

## **LETTER OF INTENT**

This Letter of Intent (this “LOI”) is made and entered into by and between the Regents of the University of New Mexico (“UNM” or the “University”), including its public operation known as the UNM Health Sciences Center (“UNMHSC”), and the City of Albuquerque (the “City”).

### **Recitals**

WHEREAS, the University is an institution of higher education formed and established pursuant to Article XII, Section 11 of the New Mexico Constitution;

WHEREAS, the City, by and through the Office of the Mayor, has identified a significant need to address the many concerns surrounding homelessness, including, without limitation, the causes of and contributors to homelessness;

WHEREAS, societies and their citizens are judged by how they treat their most vulnerable members and have a humanitarian imperative to alleviate suffering amongst the vulnerable;

WHEREAS, the UNMHSC's vision is to work with community partners to help New Mexico make more progress in health and health equity than any other state and its mission is to provide an opportunity for all New Mexicans to obtain an excellent education in the health sciences and to advance health sciences in the most important areas of human health with a focus on the priority health needs of our communities, and;

WHEREAS, New Mexico is a majority-minority state, the UNMHSC’s mission will ensure that all populations in New Mexico have access to the highest-quality health care;

WHEREAS, the UNMHSC, by and through its UNM Hospitals and clinics, is familiar with many of the different causes of and contributors to homelessness, as well as the limited access the homeless have to high-quality, and coordinated health care services, including medical, psychiatric, and addiction-related services;

WHEREAS, the UNMHSC and the City are currently collaborating with each other to assist the Albuquerque Police Department in effectuating a more comprehensive crisis intervention team program to better manage populations in crisis, including homeless populations;

WHEREAS, the University (including the UNMHSC) and the City desire to explore opportunities to expand their collaboration to develop a more comprehensive response to the needs and concerns of persons living with homelessness, including, without limitation, the causes of and contributors to homelessness, and expanding ways to improve the access of homeless populations to high-quality and coordinated health care services, including medical, psychiatric, and addiction-related services.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties to this LOI agree as follows:

1. The University (including the UNMHSC) and the City will explore opportunities to expand their collaboration to encompass a more comprehensive response to the needs and concerns of homelessness, including, without limitation, the causes of and contributors to homelessness, the potential development of emergency shelter facility(ies) with supportive services, and expanding ways to improve access so that the homeless populations may receive high-quality and coordinated health care services, including medical, psychiatric, and addiction-related services.

2. The UNMHSC and the City will continue their current collaboration to assist the Albuquerque Police Department's comprehensive crisis intervention team program to better manage populations in crisis, including homeless populations. The City recognizes that, in a collaboration between the UNMHSC and the County of Bernalillo, the UNM Hospitals are creating a 23-hour observation area for behavioral health clients who meet the appropriate criteria, developing a peer-based "living room" model program staffed with peers, community support workers and other appropriate staff to provide patients with support and access to resources, expanding the assessment capacity of the Psychiatric Emergency Services and Psychiatric Urgent Care, and expanding onsite care coordination through the development of a behavioral health home for severe disabling mental illness and other high needs behavioral health patients.

3. The University (including the UNMHSC) and the City will form a dedicated collaboration oversight committee ("**Steering Committee**") to identify opportunities for collaboration in the areas covered by this LOI and to create, execute, and carry out the terms of the definitive agreements (each, a "**Definitive Agreement**," and, collectively, the "**Definitive Agreements**") that may be needed to effectuate the goals outlined in this LOI. In this regard, the Steering Committee will be composed of such representatives of each of the University (including the UNMHSC) and the City as may be determined by them from time to time.

4. The University (including the UNMHSC) and the City recognize that tackling the issues and concerns related to homelessness in a truly comprehensive way may require the parties to reach out to other organizations and governmental entities to create coordinating strategies and a network of interlinked approaches to these issues.

5. While the parties are committed to the collaboration(s) identified in this LOI, each of the parties understands, acknowledges, and agrees that neither the University nor the City are at this time committing any assets, property, or monies to any specific projects or programs. All such commitments are and will be subject to the parties' respective governance and governmental approvals and will be set forth in one or more mutually acceptable Definitive Agreements.

**Effective Date: February 13, 2019**

REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW  
MEXICO,  
INCLUDING THE UNM HEALTH SCIENCES  
CENTER

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Garnett S. Stokes, Ph.D., its President

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy M. Keller, its Mayor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Roth, M.D., its Chancellor of  
Health Sciences

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Loretta P. Martinez, Esq., Chief  
Legal Counsel

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Esteban A. Aguilar Jr., Esq., City Attor-  
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