



Homeless Coordinating Council(HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, April 8th, 2025

10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Matthew McGahran, NM Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Vice Chair, Councilor Nichole Rogers, City of Albuquerque

Commissioner Frank A. Baca - Bernalillo County; Commissioner Adriann Barboa - Bernalillo County;
County Manager Cindy Chavez - Bernalillo County; Alternate Designee Dr. Wayne Lindstrom –
Bernalillo County; Mayor Tim Keller - City of Albuquerque; Councilor Renee Grout - City of
Albuquerque; President Garnett S. Stokes - The University of New Mexico;
Dr. Mike Richards - The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Minutes

1. Call to Order –Chair Matthew McGahran called the meeting to order at 10:04.

2. Review & Approve Agenda for April 8th, 2025, and to Review and Approve March 13th 2025, Meeting Minutes
Passed Unanimously

3. Introductions and Announcements

Nichole Rogers, Councilor District 6, City of Albuquerque

Camila Lopez, NM Veteran Affairs Health Care System

Cindy Chavez, County Manager, Bernalillo County

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Deputy County Mgr. Behavior Health, Bernalillo County

Priscilla Williams, Data Manager, Built for Zero

Zoe Robb, Planning Analyst, Built for Zero

Terry Babbitt, Chief of Staff, University of New Mexico

Adriann Barboa, County Commissioner, Bernalillo County

Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer, City of Albuquerque

Dr. Chenoa Bah Jensen , Program Manager, Office of Community Health with HSC

Gina Oida Sandoval, Chief of staff, Health Sciences Center

Ziarra Kirksey, Policy Analyst for Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers, City of Albuquerque

Public Comment:

Sara Keeney stated that on the opening of New Creations, a safe outdoor space in district 6, Mayor Keller said there should be 100 more of those. She asked what steps the city, county, UNM and tribal groups are working on to make that happen quickly. Councilor Rogers responded that there's a lot of misconception on the safe outdoor spaces. They do allow for community groups to come alongside and help the city, county to apply for licenses and the permits. Any community group can do this not just for faith-based groups. Anyone can do a safe outdoor space if they own land and get a permit from the city of Albuquerque. Speaking for the City of Albuquerque, there is funding that can be applied like HHH and different entities to help getting those up and running. As far as the city opening its own safe outdoor space, there hasn't been any conversations about that. The conversations with the administration have been around having a safe outdoor permit that was allowable at the West Side Shelter, Gateway West.

Ms. Maria Wolf added that faith-based organization have more flexibility in what they can do on their land regarding the approval processes. So, they are focused on trying to get the message out to faith groups because it is much more straight forward process and higher likelihood to succeed. It's more difficult if this not a faith-based group to get safe space through the planning approval process as it will need approval of the surrounding neighbors in the area. Currently HHH does not have funding for safe outdoor spaces. Councilor Rogers added that the budget starts with the mayor, the budget was received on April 1st and it did not include for the mayor's team and the HHH team any funding for safe outdoor spaces. Council must fix that wrong.

Councilor Grout added that it was her understanding that per the IDO there could only be two safe outdoor spaces per council district. She asked for clarification understanding how other entities can have safe outdoor spaces on their property as well. Ms. Wolf replied that so far there has only been one and they are not in danger of going over in any district. Commissioner Barboa added that it takes many resources and there are not many resources for men or men using substances, a lot of the resources are for homeless families, and we do understand that everybody is valuable so it's more complicated than having safe spaces, she thanked Ms. Keeney for the question and encouraged to keep having the conversation.

4. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness

Dr. Chenoa Bah Jensen shared updates from the Southwest indigenous Housing Justice collaborative. They are taking action on the strategic plan they had. During three planning sessions with Marvis Aragon, CEO of Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, and funding came through the city of Albuquerque's Office of Equity and Inclusion. through longstanding support from the city and came through Deputy Director Dillon Shjie from Zia Pueblo and is also a tribal council there. Mr. Shjie is an excellent leader and resource. She introduced a new Native America Liaison person, Ms. Brandi Ahmie who is from the Laguna Pueblo and has a wealth of resources and she connects the resources and does warm handoffs and referrals to the broad network of the city, county, VA and other native nations. Currently there is planning for the Indigenous Housing Justice Conference

which will take place on June 26th and 27th at Bernafacio. Invitation was extended to members of the committee as well and elected officials and dignitaries. Please contact Ms. Jensen and/or Don Begay if you will be attending. They are working with National Indigenous Women's Resource center, who are sponsoring the conference, it will be 40 grantees who have been recipients of the COVID ARPA housing justice. Dr. Linda Sunstone is overseeing the completion of the spend down of funds for Native people, especially women and transgender people that have experienced trauma and DV. The conference is set up as a retreat for those grantees and for unity and solidarity in the face of federal cuts.

