



City of Albuquerque Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission

Date/Time: Monday, February 21, 2024, starting at 3:00 P.M. MST
Location: City Hall, 4th Floor, Room #472, Conference Room and [Zoom](#)
Contact: Janis Garcia

Commission Members Present:

Teresa Garcia, Chair
Stacy Burleson, Co-Chair
Charie Alipat, NM Asian Family Center
Jodie Jaramillo, Rape Crisis Center of Central New Mexico
Sara Yvonne “Bonnie” Escobar, Enlace Comunitario
Shannon Lowry, ABQ Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners
Rebeca Ogawa Representing Victoria LeBlanc, Office of the Second Judicial District Attorney’s Office
Cecily Barker, Albuquerque Police Department Deputy Chief
Jay Ratliff, Albuquerque Police Department Deputy Commander
Christopher Sotelo, Albuquerque Fire Department Deputy Chief
Jeffery Bustamante, CABQ Albuquerque Community Safety Department
Ellen Braden, CABQ Health, Housing, and Homelessness Department
Beatriz Valencia, CABQ Office of Equity and Inclusion
Rob Eppes, The Arc NM

Commission Members Absent:

Jolene Holgate, Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.
Judge Amber Baker Chavez, Second Judicial Court

Natividad Posada, Children, Youth and Families Department NM
Kathleen “KC” Carmona, NM Attorney General’s Office
Isez Roybal, CABQ Office of Mayor/Policy
Kate Thompson, Law Office of the Public Defender

City Staff Present:

Lisa Schatz-Vance, Legal Department
Ashley Romero, AFR
Kyle Hartsock, APD
Patricia Padrino CABQ Health, Housing, and Homelessness Department
Doug Small Director of Public Affairs, Mayors Office
Daniel Manzano Deputy Director of Public Affairs Mayors Office
Victoria Martinez, CABQ Chief of Staff Mayors Office
Ms. Baca Acting Director for Office of Equity and Inclusion

Members of the Public Present:

Lucrecia Jaramillo, NM Legal Aid
Becky O’Gawa, District Attorney’s Office
Karina Solares, DA’s Office
Kennedy Silver, APD
Joseph Hinkle. NM Coalition to End Homelessness
David Adams, Parnall Adams Law
Desiree Trujillo, Bernalillo County Sheriffs Department

Hiroko Minami, Domestic
Violence Resource Center
Kelsea Kilbride, DVRC

Larry and Joni Jones, Community
Advocates

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 3:08 pm by Chair Garcia

II. Introductions

- a. Chair Garcia took a roll call of commission members.
 - i. Introductions of City Administration who are in person

III. Approval of Agenda

- a. Voting member Co-Chair Stacy Burleson moved to approve the amended agenda for the February 21st, 2024. The motion was seconded by Bonnie Escobar; the January agenda was approved as presented. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. There were no minutes for approval for this meeting as it was a special meeting for the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission.

V. Discussion and Vote for Restructuring of the Commission Reporting Process and Changes:

- i. Chair Garcia Opened the meeting with a statement as follows:
- ii. First and foremost Stacy and I would like to extend our gratitude to Isez for her unwavering support since the inception of the commission. Her dedication has been instrumental while supporting this newly founded Commission and collaboratively navigating the challenges that come with serving on this commission. I also acknowledge her pivotal role in working alongside the task force, community partners and championing our commissions ordinance. Thank you Isez.
- iii. However, I must address a critical matter that necessitates our immediate attention to address the recent organizational changes that have transpired without the commission's knowledge or inclusion. This decision to move the position of the Coordinator of Domestic Violence and Gendered Based violence to the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) raises significant concerns. Particularly regarding the lack of communication and transparency in the decision making process.
- iv. In response to the email received, I expressed my apprehension about the impact of these changes on our commission, Survivors in Albuquerque and our adherence to the Commission ordinance. It is disheartening that neither Stacy nor I were informed reflecting a lack of consideration for the commission in these critical decisions. Thers omission undermines our

collaborative efforts with community partners and contradicts our commitment to transparency.

