



## Homeless Coordinating Council(HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Dr. Douglas Ziedonis, UNM Health Sciences  
Vice Chair, Lisa Hamilton, New Mexico VA Health Care System

Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada, Bernalillo County Commissioner Adriann Barboa, Bernalillo County  
County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County President Garnett S. Stokes, The University of New  
Mexico Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque  
Councilor Pat Davis, City of Albuquerque, Councilor Isaac Benton, City of  
Albuquerque

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Zoom Information:

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## Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Assure Quorum:** Meeting was called to Order by Chair Ziedonis 10:05am
2. **Updated Agenda** – Move to approve October 10, 2023 agenda  
Moved: Julie Morgas Baca  
Second: Carol Pierce  
Approved Unanimously
3. **Approval of Minutes from August 8, 2023**  
Moved: Julie Morgas Baca  
Second: Carol Pierce  
Approved Unanimously

**4. Public Comment:**

- a. Sara Keeney – Sara wanted to read an appeal to the City of Albuquerque from the Quaker Friends Group asking the City to implement the Injunction Ruling regarding the homeless encampments without delay and to take immediate action to provide safe housing for all and implement extended public outreach to all.
- b. From the Q&A: Anami Dass (she/her) – Comment unfortunately got skipped, but was typed out by Emily Morelli from UNM (previous facilitator) and copied here: “My name is Anami Dass (she/her) I am a member of the Albuquerque’s Human Rights Board, and I work as a harm reductionist in the international district of Albuquerque. I wanted to express my concern that the agenda does not include any item for a discussion on the last month’s warrant search operation's devastating impact on the community of people experiencing homelessness. The warrant search operation is being described as an effective way to combat crime, but from what I saw the last few weeks, it seemed to be a way to arrest people who didn't make it to court. I hope that the needs expressed by the people experiencing homelessness are taken into account in future meetings. Thank you for your time.”

**5. Vote New Committee Co-Chairs:**

Maria Wolfe, City of Albuquerque – Chair

Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County – Vice-Chair

Moved: Carol Pierce

Second: Jill Turner

Approved Unanimously

**6. Discussions/Updates/Presentations –**

- a. Dr. Ziedonis, UNM – Year in Review of Gratitude  
Dr. Ziedonis presented a slide show detailing monthly accomplishments such as: Finalizing an MOU with the VA as an HCC partner, initiation of the Community Solutions & Project Echo, the HCC Retreat, the Student Basic Needs Assessment, focus on Native American homelessness with a possible MOU, the ABC Community Schools project and working with NMCEH.
- b. Jill Turner, VA – They are working with the partners & community homeless. Lots of employee changes, currently the healthcare for the homeless position is vacant – working to fill the empty positions. The goal of the number of homeless veterans helped is 80%, last year they hit 120% achieved. This year, the VA is currently at only 62% served however, there is no wait list. They are having troubles identifying Veterans experiencing homelessness. The criteria has changed so if you know any unhoused veterans, please send them to us because maybe they qualify now.  
Lisa Hamilton is the Interim Director replacing Robert McKenrick. Lisa introduced herself and is ready to continue working with this group.
- c. Carol Pierce, City of Albuquerque – Carol wanted to start by saying how she appreciates the comments from the Quaker Friends Meeting House group, we do take the injunction very seriously. The WEHC updates are that the COA is working on continued improvements and that this is a top priority for the City. The City working on WEHC funding, new beds, expanding bus routes, improving dorm spaces with updated bathrooms. The Housing Navigation Center at Gateway is open and so far has housed 20 people. The City is working on getting more providers for services in the Engagement Center to provide wrap-around services to Gateway clients. Joining those already in place such as Vizionz Sankofa and Western Sky Community Health to name a few. The COA is also working on updating substance abuse treatment vouchers to add more medical medication assisted treatment and behavioral health. Also working on a housing RFP for \$2.4 million for new construction and acquisition/rehab. The City is also working on the Sure Stay, now renamed Los Altos Lofts, breaking into three phases and will hopefully have our first residents by the end of the year. The COA is also opening 35 emergency Winter beds as of November 1<sup>st</sup> at Gateway.
- d. Terry Babbit, UNM – they have been working with the basic needs for students and have been investing in food & housing support, they are asking the State for help with this. They are implementing

teleconsultation software that's a timely care model that allows access to services 24/7. UNM is also focusing on student mental health care and social work support.

