



Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, January 9, 2024

10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Maria Wolfe, City of Albuquerque
Vice Chair, Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County

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 Renee Grout, City of Albuquerque, Dr. Douglas M. Ziedonis, The University of New Mexico

Zoom Information: **Please click the link below to join the webinar**

<https://cabq.zoom.us/j/86917863006>

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Minutes

1. Call to Order: Maria called to order at 10:05am

2. Review & Approve January 9, 2024 Agenda

Commissioner Barboa asked if we could add a quick update on the Health Equity Summit from Dec 12. It was agreed that it would be covered in Chenoa's updates.

Motion: Julie Morgas Baca

Second: Commissioner Barboa

Approved Unanimously

3. Introductions and Announcements

- Chenoa advised that First Nations Clinic would be distributing Keep Warm Kits on Tues, February 13 so please come out. They will be gathering at 0800 and then will drive all over the City to hand-out. She put this contact into the chat: "Share the Love & Warmth" Event, Tues., Feb. 13, 2024. Seeking support and in kind donations for stay warm kits as well as volunteers. Contact information: Veronica Johnson, veronica.johnson@fnch.org and 505-515-3918
- Monet said the PIT counts would begin on Jan. 31st and the surveys would be Feb 1-3. She inserted William Bowen's contact info into the chat: William-b@nmceh.org

4. Review and Approve November 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Julie Morgas Baca

Second: Commissioner Barboa

Approved Unanimously

5. Public Comment:

No notification of Public Comment was received

6. Updates:

Bernalillo County – Julie Morgas Baca, County Manager **Economic Development/Housing January 2024**

- Encino Gardens-Final approval of the Project Revenue Bonds for this redevelopment of the senior housing 165 units located at Zuni Valencia. The development is 100% Section 8, a meal site for seniors and people experiencing homelessness.
- During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Housing Collaborative will ask for \$20 million in capital outlay funding (\$10 M for both the City and County) for funding the development of additional housing.
- The Governor/Legislature may approve \$1B in funds for affordable housing during this session. We are asking that a portion of it be directed directly to local governments to administer in the development of necessary infrastructure for developing additional affordable housing stock.
- Internal processes are being formulated for working with housing developers to convert identified Bernalillo County owned properties into affordable housing uses.
- Bernalillo County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is winding down. As of December 31, 2023, 2,714 households have been served to alleviate rent and/or utility arrears and prevent evictions, with \$14,487,085 in funds distributed to county residents through this program.

No new applications are being received, however Additional Fund Requests to aid in housing stability will continue until available funds are fully expended.

BHI Housing Updates January 2024

Youth Transitional Living Programs (YTLS)

- October: 54 Clients were served by our four YTLS programs.
- November: 58 Clients were served by our four YTLS programs.
- December: Numbers have not yet been reported. They will be submitted by January 15th. Total 112 served in past two months; Anticipated quarterly total once December performance report is received will be 168 served.

- The BHI team is auditing all 4 YTLS providers starting in December and concluding in the spring. The BHI team brings their clinical auditor to review clients' files, look for compliance, and make best practice/process improvement recommendations.
- Serenity Mesa had their annual open house and had a great turnout. They invited community partners and funders, and the BHI team had the opportunity to speak to young people benefiting from the services they are receiving at Serenity Mesa.

Community Connections Supportive Housing (CCSH)

- October: 223 Clients were served by our two providers for CCSH.
- November: 228 Clients were served by our two providers for CCSH.
- December: Numbers have not yet been reported. They will be submitted by January 15th. ▪ Total 451 served in past two months; anticipated quarterly total once December performance report is received will be 676 served.
- The City of Albuquerque and BHI continue to work collaboratively on the CCSH program. There are 3 active agreements related to this program between the city and county that are managed by staff. Regular monthly meetings are conducted where successes and challenges are addressed.

Motel Voucher Programs

- October: 13 clients were served by our 3 providers (HopeWorks, First Nations Community Healthsource, and Heading Home).
- November: 14 clients were served by our 3 providers.
- December: Numbers have not yet been reported. They will be submitted by January 15th.
- Total 27 clients were served in past two months; this total is low due to contracts reaching their expiration and earlier spend downs resulting in minimal funds remaining and also one provider being unable to increase their case load.
- BHI will see an increase in these numbers going forward because the BHI Team is working to issue agreements with new multi-award providers for Transitional Housing Voucher programs. Staff are utilizing remaining voucher funds through the end of FY24. Staff are in the negotiation phase with 3 providers.

RRC Motel Voucher Program

- RRC, in partnership with First Nations Community Health (FNCH), continues to provide motel vouchers to those exiting MDC.
- Each voucher is good for seven days. FNCH provides Case Management.
- In November 31 referrals were made and in December 25 referrals were made to receive vouchers.

