



Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, September 10, 2024

10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Matthew McGahran, Veterans Administration
Vice Chair, Councilor Nichole Rogers, City of Albuquerque

Wayne Lindstrom, Deputy County Manager for Behavior Health - Bernalillo County,
Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada - Bernalillo County, Commissioner Adriann Barboa - Bernalillo
County, Mayor Tim Keller - City of Albuquerque, Councilor Renee Grout - City of Albuquerque,
Maria Wolfe - City of Albuquerque, President Garnett S. Stokes - The University of New Mexico,
Dr. Mike Richards - The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Minutes

1. Call to Order – Former Chair Wolfe ensured quorum and called to order at 10:08, then handed off to Vice-Chair Councilor Nichole Rogers.

2. Review & Approve Agenda for September 10, 2024

Motion: Councilor Renee Grout

2nd: Leigh Raymond, acting as proxy for Chair Matthew McGahran

Passed Unanimously

3. Introductions and Announcements

Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers announced the Dual Diagnosis Conference, scheduled 9/11/2024, is full and registration has closed. Any members of the team not yet registered, please reach out so a slot can be made available. There were no other announcements.

4. Review and Approve August 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dr. Wayne Lindstrom,

2nd: Councilor Renee Grout

Passed Unanimously

NOTE: Item #5 on the Agenda, Public Comment, was deferred due to the only scheduled commenter not showing in attendance. The item appears below as #7 when the commenter was in attendance.

5. Dual-Diagnosis Training Conference Committee

Commissioner Barboa expressed excitement to see everyone at the Dual Diagnosis Training Conference tomorrow. Dr. Lindstrom offered the suggestion that this conference is foundational, not a one and done, focused on changing the way people practice. Integrational care is being demanded, and the conference should be followed-up with planning for offering training and technical assistance around serving those with dual diagnosis. Update by Maria Wolfe due to Pari & Destiny's absence – There are 307 people registered to attend, 35 groups tabling, and 27 volunteers. The primary speaker has recovered from COVID enough to be there. This first attempt is a great opportunity to touch the community, and staff from the front desk to the high-level clinicians need to be there.

6. Community Solutions Built for Zero Program

Monet Silva, Jazmin Moreno and Priscilla Williams provided a slideshow presentation. They have been active since May 2024. They acknowledged participating agencies that have supported their work. The By Name List from May – August 2024 has fluctuated from 240-270 families. This consists of 46% people of color, the head of household age range is 19-86, most are single parent households headed by a female, and with 1 – 3 children. Regarding Case Conferencing, 14 families have been discussed, 7 families assessed, 2 families have been housed with others preparing to be housed and 2 families have moved to inactive status.

Systemic barriers were discussed. An invitation was issued to attend team improvement meetings to share any concerns and ideas to address those concerns. The support and engagement of the HCC was requested to provide resources in a variety of ways to help providers, house families quicker, and reach functional zero.

Councilor Grout asked how long it typically takes to get someone assessed. Priscilla Williams presented that first, they have to be identified. The assessment happens when a VI-SPDAT is completed and sent into the coordinating entry team. They are typically entered into the HMI system in less than 1 week from the time the VI-SPDAT is received and to start meeting with the navigators. Zoe Robb added that it can be hard to determine how long someone has been on the street or experiencing homelessness before encountering a resource that completes the VI-SPDAT and gets them into HMIS.

Councilor Grout asked if and how transportation is provided and Priscilla Williams responded no and is one of the barriers they are trying to figure out. Commissioner Barboa asked what is done if someone needs transportation. Priscilla Williams clarified that this team does not work directly with the clients, they work with the agencies. The agencies are figuring out public transportation routes for clients or using their personal vehicles in emergency situations. Maria Wolfe informed the group that, if someone is in a crisis or emergency situation, the Community Safety Department does provide transportation and there are also outreach teams with ACS and First Nations Community Health.

Helen Maestas requested a graphic or visual representation of the workflow of the assessment process and Zoe Robb responded one will be presented at the next meeting, then explained the general process. Nichole Rogers clarified that Built for Zero is not tasked with providing direct services but is about changing systems, getting players on the same page to come up with solutions as a collective to end homelessness, not just manage it.

