



## Homeless Coordinating Council(HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, May 13, 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

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## Minutes

**1. Call to Order** –Chair Matthew McGahran called the meeting to order at 10:00.

**2. Review & Approve Agenda for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and to Review and Approve April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes**  
**Passed Unanimously**

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

**Nichole Rogers, Councilor District 6, City of Albuquerque**

**Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer, City of Albuquerque**

**Jamal Witter, Homeless Innovations Intern, City of Albuquerque**

**Priscilla Williams, Data Manager, Built for Zero**

**Terry Babbitt, Chief of Staff, University of New Mexico**

**Zoe Robb, Planning Analyst, Built for Zero**

**Rodney McNeese, Senior Executive Director at University of New Mexico Hospital**

**Alicia Lueras Maldonado, Proxy for Commissioner Frank Baca, District 2**

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

**Adriann Barboa, County Commissioner, Bernalillo County**

**Renee Grout, Councilor, City of Albuquerque**

**Camila Lopez, NM Veteran Affairs Health Care System**

**Ziara Kirksey, Policy Analyst for Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers, City of**

**Albuquerque**

#### **4. Public Comment:**

Ms. Karen Navarro: I was a homeless services client advocate before and after Medicaid was expanded in our state and was witness to a sea change that opened Behavioral Health services for indigent and low-income individuals. Before Medicaid expansion, when it was only for pregnant women, children and individuals receiving SSI, I remember individuals coming to my office asking where they could get the \$5 or \$7 each day for their daily dose of Methadone and there being nowhere to refer them. What's more, therapy and case management resources were very limited before Medicaid coverage was expanded.

Last summer there were several town halls to give public input into the Joint Opioid Settlement Implementation Plan. Now there needs to be a major reassessment of where the \$150 million over 15 years Behavioral Health funding through city and county should be directed, starting with this year's allocation. Perhaps less focus on bricks and mortar, and increased focus on sustaining services that we could lose to reduced Medicaid coverage. As Secretary Armijo has stated, 90% of all behavioral health funding in the state is through Medicaid. The county and city may need to allocate funding for medication assisted treatment for those individuals who would qualify now for Medicaid and could lose coverage, so why not plan to allocate opioid settlement funds for that if major cuts happen?

Further, the strategic plan already calls for "an investment in "Growing our Own" to build provider capacity and sustainability through grants to local service providers." Therapists and CCSWs and peer workers at smaller organizations need to be assured that they, too, can continue services. I know quite a few small behavioral health providers who are incredibly effective, innovative and resourceful. They should not be overlooked by continual RFPs for huge amounts of funding when there could be smaller, but significant grants. Rather than just RFPs for a million or more, how about more grants for \$100,000 or less that could be granted to the awesome smaller providers, as well as to large providers? We are a small lake, but we have many providers who should continue to be supported if federal Medicaid dollars dramatically decrease.

#### **5. Maria Wolfe, Rock at Noonday**

Ms. Maria Wolfe stated she was speaking on behalf of Mr. Rick Devine; executive director of Rock at Noonday is preparing to do construction on their facility in the month of June and July and they will have limited services offered during that time. Rock at Noonday is putting a women's center to work more specifically on housing issues for women and having a space for treatment counseling service as well as other services for the unhoused woman population. During the time of construction, they are planning on continuing services in their parking lot and limit the amount of access into the building for clothing and mail services. Mr. Rick Devine is asking if the other homeless coordinating council partners would be willing to assist with access to porta potties and hand washing stations to be used for the folks getting their meals as they are struggling with getting that covered. Rock at Noonday services around 250 people per day for their services and lunches and

the construction will impact the community greatly so if anybody could assist with the request it please contact Mr. Rick Devine, Executive Director at Noonday, [director@therockabq.com](mailto:director@therockabq.com)

## **6. Veteran Homelessness Update**

Ms. Camila Lopez stated that VA big focus is to the partnership with HUD. Our role is to provide case management to keep the veterans housed. HUD stated recently their ability to provide vouchers for veterans has changed but changes do happen very quickly. Currently there are about 46 vouchers left for veterans statewide now. We are looking on having veterans, who have been in the program for quite some time, to guide them to self-sustainability to turn those vouchers over. HUD is getting information day to day on changes happening so they are unable to project what comes next, but they are looking at how they can keep people housed and continue to pen voucher for not just veterans, but other individuals as well.

VA is increasing the participation with Goodwill and their supportive services for veteran families and grant funding they offer. We want to thank Maria, for their continued partnership with Gateway through which we have identified more veterans and able to find veterans who have connected with us in the past but get lost because they don't have a phone, and they are here and there. The Gateway team has been very helpful in helping us keep the veterans connected with us. Another partner is Roadrunner and Veteran's memorial where we do food distributions, our next distribution is Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 to 11 a.m., also looking for volunteers for those events. In April we were able to service over 400 individuals in that community, not just veterans but the community. Each time it is held we continue to serve more and more, it could be attributed to both factors, word of mouth and the need is becoming greater.