Single Site Housing

- HopeWorks' HopeVillage served 41 clients in November. December numbers have not been reported yet.
- Hope Village can house up to 42.
- HopeVillage is on their final year of their 4-year contract.

Tiny Home Village (THV)

- As of Jan 1st, the census is 20 villagers.
- Two moved into permanent housing in November. Two were administratively discharged for

multiple violations of program rules.

- Waitlist was exhausted and so the THV Application window was opened for one week in November and an overwhelming 310 applications were received.
- THV staff assisted with online collection of applications, phone applications, and in person applications. THV staff also approached encampments next to the Albuquerque Indian Center to ask individuals if they would like to apply for THV.
- Staff are currently screening applications and scheduling interviews to fill the homes. Houses will be filled as repairs to units are completed.
- BHI just hired a dedicated building maintenance employee who will serve both THV and the RRC.
- Challenges in December: 1.) staff vacancies (all vacancies have been hired for and are pending acceptance by selected candidates); 2.) property damage (4 mattresses needed replacing, 1 bedframe replacement, and 4 units required repainting).
- Acquired Property and Building adjacent from THV will be demolished on 1/15/24. This property will be converted into parking for staff and villagers.

Capital Contracts and One Time Funding Agreements

- The BHI has a one-time funding agreement with the City of Albuquerque. In November, the City was able to purchase 450 new bed frames, linens, and bed-bug resistant mattresses for the westside emergency housing center (WEHC).
- The remainder of the funds from BernCo will be used to help renovate the a housing space for residents of the shelter.
- The NM Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC) is continuing construction of their 42-unit transitional housing building for veterans and their families. The building is slated to be finished in the late spring of 2024. No other updates except they are on track.
- CYFD's Safe House for Sex Trafficked Youth continues to be renovated. CYFD has purchased many of the items needed for the renovations and is slated to be finished with the project by late 2024.

Continue to search for Deputy County Manager for Behavior Health

Exec Level position to Lead BH at County – recently changed the job description – looking for a great partner and working with recruiter for national search.

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/bernco/jobs/4337175/deputy-county-manager-for-behavioral-health>

- Question: Commissioner Barboa requested if we could put a Housing Collaborative or Middle Rio Grande presentation for a future meeting?
- Question: Commissioner Barboa wanted to know why the census is only 20 for Tiny Home Village? Julie Anne Baca replied that they had some staff turn-over and home damage, including needing new mattresses), that it is a lottery system, they are doing interviews and screening heavily. They are hoping to move in about 3/week. They did hire a dedicated staff member to do work around the THV to help keep maintenance up and make things quicker.

City of Albuquerque – Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer

- Continuing to develop our Gateway programs, and happy to announce that our Receiving Center will be opened and to have a partnership with UNM to get that staffed. This will be a kind of “sorting hat” environment where we can assess what kind of assistance that individual needs so we can treat each individual accordingly.
- Continuing to serve the Housing Navigation Center, which is for 50 women. We also have a Winter Shelter for 35 men.

- The Sobering Center is in construction as is the Medical Respite Center opening within the next year.
- Working on improvements in the Westside Emergency Housing Center. We have seen that facility reach capacity so we have expanded to 11 dorms available. Due to this, we have developed an “overflow shelter” process.
- We developed a “Bed Tracker”. We are trying to make sure that the first responders are all trained on this tool. If any of you have anyone that you feel should be trained, please let us know. Maria’s email is mwolfe@cabq.gov for anyone to reach out to her to arrange for training.
- We have added a volunteer coordinator and this person is working at identifying volunteer groups to work throughout our shelter systems. We are also looking at opportunities for using the volunteer website for other organizations who are looking for volunteers. If anyone wants to get briefed on that program and how to work in partnership with that One Albuquerque website which allows you to have free background checks for the organizations, we can work with you.
- The City is also working on the \$20million fund for housing along with many other housing projects. Joseph Montoya is our housing specialist.
- One topic we may want to cover is opioid treatment funds and the initiatives for Behavioral Health on that level.
- The Department of Health, Housing & Homelessness has a new Director! Gilbert Ramirez, whom you all just virtually met, has taken over for Carol Pierce. Carol retired and has already been back as a volunteer.
- Question: Commissioner Barboa asked about the department split, and what Gilbert was in charge of? We split into two departments, Health, Housing and Homelessness is what Gilbert oversees.
- Question: Commissioner Barboa asked what is the Receiving Center? It is a place with talented staff who have the skills to determine what services are needed to best help that particular individual. A place that is for first responders to have an option, other than an emergency room, where they can take people. We call it a 23-hour set-up, not a long-term shelter, but within 23 hours, they will be placed into the next best steps for their individual needs.
- Question: Commissioner Barboa asked what the bed tracker really is? Is it ready to be used by everyone? It seems like it could be a good tool for the hospitals as well? The bed trackers are for shelter beds specifically, so not for hospital beds at all. We are working on setting up the training with the County & with the Sheriff’s Office.