- v. The decision to relocate the coordinator position to APD as outlined in Victoria's email was made without the commission's involvement. This poses a fundamental conflict of interest as our commission was established to address the needs of survivors including those involving the Albuquerque police department. Placing us under APD inhibits our ability to effectively advocate for survivors and address gaps in service delivery.
- vi. During a recent call I received from Veronica without notice, I sought clarity on the details of purpose of the call as it was focused on our liaison's leave instead of hearing the concern for the commission as a whole. I encountered rudeness rather than kindness and understanding. As the chair of the Commission, my primary concern lies with the Commission as a whole irrespective of our prior DV GBD Coordinators' reasons for her leave. This highlights the overarching issue of communication and transparency. Veronica's email claimed that the decision was based on ongoing needs and support requests, but during our call, the information provided was limited to the funding for the Family Advocacy Center (FAC), demonstrating a lack of transparency in decision making.
- vii. Furthermore, the assertion that operationally nothing will change is in direct contrast to the reality faced by the commission. Our liaison, whether Hartsock or another, will now report to Commander Hartsock and subsequently, Chief Medina, altering our operational dynamics. This decision challenges the principles of collaboration, open dialogue and transparency that our commission upholds and prioritizes. I, as Chair, have been able to move our priorities quickly due to the current structure and relationships I have built with my community and advocacy outside of my role as commissioner or chair.
- viii. I am guided by the principle that creating change is a collaborative endeavor. This journey necessitates mutual accountability and the cultivation of meaningful relationships. Through these principles we lay the groundwork for transformative change, steering us toward a more inclusive, supportive and brighter future for survivors and our community as a whole.
- ix. I urge the Albuquerque Police Department and the Mayor's Administration and all relevant parties to consider the impact of these changes on the work and relationships we have built. It is my hope that this statement serves as a catalyst for constructive dialogue, ensuring our commission's voice is heard in decisions that directly affect the survivors and families we advocate for.
- x. I will now ask the commission to join me in expressing concerns about this decision and the potential setbacks it poses. We must engage in open

dialogue to protect the relationships we have build with the community and continue our advocacy for survivors. I have drafted a letter to Mayor Keller humbly requesting an audience to discuss these matters.

- xi. While I appreciate the administrations expressing their prioritization of domestic violence and sexual assault issues it is imperative that they understand this priority is derived directly form the community and city programs particularly stemming from the DV task force. Our commission exists to advocate for the needs of survivors and families in our community and any changes that affect our operational structure must be made collaboratively.
- xii. This statement serves as a call to action and encouraging open conversation, opinions and discussions to navigate this challenging situation and move forward collectively. Thank you for your attention and I will now open it for discussion.” END of Statement
- Discussion was Opened where Chair asked for any comments in regard to the change that have been made.
 - xiii. Voting member Chearie asked for clarification on the intention of the restructuring from Isez to APD. Raising concerns in representing a marginalized community that is building trust within systems having law enforcement be a liaison for the DVSA commission undermines the work we (the commission) are doing for trust building, where this decision was rushed and the perception of our community in leading in a system based approach instead of a community based commission that is survivor centered. Expressed that it feels to be a forced relationship that the commission was not aware of to include working on language issues, lgbtq community in thinking we are aligning with APD where the community is working to build that trust but we are not there yet and forces our community to work under their command where survivors are not comfortable to approach systems the community is not comfortable with yet.
 - xiv. Chair Garcia asked Veronica if she would like to respond where Veronica asked if there were any other questions in the room before responding.
 - xv. Voting Member Bonnie asked about the letter (e-mail) that was written to Chair Garcia that didn't go to the whole commission where she inquired to Veronicas Statement in that email that said the “natural home for the Commission because APD shares a mission of violence prevention but it also and implication that APD has long supported the work associated with addressing domestic violence and gendered based violence including the ongoing lease at the FAC and implementing programs like the DVRC.” Where she stated that in her opinion that implication that if theres any difference of opinion or things happening on the commission that that funding could go away and theres a lot of us here also sitting at the table that are funded by the City so that implication causes concerns. If we are

not making decisions in compliance with the administration or APD our funding could potentially be cut.

