminalize homelessness.
- Concern that parts of the ordinance clearly state camping in an unlawful activity, yet we say intent is to not criminalize camping. Isn't this a conflict? How do we resolve that?
- What is the mechanism for non-City employees (just members of the public) to report an encampment? Should add language regarding that.
- Should require implicit bias training for the city employee first responding to an encampment
- Translator should be interpreter. What about if person is deaf?

Next meeting is Thursday, July 18th, 3pm – 5pm- (Los Duranes Community Center)