5. Veteran Homelessness Update

Ms. Camila Lopez stated that VA continues to work with local community partners on engaging in outreach to Veterans who are homeless or at risk. Partnered with Goodwill who has funding from VA to provide some upfront funds for veterans who may have overdue bills or help with a deposit if they have eviction history. Working to widen the help throughout the state not only for those in Bernalillo County, in a few months they hope to have more information about how that can work and how veterans and access that support. There will be a standdown at Northern New Mexico college in Espanola on the 17th of April, and it's sponsored by the college to expand support to the veterans in that area. Working on finding landlords who are open to HUD vouchers. VA is looking to partner with public housing authorities and having discussion around more awareness on how much support the veterans have who use the voucher program.

Ms. Zoe Robb commented that the Coalition on Homelessness has a landlord engagement team that does outreach and works with them, it's a program in partnership with the city where for certain voucher holders, they are able to offer reimbursements and financial incentives. POC will be given to Ms. Camila. Commissioner Barboa commented that landlords are supposed to not discriminate against vouchers or VA income to please report to hold them accountable. She also explained that they also support the landlords, there are assurance that happens to their property the city/county will cover it. Trying to have a presentation from the Landlord Liaison office from the city/county. Invite will be sent for next meeting.

6. Subcommittee Update- Data Sharing and System Barriers

Mr. McGahran reported that some barriers were identified in collaboration with Ms. Pricilla and Ms. Zoe. Something they are working on is to start a formal education that would help frontline staff of all the different organization to have a uniform approach to training and reduce turnover and inconsistencies. Process is in development. not all of them are from Albuquerque and Bernalillo, many are from statewide.

7. Subcommittee Update- African American Homelessness

Vice Chair Rogers reported they are working to identify who from the community works on that space. A call was put out for anybody who works in housing of any kind. Planning a Mixer on April 26th at Nexus Smokehouse to organize within the community to know who is working in that space. To build a database of folks and work with already existing infrastructure and talking through solutions to pull in the same direction.

8. Subcommittee Update- Re-Entry

Commissioner Barboa stated that everybody that comes out of MDC has to go through the re-entry center. It's a space where people can get something to eat, charge their phone or connect to

resources. The purpose is to entice them to stay so they can get their services because once they exit the doors, they can't get back in. In the last subcommittee meeting the purpose was to look at gaps in services. The meetings will be every two weeks for about six months. Some of the highlights of the meetings court failures to appear is a big issue and there were some suggestions to have a shuttle from shelter to court. There was a request for data from UniteUs. There was mention that the homeless population is changing, there are a lot of elderly and aging folks in the population and folks are not aware and trainings for de-escalating. Also releasing hours of MCD is a big problem identified but looking for solutions and working with the warden. Dr. Lindstrom clarified that Medicare is only temporarily suspended after 30 days of being incarcerated but it does take two days on average after release date. Working on reducing that by going electronic and not on paper.

9. Subcommittee Update- Homeless Prevention

Dr. Lindstrom deferred to Ms. Cindy Chavez, county manager. Ms. Chavez thank the Council for all the resources that have been invested in housing and homelessness. One of the big goals is to be able to house one thousand homeless people over the next year which is very achievable with collaboration through the team. Dr. Lindstrom stated that the subcommittee is forming a meeting with Tyson Patterson and Maria Wolf who volunteered to be part of a new prevention subcommittee and what other additional expertise to draw on for homelessness prevention.

10. New Items

Commissioner Barboa mentioned that not a lot of the homelessness bills in legislature seemed to have not passed. Ms. Cindy Chavez suggested that it would be very valuable to work with the leaders who lobbied for homelessness and really show all the work that is being done regarding homelessness. Councilor Rogers mentioned all the bills that did not pass and asked for collaboration to know why they did not pass and how to analyze the "we are short on housing" statement. Excited for the anticipated \$110 million coming from the legislature bill.

Next HCC Meeting -

- May 13, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

14. Adjourn Meeting –

Motion: Nichole Rogers

2nd: Cindy Chavez

Passed Unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am

Meeting Recorded Video Link:

https://cabq.zoom.us/rec/share/mMU31FCLZ_U4o0cj6Udino55iHpyC_t_fpzZLgG21HAtYkr7wIxcCYtLC5EMq41m.6GXoeTvF6DOEDPNG