Commissioner Barboa asked what it means when the presenters say, “By Name” as in “By Name List”. Priscilla Williams responded that the idea of the By Name List is to humanize the unhoused in the city, using names from the coordinated entry wait list or pulled from intake reports from other agencies.

Commissioner Adriann Barboa asked if barriers that were identified in the presentation come from the case conferencing tool. Priscilla Williams confirmed this. Zoe Robb added that barriers also came from the community-wide strategy sessions and discussions with other agencies and outreach workers. Commissioner Barboa requested when barriers are brought up by one family, the solution be addressed for the homeless community as a whole. Priscilla Williams and Zoe Robb confirmed that Built for Zero looks at the solutions for these barriers systemically and not just on an individual case-by-case basis.

Jazmin Moreno spoke about a case worker with 25 years' experience who learned at a case conference about resources she had not been previously aware of, emphasizing Built for Zero creates a space to share, collaborate and educate on resource availability. Commissioner Barboa expressed her support, both past and present, for sharing, collaborating, identifying, and addressing barriers. Zoe Robb shared that, as a new team, they don't want to duplicate past efforts, instead focusing on resource sharing and collaborating to address discrimination and bias. The goal is to have a greater impact on systemic issues by making small changes, then sharing the impact of those changes with the wider community.

Near North Valley Neighborhood Association's Rosemary Blanchard asked how to get in touch with Built for Zero to arrange meetings and presentations and if today's presentation slides could be made available. The following contact information was provided: Jazmin Moreno, System Improvement Lead, jazmin-m@nmceh.org; Priscilla Williams, Data Manager, priscilla-w@nmceh.org; Zoe Robb, Planning Analyst, zoe-r@nmceh.org; and General Inquiries: bfzalb@nmceh.org, and permission to share the slides with the public was granted.

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom asked about prevention, intervening before people become homeless. Priscilla Williams stated this is under discussion, including meeting with Winter Torrez of New Mexico Eviction Prevention. Dr. Lindstrom then highlighted the issue of significant loss of possessions for individuals evicted and its financial impact. He asked if it's possible to have pods available during evictions to store items for retrieval once stable housing is obtained. Priscilla Williams stated the suggestion will be discussed with the recently hired landlord liaison team. Zoe Robb encouraged the meeting participants to reach out to Build for Zero with any similar ideas or suggestions. Monet Silva informed that the City of Santa Fe has a program that has some eviction prevention dollars, as well as just having received funding from the grow fund from the legislature that will be used to roll out an eviction prevention program. They will be going back to the legislature for additional funding as it was a very small pot. The goal is to have less people coming into the system so there are fewer people to get out of the system. Dr. Lindstrom reminded Ms. Silva to let this Council know when launching those advocacy initiatives with the legislature so the Council can lend their support. Ms. Silva stated it was anticipated this would most likely occur right after the general election, possibly in January 2025.

Jazmin Moreno answered a question in the chat from Rodney McNease regarding how long it takes to complete the assessment, stating it depends on the mental capacity of the individual and the trauma informed and relationship building skills of the individual completing the assessment. He then requested a copy of the assessment form questions. Priscilla Williams replied they would reach out to the coordinated entry team to see if that could be made available. Commissioner Barboa clarified that the coordinated entry team is part of Built for Zero, and Priscilla Williams confirmed this. Commissioner Barboa then requested clarification regarding the housing navigators and case managers. Priscilla Williams stated the housing navigators are within the coordinated entry team, and various other agencies and organizations have case managers. Commissioner Barboa asked if the housing navigators only do housing, and Priscilla Williams responded yes. Commissioner Barboa asked if the housing navigators addressed other issues such as substance abuse. Priscilla Williams stated these issues do come up in the initial assessment, however the difference between a housing navigator and a

case manager is that housing navigators focus on connecting people to vouchers and overcoming barriers to that effort. While this can sometimes mean overlapping into the case manager role if the individual is not already connected to one at another organization, the navigator's job is not to do case management; it is facilitating obtaining a voucher and completing the document process for that. Zoe Robb added navigators do work closely with the case manager if an individual has one.

Vice-Chair Rogers expressed the desire for Built for Zero to work more closely with HCC, and suggested it be discussed when the HCC talks about subcommittees.