Dr. Lindstrom inquired about food banks being cutoff in terms of federal assistance like food subsidies, et cetera, what will the impact be in relative to the food programs being able to be sustainable? Ms. Lopez informed the group that in her conversation with Roadrunner food bank, they are anticipating a reduction in number of events that will be hosted by VA so that, they, Roadrunner food bank can offer the same events around the city to everyone. Waiting to see what they will be able to sustain in the upcoming months. Mr. McGahran asked if there was the same concern about grant providers having their funding jeopardized? Ms. Lopez replied that right now the grant per diem program, which funds New Mexico Veterans Integration Center, is not currently in danger. However, there might be some changes in the criteria for supportive services for veteran families that limit availability. The changes might be released as soon as July.

## **7. Subcommittee Update- Data Sharing and System Barriers**

Zoe Robb from Build Zero, reported updates on the "by name" list, and some barriers. She shared that there are currently 555 families on the list comprised of 1,755 individuals. Many of the families on the list have one to three children. There were 74 new families identified since February and 38 families housed since February 2025. The majority housed families, 28 of them, went to a rental unit with subsidy. The families received some kind of subsidy for their rent, typically a voucher. Most families are headed by people of color and the majority are also headed by women. Case conferencing happens biweekly where provider discuss their families who are vulnerable or cases, they many need help with as well as resource sharing and it has proven to be very beneficial. Ms. Robb highlighted one of the main barriers which is the need of eviction prevention. The housing navigators are finding that several folks, even when they do get through the process and receive a voucher, if they have an eviction on their record, it prevents them from securing a unit. Also, rental arrears are preventing folks from securing a housing.

and would like to see the data from that time, which might have been 2 years ago. She mentioned there are many people just living on the brink and the only time you hear about them is when they need a hotel voucher because they just lost their place.

Ms. Priscilla Williams stated she has been working with Winter Torres and community providers to identify trends. There had been a lot of relief during covid for evictions. They are currently tracking that date and seeing how many people who have received evictions have ended up into the homeless management information system. Since the data is scattered and not logged well, it is hard to present on it because it's all over the place. Ms. Robb will try to reach out to Interfaith Coalition to see if they have any data during that period.

Ms. Wolfe mentioned that they have eviction prevention funding that goes through social service centers through out the city. They just received 10,000 from One Albuquerque Fund, however, it has been noticed that the amount of funding available from eviction prevention is not enough to stabilize the families. She asked if there were any details on the amounts that are needed. Ms. Robb mentioned that it varies case by case. Since families are only seen after they have been evicted and are now owing rental arrears, the number can range from a couple of hundred dollars to couple thousand dollars. For eviction prevention everybody does it differently, some places do 2 or three months of rent. Some of these families are ready to receive a voucher but the concern is that there is no guarantee that it won't happen again after paying the arrears and housing them. However, these are people who are qualified and ready to go into a voucher so moving forward there would not be an issue because there is a stabilization plan in place for them.

Ms. Maldonado stated that the homeless program is an area of high interest to commissioner Baca. Together they have been discussing if they identify the area right before people become homeless and keep them housed there will be so much saved in the long run. Ms. Maldonado also stated that they had a meeting a few weeks back with Amanda Colburn from housing and Dina Creighton from the community-based schools and they shared they found a correlation between absenteeism with children and families who had recently become homeless. There is ongoing discussion around how to create a pool of funding or resources that can be pulled together to keep people in their homes. We want to see what how the county in tandem with the city or just the county with maybe some private money and support folks with housing insecurity.

Councilor Rogers stated that it was not a money issue. The state of New Mexico received over 194 million dollars in emergency assistance money, the program ended in June of 2023. Although as the state we did a good job getting the money we also sent over 8 million dollars back to the federal government which should have not happened. What we learned is that rental assistance must be coupled with financial education, some folks were given over a year of financial help but there were no sit downs with them as how to create a budget, so they were not in that situation again after the year had expired. The city of Albuquerque does not put enough in homeless funding, it's 200K a year and she is trying to get her colleagues in city council to fix that, but it just can't be free rent and send them on their way. If they don't know the financial principles, they won't be able to stabilize themselves or lift themselves out of poverty. Rental assistance that is not coupled with education, so people keep themselves out of a situation where they are behind in their rent for many reasons like the seniors in the Westside Shelter who make 800 dollars a month but can't rent anywhere because of the high prices of rent. She stated that the conversations are happening, but the root cause is not being addressed. People need to be given the tools to succeed and right now we are missing the boat across the board.

Mr. McGahran acknowledge and mention that Ms. Rogers comment was correct and that in all of his years in the homeless program he noticed that it has been the missing piece. Ms. Williams added that she knows this is a huge issue and that there has been a few providers who have started putting together financial literacy courses. There seems to be a disconnect between the providers knowing that there are financial relief programs for some individuals and the funders not being aware about

the available courses. She stated she would be able to put together a list of financial literacy classes that are happening in the community so when the funding conversations are happening, they might hold more weight know that there is education and strategy. Councilor Rogers was pleased to inform that Mayor Keller said yes to opening the Office of Financial Empowerment, because we do have economic development but that's for business owners not the average people. Financial empowerment is similar to guaranteed basic income, families are receiving 750 dollars a month, but they have to go to financial literacy classes, they have to have a budget and their kids must have good school attendance so they do their part so when the money runs out they are better positioned as a family.