- xvi. Chair Garcia then stated she also had a question however Veronica preferred to answer the first two questions first where Chair Garcia agreed.
- xvii. Veronica stated she brought her team in where she indicated she became Chief of Staff four months ago where she stated Domestic Violence is at her core where she wakes up and goes to sleep thinking about it. She would have liked to have access to the resources in the room and her upper management being aware where Voting Member Shannon expressed support for Victoria through her experience that happened 25 years ago.
 1. Ms. Victoria addressed the move for our City Liaison into APD is not taking anything away but to move that position into the Family advocacy center to continue working with the advocates. Shes passionate about working with the FAC so we (the administration) thought the natural move would be to move her there. Veronica stated our Liaison sent several emails about the benefits of the FAC and the Administration and the Chief (Chief Medina) began to coordinate where great things have come out of it. This move was due to budgetary purposes where she was previously at the Policy Division under Erin Griegos office and Debby Omalleys office where she was a policy writer for our team where the move was again for budgetary reasons.
 2. Ms. Veronica then indicated that Doug and Daniel will continue to report to Dougs group where nothing has changed to include our City Liaisons position will still remain where the Commission will continue to report to the Mayors Office with Doug and Daniel where again there were no changes at all but strictly for budgetary purposes and keep her at the FAC to be the middle person to help with APD, the FAC and continue to do the job and expand and grow I that position. The city Liaison role hasn't changed where the administration has supported her leave.
 3. Ms. Veronica referred back to the phone call with Chair Garcia she indicated she called to make sure where the call happened after a call with Commander Hartsock. Indicating chair asked for clarification if it was a Courtesy call where Veronica indicated we are here to support you no matter what happens with isez returning or not. Ms. Veronica apologized to Chair Garcia if it was received differently where it was not her intention where Chair Garcia accepted her apology.
 4. Ms. Veronica then referred back to the email sent to the commission she took it from Chair Garcias email she had sent where she did not include Chair Garcia in her original email and apologized to Chair Garcia for inadvertently missing her in the

communication and stated it was unintentional. The administration wanted to let the commission know that Isez had sent out an email before the administration had the opportunity to talk with the commission. She will hand it over to Doug and stated how important this is and feels very passionate about this group and talk about her experience.

5. Chair Garcia paused before turning it over to Doug where she wanted to say thank you to Ms. Veronica on the clarification as well as for sharing with the DVSA Commission where we honor her and recognizing its not easy to tell ones story and took a moment to recognize that and sharing it with the group and feeling comfortable to do so. Ms. Veronica indicated her passion for this commission and Chair Garcia expressed we have the mutual goal as a commission highlighting that because of that mutual passion the commission would have appreciated the transparency 4 months ago for the changes.
6. Doug Small thanked the commission for the opportunity to attend the Commission meeting to be able to listen and hear the concerns where Doug appreciated Chair Garcia for raising the concerns and does understand where she is coming from around who reports to who whether APD or Policy. He was also grateful for the opportunity to explain the rationale around it and why the administration wanted to do it. The commission is here to advise the mayor and city council per the ordinance even if our City Liaison reported to Commander Hartsock she is still a mayoral appointee where those pieces never exactly change and considered an unclassified position and an appointment by the administration.
7. Commander Hartsock from the criminal investigation division at APD, since 2014 and working towards supporting survivors as they seek services and talking about his experience and working with organizations like Enlace outside of the FAC. Where Commander hartsock is here to facilitate what the commission is here to do where he indicated his goal of a system that is easy to navigate and victims come out better than they came in where it doesn't necessarily mean convictions and pick their path for themselves.
8. Ms. Veronica indicated they are in process of hiring a social worker and work with our City Liaison to bring in funding from a local and federal perspective to help support for this group. The hiring will happen April 1st 2024.
9. Chair Garciam indicated how this discussion was important where there was no prior communication as the Chair was a big concern as a commission with the ordinance in mind where is specifically

states that we advise the mayor and city council addressing gaps and barriers for survivors and if we are reporting to APD how can we address the gaps and barriers that exist within APD if we report to them. Doug reassured it still goes to the administration.