- e. David Jablonski, UNM Project ECHO – they had a successful luncheon. He introduced David Salvage. David thanked him for the introduction and indicated that he is looking forward to working with the HCC.
- f. Rodney McNeese, UNM – Spoke about the MDC transition. Said Kate Becker created a group to create better pathways to keep people released from MDC to remain connected to services and medications. UNM will take over the Suboxone services from the current vendor at MDC starting Nov. 1st. Commissioner Barboa appreciates them having a warm handoff so that they ensure continuity of care. She wants to make sure that we are working with our partners so they all have the resources they need to be able to accommodate all the people we want to bring to them.
- g. Dr. Ziedonis introduced Chenoa Bah Stilwell. She says she's happy to be here. She will be speaking on a few topics later in this meeting.
- h. Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County – spoke about the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative JPA was approved and is executed and the selection criteria for the commissioners to serve on this collaborative have been finalized and will be advertised. The City & County are going to the Legislature asking for \$10 million in capital outlay for the collaborative to develop additional housing. The County is purchasing a property at 4<sup>th</sup> & Granite – it's almost move-in ready! 23 fully furnished units, Senior housing in downtown area. The County is drafting legislation to offer Section 8 incentives to property owners, like a tax incentive, to rent to voucher holders. The Behavioral Health Initiative Provider Summit at UNM Continuing Ed. Building went really well. Thanks UNMH for their support. Also wants to update on the Tiny Home Village, which is another collaborative with UNM to provide case management services – they are up to 27 units that are filled.

7. **Update Discussion on Community Solutions Built for Zero Program**, Monet Silva, NMCEH & Maria Wolfe, COA – Monet said that they decided with both Albuquerque & Santa Fe to do the Built for Zero (BFZ) program and they got their contract signed. She said that 9 people from Albuquerque went to Washington D.C. in September and showed a slideshow from their trip. She said they are asking Community Solutions for funding of \$191,000 for two years of staffing in addition to the City & County giving funding for at least 3 positions; 2 will sit at the Coalition and that'll be the system lead and the data manager and will also have someone at Project Echo. She discussed the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; goals set & aiming for 2 years. Maria showed screen shots of the working boards they created in D.C. Maria said that they will get it all put together and sent to everyone. Carol Pierce asked why the dates for the solutions for the functional 0 goal for Chronic & 50% goal for Not Chronic homeless families were the same date of August of 2025, Maria answered that it is the broader scope that is being addressed. Carol asked for numbers for each group, the chronic vs. not chronic and Monet indicated that the data is “not super clean” for many reasons but one big one is not everyone participates with the systems. Monet says that is one of the goals they have is to have a complete list by January 15, 2024 so that when they move into the legislative session, they have a clear number of people that they are asking for. Commissioner Barboa wants a County person on that team and mentioned that while she agrees that the families are very important, that there are other populations that might be served by Community Solutions BFZ, as well, such as Severe Mental Illness (SMI) and jail re-entry populations. Monet responded that yes, we would love to have someone they identify from the County to participate. Also, the reason they spoke about starting with families is because they needed a starting point to build the system around, honing in on a specific population to start. Also, the response to the numbers that Carol asked about is chronic families at 150 and non-chronic families at 78, but again those numbers are not completely correct, but hoping to have correct numbers in the next few months. Carol mentioned that we have an opportunity as the Family Housing Navigation Center has housed over 1100 people and we have very good data at the FHNC to use. The City needs the behavioral health resources there. Carol asked what can we expect in the next month? Monet said that they would be scheduling a meeting next week to bring all the partners back together. Maria asked about making a subcommittee for the next year of NMCEH & four chairs. Motion for Community Solutions Built for Zero subcommittee.

Moved: Maria Wolfe

Second: Carol Pierce

Approved Unanimously

8. **Discussion of Dual Diagnosis Training Conference.** We are very committed to the conference. SAMSA has great tips. VA has also focused on co-occurring disorders so lots of resources. Putting together a needs assessment, asking Chenoa to help lead on a survey on this membership. Maybe reach out to other providers? Maybe engage project ECHO since they are good at getting CME credits for everyone. Wants volunteers to join the group, need people that know the gaps and the community solutions-oriented stuff. Look for an email from Chenoa.
9. **Discussion of Health Equity Summit,** December 12, 2023 at the Hispanic Cultural Center, has a great committee already; however, Dr. Ziedonis asked to make sure that we have a representative from each group like the VA. Emily dropped into the chat a list of the past members and people that may be interested this year. Chenoa Bah Stillwell – Said that the planning committee will meet tomorrow and if anyone here wanted to be on it, then to please contact her. Chenoa reviewed the tentative agenda. More updates in next meeting.
10. **Discussion of Native American Homelessness,** Chenoa Bah Stillwell – needs a subcommittee to focus on Native American and the disparities. Motion for a subcommittee focusing on Native Americans and the disparities with Chenoa on point  
Moved: Carol Pierce  
Second: Jill Turner  
Approved Unanimously
11. **Adjourn** – Dr. Ziedonis adjourned the meeting at 11:33am