UNMH/HSC – Terry Babbitt & Dr. Chenoa Bah

- New Crisis Triage Center will have a delayed opening to April from Feb.
- MDC – they are starting Suboxone Continuum of Care mid-December
- Health Equity Summit – Thank you, nearly 300 people able to participate. 35 community health workers participate. CEU/CME unit hours were available for the providers. Peer to Peer training to assist with housing/food insecurity in the College Community was very important.
- There is a Social Determinants of Health module available online. It’s 6 modules and is key to align health with housing. Chenoa will send the link. There will be power points and talking points from every presenter that Chenoa is happy to disseminate.
- Dr. Ziedonis has pledged \$1million to the development of a Latino Health Center, Health

Equity Center and a Rural Health Center.

VA

No update at this time

7. Update Community Solutions Built for Zero Program – Monet Silva

- Funding – Finalizing the COA contract for \$100,000 for two years. They are waiting still to hear back from President Stokes from UNM. UNM wants a better understanding of how to push through the funding. Bernalillo County is waiting on a bit more information from them and they will get it out ASAP. Community Solutions has provided their funding for two years.
- New Employees Jazmin Moreno, Brittany Rodriguez and Vianny Campos were all introduced. They are from Santa Fe & Albuquerque. There are resumes in to be looked at for the Data Manager position for Albuquerque.
- Legislative Session – a big push to let the Legislators and the Community to know about Built for Zero to make sure they understand what it actually is and how we're using it and who is supporting it.
- Albuquerque Improvement Team – assessing how we are doing in the City.
- Community Solutions is trying to roll out more training to ensure that everyone really understands what Built for Zero really is as the communities have expressed that it is unclear.
- Question: Commissioner Barboa asked about the Coalition to End Homelessness? She thought that they were running Built for Zero? Community Solutions is the parent company, Built for Zero is under them, NMCEH is the facilitating agency.
- Question: She was under the impression that this committee had agreed to fund First Nations to hire a coordinator to help keep this going. Maria said that the COA does have a contract with First Nations to pay for an Outreach Coordinator, Randy John. Monet said that what they are really trying to do is to ensure that they aren't missing any area of the City where people are doing their outreach.
- Question: Has anyone from Bernalillo County joined yet? Pamela Acosta is who the County Manager suggested. She hasn't gotten to meet with her yet, but they are working to get that meeting soon.

8. Updates Dual-Diagnosis Training Conference- Chenoa Bah

Dr. Ziedonis will provide updates soon on developing a Dual-Diagnosis Training Conference.

9. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness – Dr. Chenoa Bah

- Will be planning for the next housing resource fair. This will be for everyone.
- They are suggesting a statewide dedicated Tribal Housing Manager.

- Student sare struggling with housing. They need more rental assistance. Will drop out if they are struggling to work & go to school.
- Missing, Murdered and Indigenous Women – Need more housing to prevent this trauma.
- Limit barriers to grant funding, filter it through the agencies to ensure that it continues.
- Integrated Mental Health & Housing is needed.
- Pueblo of Zuni wants the Native American Homeless Committee to present to them.

10. VA Program Presentation – Camila Lopez, Health Care for Homeless Veteran Program Coordinator, New Mexico VA Health Care System

- Needs – how did they become homeless? Have to discover challenges to get this addressed.
- Skill deficits – how to help them with communication skills, financial help, needs, landlord communication, application fill-outs.
- Trying to make sure veterans have opportunity to gain needed education – peer support and case workers to walk them through the process – how to search for housing – how to fill out application – how to get the needed information.
- CEH has been a great partner to identify services for veterans.
- Have housing vouchers but some are over income or have other barriers – have to look outside HUD to work with private landlords to help them understand options and supports for veterans to get housed.
- Build new partnerships as well – important to build understanding of how to STAY housed.
- Pro-social activities – meaningful volunteering – engage in community and want to stay housed.
- Help with challenges they are experiencing – being housed can be lonely if used to community/group – how to build community in new space? Peer support, outreach support, awareness of partnerships.
- Dr. Chenoa Bah provided information on free access to wellness groups at First Nations: healing arts, food as medicine, horse medicine, etc. Contact Veronica Johnson: 505-515-3918
- Question: Commissioner Barboa – interested in model – how is the VA working to build community? Can follow-up directly

11. City of Albuquerque Bed Tracker Demonstration – Maria Wolfe

Will postpone, but if anyone wants a demonstration, please reach out directly to Maria so she can get that set-up.

12. Announcement of the next HCC Meeting

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

13. Adjourn Meeting – Maria Adjourned at 11:32am