## **8. Subcommittee Update- African American Homelessness**

Councilor Nichole Rogers reported the Mixer was a success. The meeting with Ms. Jennifer McDonald at the Gateway went great. The focus right now is on seniors, there are many African American homeless seniors. We are looking to have something similar to New Day who offer a drop-in center who can connect folks to resources like getting ID's, take shoes have computer access. get on Medicare and those types of services. Ms. Kahdijah Bottom and her work with African Refugees and immigrants she has space on the bottom floor at Gateway as well as some capital dollars to build it. Right now, there the work is building a proposal to go to Gateway, social works have come out, landlords who want to work to help house people. We are discussing what the target population will be, the hours, the capacity, the proposed services, focusing on basic needs, as well as health and wellness. Also focusing on daily living skills, social engagement and recreation, case management navigation. We are also working with a woman who does program evaluation where she can help us collect data, know where folks are path to, the impact of the program and how many people are housed. The resources such as, budget, vision and space have already been secured and all aligned and set up to go. The space will not only be for African Americans, but the focus of the décor will focus culturally for Black folks, but the focus is just to help as many seniors. The seniors don't want to lose their space at West Side shelter it is a real concern for them. It was mentioned that if they take the shuttle to town to do things they risk being late coming back with the shuttle and losing their space. It is a great opportunity for seniors for us to transport them and connect them with resources and bring them back on time with the goal of housing them. Many people have stepped up such as churches from the African American community who have land and willing to put it to use for seniors like boxables. Boxables are a great way to go, and we do have an authorized dealer and for 50 of them the cost would be approximately 78,000 installed and very low cost to the seniors.

## **9. Subcommittee Update- Re-Entry**

Commissioner Barboa stated how grateful she is to councilor Rogers committee for leading the way with dignified homeless options. There are really no new updates, there has been some long- and short-term solutions the subcommittee has been working on. The subcommittee is trying to get answers from folks and once that is collected some great recommendations will be coming up.

## **9. Subcommittee Update- Homeless Prevention**

Dr. Lindstrom reported there has been several people volunteering to be in the prevention subcommittee and finally have an executive assistant, her name is Isabella Trujillo, she served as a staffer for Commissioner Quezada for four years. She is a great addition and first thing on the agenda will be to call the first meeting for the prevention subcommittee as this has not been able to be accomplished just on my own but stay tuned. Beyond prevention, it's worth noting that in conjunction

with the city, we asked for \$179 million in total, \$100 million for affordable housing, \$79 million for behavioral health transitional housing this past legislative session. However, we only received 80 million to be split in half by the county and the city. We are currently working with the speaker of the house on shovel ready projects that both the city and county have for affordable housing. We are looking at properties, either apartments or hotels that have been renovated, to purchase and within 90 days have an expanded portfolio for behavioral health, transitional housing as well as transitional housing for seniors. We have committed to the speaker and the legislature to get a thousand people off the streets by next legislative session. It is our priority to demonstrate that given the resources we can create programming necessary to end homelessness with in both, the county and city. In addition, the Mortgage Finance Authority received \$48 million int herms of behavioral health transition housing which is state wide but when that money is available we will be asking for our fair share of that as well.

Ms. Maria Wolfe added that they did have a brief meeting to talk about some of the priorities and part of the discussion was around a presentation made recently homelessness being a housing issue. Part of the issue is because we have so many people that are individuals in the residence and not many people with roommates or co-housing which is fascinating. There is not housing stock for individual renters or owners.

## **10. Subcommittee Update – Native American Affairs**

Ms. Brandi Ahmi reported they are partnering with STARS and the National Indigenous Women’s Resource center; they have a house summit coming up June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> focusing on not only providing tribal knowledge but also advocacy around domestic violence. Housing experts will be there talking about increasing state housing and strengthening housing access. Ms. Ahmi stated there has been a lot of housing data collected this past year and is working on a final report to be presented on June 10<sup>th</sup> hosted by the city of the Albuquerque Museum.

## **11. New Business**

None

## **12. Next HCC Meeting -**

- June 10th, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## **13. Adjourn Meeting –**

**Motion: Dr. Linstrom**

**2nd: Ms. Wolfe**

**Passed Unanimously**

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am**

## **Meeting Recorded Video Link:**

[https://cabq.zoom.us/rec/share/Fve4MTp0odBDk5fjatoJv2DdkY\\_8kpLaA5dDHJ7os-jVe6X7z3d1MOjLAdmEO7vR.EPNBKEtARK1SDutE](https://cabq.zoom.us/rec/share/Fve4MTp0odBDk5fjatoJv2DdkY_8kpLaA5dDHJ7os-jVe6X7z3d1MOjLAdmEO7vR.EPNBKEtARK1SDutE)