7. Public Comment: One public comment at this time.

A. Anami Dass:

Invited attendees to the Human Rights Board meeting, next Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 5pm in Council Chambers She stated they will be going over the preliminary findings from the anti-homeless sentiment hearing held in June. She expressed regret that they were not able to hold the meeting in August.

Her second topic was about bringing all the agencies into one place to work on ending homelessness, and expressed the opinion that APD and MDC should be added to this group. Stated she discovered Bernalillo County has the MDC data dashboard online and over 50% of individuals brought into custody by APD are unhoused. She expressed shock and upset by this statistic, then assured the HCC that the Human Rights Board meeting will be lighter than this.

8. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness

Dr. Chenoa Bah shared a presentation on the Southwest Indigenous Housing Justice Collective, a grassroots organization which began in 2020. She stated she would be presenting this tomorrow at the Dual Diagnosis Summit with Dawn Begay and Kyle Topaha, a formerly unsheltered veteran who is now a homeowner with the help of the Veteran's Center and other resources. He is a CNM and UNM graduate helping to create various community projects. His story compelled the creation of the SW Indigenous Housing Justice Collective, along with those of other survivors and unsheltered individuals, families at risk for homelessness within APS and other schools, and other Native Americans who go to UNMH for treatment at the Cancer Center, for surgeries, and to the Trauma Center. She expressed concern for those here for treatment who live many hours away, as well as college students who become unsheltered and drop out of school. She highlighted the Basic Needs Grant through Dr. Sarita Cargas of UNM, referencing an article written about Dr. Cargas in yesterday's Santa Fe New Mexican.

Dr. Bah then provided an update on a site visit to Native American Connections in Phoenix, AZ two months ago. She expressed hope they will present at the Health Equity Summit as they did confirm yesterday. Her hope is that Albuquerque and other New Mexico communities can learn from them and replicate or create a hub based on their model. Dr. Bah also shared an opportunity presented to several Pueblo Nations in New Mexico. Three tribal communities, the San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Zuni Housing Authorities, were awarded \$10.5 million to create more affordable housing. The Zuni Pueblo leadership has expressed great concern about their unsheltered relatives in Albuquerque, as one of the few tribal nations to state they would be concerned even if only one tribal member were unhoused. She expressed gratitude to the HCC for its ongoing support in requesting the creation of a Tribal Leaders Symposium, facilitating the creation of MOUs and other correspondence, and will provide an update next month regarding interest and possible dates, anticipating March or April, 2025.

Dr. Bah anticipates additional model project funding from HUD's NAHA, to be used for a wide range

of supportive housing resources, i.e. motel vouchers or emergency rental assistance, or a culturally relevant and appropriate indigenous shelter possibly connected with the Gateway Center. Known as NAHASDA (Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996) HUD funding, it's a way to explore this opportunity, possibly with the NM Pueblo, Apache, and Navajo Nations.

Dr. Bah provided the website of the SWONAP (Southwest Office of Native American Programs) as <https://www.hud.gov/swonap>, highlighting it as a tremendous resource for support regarding what native nations are doing in the southwest or New Mexico, working with all tribally designated housing authorities. The conversations with Don, Kyle, Terry Sloane, and many others are how this program can work in Albuquerque providing urban support, and not just on traditional homeland. She recounted being presenting to the Native American Subcommittee of Indian Affairs before the Senate and House of Representatives last November, when Randy John, who works with First Nations, shared his experiences as the City of Albuquerque's street outreach person, and the needs of urban Native Americans experiencing homelessness. She stated, at this presentation, Senator Benny Shendo expressed his top priority as support of urban Native Americans. Dr. Bah stated SWONAP is a way to reconnect to tribal entities, tribal leaders and social services, to have them have offices at the Gateway Center, inviting the Pueblo leadership to have their social services app use an office once or twice a month to meet with individuals and provide supportive resources i.e. providing CIB documents or funding support. One of the solutions to finding a location for this hub is AIO, Americans for Indian Opportunity, Laura Harris, Kyle Tapaha, and many others working with the community to get feedback on creating an indigenous community resource center for not only cultural activities, but also social service support.

Dr. Bah also shared information regarding HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) training and funding opportunities. Dr. Bah requested support from the HCC for a Tribal Housing Director in Albuquerque for the Indian Affairs Department at the State level. This would provide a designated individual who can learn to distinguish and talk about the complexities and the multiple bureaucratic, jurisdictional levels of housing on reservation and off reservation. As complex as housing is for everyone, it is especially so because of the contractual basis of the United States to honor the Native Nation, treaties, and government to government status.