10. Daniel stated this conversation was fantastic and very healthy from going to a Taks force to a full fledged advisory board that is still pretty new where this is great relationship building and dialogue that this does not happen often and appreciated coming to a space where we can come together and address a lot of the issues. Daniel covered his experience in supporting 57 board and commission for the city of Albuquerque and offer his support. He indicated supporting the Commissions with their Annual reports and resolutions and the presentation to the Mayors office and city council. Ms. Veronica then speculated that this commission was concerned about Isez going where Chair Garcia clarified that its irrespective of Isez in particular but any City Liaison as that supports the commission where Doug understood Chair Garcias concern. Doug then supported the comment from Chair Garcia and Daniel where they would make sure the City Liaison does in fact report to the Mayors office and is aligned with the commissions priority and hearing their concerns.
11. Voting member Chearie asked for clarification on how to communicate with her community to be further pushed to the margins because of building the relationship with APD and the messaging of these changes and Commander Hartsock still wears a badge and is under the APD umbrella and understanding the views of the community and the commission. She expressed gratitude in being at this table where community members continue to report may have concerns on the reporting to APD and information not get lost in translation and how to deliver this message to her community. Ms. Veronica interrupted stating this board will not report to APD and make sure this board does not report to APD where Isez role does report to APD but restated that this board does not report to APD it reports to Director Doug Smalls team in the Mayors office. Bonnie asked if Doug would be accessible for any questions in the community and Doug offered if it feels better to have another representative in the Mayor office that would be okay as well and wouldn't be a problem at all.
12. Voting Member wanted to ask for clarification as well where not only for Apd but through the FAC and there are key players that are not part of the FAC and represent marginalized communities and made sure those voices don't get lost. She is confident in the changes with Commander Harstock but also does not want a

conflict where there are conflicts with marginalized communities and law enforcement and its not just related to Domestic Violence and rebuild that trust doing it through the office of the Mayor.

13. Ms. Veronica again reiterated the commissions structure and reporting to the Mayors office and the position will be relocated with Fire and Once Albuquerque and new position April 1st.
14. Chair Garcia stated how grateful she is to Deputy Commander Ratlif, Deput Chief Barker and Commander Hartsock and been instrumental in bridging that gap and working with APD where its been amazing and grateful to sit at the table with everyone and Deputy Chief Vega and building the relationship with APD where her statement is with Survivors in mind and how the community is perceiving the commission is very important to Chair Garcia and the commission and how this would feel for survivors. Chair indicated the importance of the collaboration and communication being a priority and bridging that collaboration where she indicated being caught off guard by the communication that was happening and asked for transparency to why the commission was not educated on the proposal on the changes and input from our communities and being able to have this conversation before rather than on the terms that called this special meeting where that would of helped and how to navigate this where the commission is new and prioritizing survivors in our community.
15. Doug then stated that if this commission were ever to change to who it reports to would have to be an ordinance change by city council and be a legal policy changed and signed off by the Mayor where it was a miscommunication from the administration that the commission would report to APD and could have provided more clarity but appreciated to have that in this meeting. Chair Garcia agreed to what is written in our ordinance where it was one of her questions. Doug reiterated it's the staff member position being moved but does not change the reporting for the commission.
16. Deputy Chief Barker added to the conversation in the commission not reporting to APD.
17. Voting member Jodie Jaramillo asked about the intentions for the position move to the FAC and Chair Garcia added some conversations were had to a Family Justice center for the Policy Subcommittee to request funding and working with Bev McMillan from the FAC.
18. Commander Hartsock stated they are able to get more grant money and violence against women grant and included 2 million for DNA testing for sexual assault cases.

19. Chair Garcia asked a question for funding and funding requests for the commission but continue proposing to City Council and have City Council move those funds from APD to the commission for funding. Commander Hartsock indicated City Council only manages the City budget and that's all they can allocate were grants and federal funding will fall outside of the purvue of local elected officials and other positions. Voting Member Chearie advocated if survivors are not ready to report will they have to take part in that for the funding where Commander Hartsock responded on his experience and governmental reporting requirements and Voting Member Jodie responded in support of survivors and their reporting. Voting member Shannon spoke to her experience in working with law enforcement where theres cultural and other concerns and the impact of APD is a barrier but there's positive things where SANE needed training and they offered support and working extensively with law enforcement and stated the lack of understanding of the system in her opinion.