Dr. Bah also shared an update from Dr. Nina Cooper regarding the Native American Housing Survey, MASS Design will be launching the results in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples month in November. This will be discussed further tomorrow at the Dual Diagnosis Summit. Dr. Bah then invited everyone to the Third Annual Health Equity Summit, Monday, October 28 and Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at the Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, NM. This is free and open to community members and healthcare providers.

10. VA Homeless Standdown

Camilla Lopez of the New Mexico VA Health Care System presented, stating the Veterans Homeless Standdown is coordinated by the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center, a VA and community partner helping veterans connect to transitional and long-term housing solutions. This standdown has occurred annually for many, many years and will be held at The Rock at Noonday on October 18 beginning at 8:30 am, volunteers at 7 am. Ms. Lopez invited anyone interested in supporting veterans looking for housing and other resources to attend. For anyone wanting a table at the event, the link is [Stand Down | NM VIC](#). She stated one will find veterans who have come to provide services and support to one another at the event, veterans who have lived experience and have come to give back.

Additional Comments

Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers commented there was a side meeting with some of the HCC members discussing Medicaid waivers, so that will appear on the October meeting agenda. This correlates with the Built for Zero suggestion of possible solutions, Training for Providers on Medicaid Waivers.

Vice-Chair Rogers also stated there needs to be a conversation about our subcommittees. The framework documents mention 6 subcommittees: the Native American Homelessness Subcommittee, Homeless Service Systems Committee, Gateway Centers Facilities Committee, Coordinated Street Outreach Committee, Affordable Housing Committee, and a Youth Housing Continuum Committee. It appears a lot of work has been done on these committees, so next meeting it would be good to look at each of them, talk about what is still needed, and if we want to have a new Medicaid Waiver subcommittee. Commissioner Barboa informed the Council that most of the subcommittees listed were previously closed, as she was part of the “closing out” of the Coordinated Street Outreach committee and the Youth Housing Continuum, however conceded that it may have not been documented officially. She stated the Coordinated Street Outreach Committee was closed because it was decided to instead fund the First Nations effort to coordinate groups and because some efforts were being covered by Built for Zero. She supported the suggestion to discuss and document what committees were still serving the Council and what are no longer. Rodney McNease provided the history that the above listed groups were created when the HCC was initially formed to create a roadmap for the work the HCC would perform. Subsequently, a lot of that work was “lined out” and handed off to other pieces of the system, i.e. the Gateway, so those groups were retired. He stated his belief that none of the initial groups were still operating. He concurred that it would be good to discuss this and perhaps there are other areas of focus at the bigger level energy needs to be directed at. Vice-Chair Rogers agreed, stating this discussion is good to document what has happened before and, at the next meeting, to discuss what is needed moving forward. Maria Wolfe concurred with Rodney McNease’s assessment of the history, adding the subcommittees were reviewed in October 2023, and it was decided to have the Native American subcommittee be the key focus as well as developing the Dual Diagnoses Conference.

Vice-Chair Rogers asked the members to think about this subject before the next meeting, and suggested creating an African American subcommittee as the Black and Native American communities are suffering from housing instability at the same rate. She expressed disappointment that OEI removed the Black community from the housing survey, stating it was always the vision of Dawn and herself that they were doing this for both communities at the same time, and felt it was sad that the department made the decision to remove the black community. She expressed the desire for bold, outside of the box thinking for this discussion, because bold solutions are needed.

Commissioner Barboa welcomed Helen Maestas to her first time at this meeting and inquired if, based on the notice regarding Dr. Ziedonis, the Council was to assume that she and Rodney would be joining these meeting as the UNM representatives. Helen Maestas replied she is attending on behalf of Dr. Michael Richards, recently named Interim Executive Vice President for UNM Health Sciences and Health System CEO who was not available to attend today. The Council can anticipate his attendance at future meetings and his attendance at the Dual Diagnosis Summit tomorrow with President Stokes, making the welcome remarks. She expressed Dr. Richards’ excitement to get to know about the work and meeting with the members of the Council.

Next HCC Meeting -

- October 8, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

11. Adjourn Meeting – Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers adjourned the meeting at 11:20