VI. Discussion and Vote for the Reallocation of part of the \$100,000 emergency funds in the amount of \$60,000

- a. Chair Garcia introduced Co Chair Stacy for the presentation of a proposal for the reallocation of part of the \$100,000 emergency funds where Chair Garcia supported Co Chair Stacy in creating the proposal. Chair Garcia reminded the commission this was a recommendation from last commission meeting to spend the funding.
- b. Co Chair Stacy read the proposal indicating direct financial assistant to survivors where the 60,00 would help a total of 20 families in the amount up to \$3,000 to go towards rent, moving costs, deposits etc. Co Chair Stacy opened the room for discussion where Bonnie stated these guidelines be passed to Ellen for consideration to include on how the funding is distributed. Patricia Padrino CABQ Health, Housing, and Homelessness Department agreed to present the proposal to Ellen Braden as information and indicated that Ellen Braden has been working on moving the funds so programs could apply and receive them and funds could not go directly to survivors. Chair Garcia supported Co chair stacy tjt funding would not go directly to survivors but the program will contact Ellen and state they need funding for X,Y,Z and ask for support up to \$3,000 and pay those items on behalf of the survivors. Patricia state that process doesn't quite exist but programs can apply for the funding and get distributed and the programs would be reimbursed. Co-Chair stated raised concern where survivors need the money right not and Chair also asked if there was issues for reimbursement where it impacts the organizations. Voting member stated 20 families is not a lot and the priorities for survivors and what does that process look like.

- c. Voting member Bonnie made a motion on the distribution of the \$60,000 and look at the guidelines that have been presented which is the cleanest and quickest process where Voting Member Seconded and was unanimously approved.

VII. Proposal and Vote for Lethality Assessment Recommendation

- a. Chair Garcia read the Lethality assessment resolution in addition to sharing her story and the importance of a Lethality Assessment for survivors.
- b. Discussion began where Legal suggested updated verbiage where the commission should update in one word that was used as “shall” in using a Lethality Assessment. Chair Garcia indicated the importance of the use of words that indicate accountability and making sure a lethality assessment is a priority after resolution recommendation is submitted. Legal indicated we could submit the resolution as is will not result in any challenge but the commission cannot order only submit a recommendation.
- c. The Commission voted for approval for the Resolution, Voting member Bonnie moved to approve the resolution, Chair Garcia seconded, Voting Member Jodie also approved but failed where it was a split vote with Co chair Stacy, Voting members Chearie and Shannon did not approve with the ask to update verbiage on the Resolution before approval. Voting Member Jodie Jaramillo also indicated that it was the first time that a city Legal has offered their support where the commission is trying to push priorities through.
 - i. The commission, however, did agree to approve the resolution with updated verbiage where Chair Garcia agreed to meet with Legal on suggestions and making sure its presented correctly for the next meeting in March and final approval.

VIII. Proposal and Vote for Survivor Groups Recommendation

- a. Chair Garcia suggested to move this discussion to next meeting due to running out of time for conversation. Voting Member Chearie seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

IX. Public Comment

- a. Chair Garcia had public comment for the proclamation for the first year celebration where the City Council meeting will be for the March 18th meeting and hoping to have Jolene and Robb accepted into the commission. Chair Garcia also mentioned several events to have some time together and working with the UNM Athletics, Duke City Gladiators, NM Runners and NM United to celebrate the whole month and have offered tickets for commission members and highlighting our work and grateful for her connections with the community and will send communication via email.

X. Future Actions and Next Meeting

- a. Next Meeting: March 11th, 2024 at 3pm MST.
- b. Chair Garcia to send out Meeting Minutes via email to Commission Members.
- c. Teresa Garcia to send out additional and/or supplemental documents, upcoming agenda items, etc.
- d. Additional updates will be circulated via email.

XI. Adjournment – Thank you

- e. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m. by Teresa Garcia, Chair.