



Homeless Coordinating Council(HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, January 14, 2025

10:00 am-11:30am

Chair, Matthew McGahran, NM Veterans Affairs Health Care System
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 –Chair Matthew McGahran called the meeting to order at 10:04.

3. Introductions and Announcements

Nichole Rogers, Councilor, City of Albuquerque, District 6

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

Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer, City of Albuquerque

Medical Respite and Sobering Center ribbon cuttings have occurred and they will be coming online soon.

[New Gateway Service Offers Safe Space to Recover from Illness or Injury — City of Albuquerque](#)

[Medical Respite — City of Albuquerque](#)

[Medical Sobering Center at Gateway Center — City of Albuquerque](#)

There will be a sneak preview of the Men’s Navigation Center at the next neighborhood meeting. All at the Gateway Center. The 9th dorm has been completed and people have moved in, leaving 3 dorms remaining for renovation at Gateway West. Ongoing is the distribution of hundreds of down coats and blankets that were donated to the city. These are being distributed by ACS, APD, the shelters, and AFR.

Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) has come onboard as the new operators of Gateway West. [Gateway West Offers Pathways to Hope and Healing with](#)

[Premier, Nationally Recognized Operator — City of Albuquerque](#)

Chenoa Bah Stillwell Jensen, Senior Project Manager, Office of the Executive Vice President and Pre-Health Scholar Certificate Program Faculty UNMHSC, and Spokesperson for the SW Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative.

On behalf of First Nations Community Health Source Clinic and Randy John, Street Outreach, Share the Warmth and Love Event, February 12, 2025, 9am-1pm. There are several drop-off points for gently used or new warm clothing donations. Volunteers welcome to distribute 400 Keep Warm bags, clothing, and food items. Flyer to be sent out to the group and attached at the end of these minutes. [OAAA](#)

Camila Lopez, NM Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Dr. Terry Babbitt, Chief of Staff, University of New Mexico

Acting as proxy for UNM President Garnet Stokes.

Gina Urias-Sandoval, Chief of Staff, UNM Health Sciences

Serving as proxy for Dr. Mike Richards.

Rodney McNease, UNMH Senior Executive Director of Governmental Affairs

Charlotte Ryff, Executive Assistant to Mr. McGahran, NM Veteran Affairs HCS

Ziarra Kirksey, Policy Analyst for Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers, City of Albuquerque

Renee Grout, Councilor, City of Albuquerque, District 9

Cindy Chavez, Bernalillo County Manager, proxy for Adriann Barboa

Adriann Barboa, County Commissioner District 3 (joined after voting was completed)

2. Review & Approve Agenda for January 14, 2024

Corrected to remove Dr. Mike Richards' presentation

Motion: Councilor Grout

2nd: Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

Passed Unanimously

Discussion was had at this time regarding whether to delay determination of HCC support of the proposed House Bill 70 Medicaid Supportive Housing Waiver Expansion legislation [Legislation - New Mexico Legislature](#) until the next HCC meeting to determine the stance of UNM on this issue, given the timing of the opening of legislative session on January 21st in relation to the next scheduled HCC meeting of February 11.

A motion was introduced to approve the HCC Chair and Vice-Chair meeting individually with Dr. Richards regarding this subject and report back to the HCC at the February 11th meeting.

Motion: Cindy Chavez

2nd: Vice-Chair Rogers

Passed Unanimously

In the meantime, the draft of HB 70 was included in the chat, will be sent out to the HCC members, and is included at the end of these minutes.

4. Review and Approve December 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

2nd: Vice-Chair Rogers

Passed Unanimously

5. Public Comment:

A. Ilse Biel, long-time volunteer outreach worker mainly in the International District.

Asked for the “end game” surrounding displacement of the homeless by the City of Albuquerque. Yesterday, during bad weather, she recorded 4 different displacements. The displacements are expensive, unproductive, dehumanizing, and cruel. There is no benefit to them and pushes the unhoused further and further into residential areas, causing the residents to react with talk of taking up guns to protect their homes. There is no “end game” in sight and she requests a response to what the plan is.

6. Veteran Homelessness Update

Presented by Camila Lopez. Friday, January 17th, 2025, at the Rock at Noonday, 8:30am–2pm, the Disabled Veterans of America is hosting another stand-down event to provide outreach to veterans. Friday, January 17, 2025, to expand some opportunities for veterans. This will include distribution of donated supplies and clothing, as well as providing community support and resources onsite. A Primary Care team from the NMVAHCS will be there to provide health screenings, as well as COVID and influenza vaccinations. More information to come. [DAV Department of NM - 2025 Winter Homeless Veteran Stand Down | DAV DEPARTMENT OF NM](#)

Next Wednesday, January 22, 2025, the VA, City of Albuquerque, and Roadrunner Food Bank are partnering to bring a mobile food bank to the Veterans Memorial at Gibson and Louisiana from 9-11am. Flyers have been posted and distributed within the neighborhood for about 2 weeks, in addition to some outreach by the City of Albuquerque.

7. Built 4 Zero Update

Update deferred to February 11, 2025, meeting.

8. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness

Presented by Dr. Chenoa Bah. Two strategic planning meetings have been held, led by community leader and former Deputy of Indian Affairs Department Marvis Aragon, Jr. Mr. Aragon is currently the CEO of the Albuquerque Indian Chamber of Commerce and a co-sponsor of the Share the Love and Warmth event. In the strategic planning meetings, the subcommittee has been reviewing our mission and vision, and strategized regarding our plans for 2025. Support has also been offered from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, through attendance at yesterday’s meeting by both Deputy Secretary Seth Damon and Amanda Nezzie, Government Relations and Policy Director. They asked that a position paper be written to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham stating the purpose and need to address housing, the spectrum of housing, and expressing housing as a human right for all unsheltered relatives not only including the distinct native nation communities of New Mexico but throughout the United States and Canada that reside here.

Also being worked on is a definition of what a home is, and what it means to be housed through the cultural values of our distinct Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache nations in New Mexico. This includes what it means to live in a multi-generational home, which is prevalent throughout our diverse culture communities.

Mass Design, an indigenous-owned architecture firm in Santa Fe, collaborated with the Office of Equity and Inclusion last year to create the Native American Housing Survey, those results have been compiled, and a report is nearing completion. That report will be shared with the HCC once received.

Also working on an Indigenous Housing Justice Conference scheduled for the end of June, to be held in Albuquerque and funded by the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center.

Olivia Sloan, a nurse and Vice-President of the Native Health Partnerships at Anchorum, has expressed an interest in partnering to work on issues of housing in Native American communities, specifically in urban areas and border towns. More specifically, focusing on housing for short-term use for Native Americans seeking medical care in Albuquerque, Farmington, Santa Fe, and Gallup.

Drs. Arthur “Art” Kaufman and Sarita Cargas have worked on the Basic Needs Grant for college students, focusing on the high rate of college students dropping out because of food and housing insecurity including at some tribal colleges within New Mexico. That data can be available to be shared with the HCC.

All of these efforts address the broad spectrum of housing issues at various levels and integrating the information gathered into a letter to the Governor, addressing housing as a human right, suggesting a distinct role for Native American Housing within the new Office of Housing led by the Director of Statewide Homelessness Initiatives, to work on tribal housing within the state.

The next strategic planning session will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, at Los Duranes Community Center, 2920 Leopoldo NW, Albuquerque, NM, and also available via Zoom.

9. Subcommittee Update- African American Homelessness

Vice Chair Rogers updated that they are starting to recruit. A press release was sent out and they have received a significant response. She has also been sending targeted recruitment emails to individuals within the Black community that work in homelessness. The hope is for the first meeting of the subcommittee to be held in February and creating a draft of work items such as a needs assessment for the Black community, which has never been done; looking at cultural competency in the organizations that serve the homeless focusing on providing training regarding issues specific to the black community and homelessness; and determining the right individuals to be conducting those trainings, possibly partnering with the Coalition to End Homelessness’ anti-racism training and amplifying those efforts.

Vice Chair Rogers strongly recommended attending the two day Survival and Beyond training from the People’s Institute being held by the Coalition to End Homelessness for those who have not yet taken it as a great way to learn facts and history regarding why systemic barriers exist and how to change those systems. [PISAB – The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond](#)

Chair McGahran added his endorsement to the value of the Cultural Competency training and posited the idea of opening the training opportunity to the members of the HCC. This suggestion was enthusiastically embraced by Vice-Chair Rogers, suggesting it occur in the form of a retreat. The link to the training is included at the end of these minutes.

10. Subcommittee Update- Re-Entry

Commissioner Barboa updated that a team has been formed. The team members have been contacted to set a date for their first meeting, however not all have responded. She stated she is also on the Reentry Group for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and so will be coordinating the efforts of the two groups.

11. Subcommittee Update- Data Sharing and System Barriers

Update deferred until February meeting.

12. Subcommittee Update- Homelessness Prevention

Vice-Chair Rogers reported that Dr. Lindstrom, who had to leave the meeting early, stated the team is organizing and working on setting up a date for their first meeting.

13. New Items

a. Point in Time Count

Maria Wolfe shared that the time for the annual Point in Time count is approaching and volunteers are needed. Volunteer training is occurring this week ([PIT Count Volunteer Trainings | One Albuquerque Volunteers](#)).

b. Volunteer Recruitment for Sub-committees

Vice-Chair Rogers referenced a link to the press release that went out calling for volunteers to serve on the HCC subcommittees ([Call for Volunteers: Join the Homeless Coordinating Council Subcommittees and Make a Difference — City of Albuquerque](#)). This press release was picked up by the news outlets including on KRQE and KOAT resulting in a large number of email responses (over 50 so far).

She also shared that she has a KKOB interview coming up regarding the press release. She and Zoe Robb will compile contact information of the volunteers by subcommittee and provide that information to the subcommittee chairs by the end of next week so they can determine if the individual volunteering is a good fit for their subcommittee.

c. Discussion regarding Cold Weather Response

Chair McGahran shared his experience working with homeless programs in various other states where a Code Blue would be called whenever the weather reached certain criteria, which then allowed for the opening up of resources other than the normal shelters, such as hospital lobbies, for the homeless to refuge overnight from the weather extremes. For instance, a VA hospital lobby would open up to all individuals, regardless of veteran status, to stay overnight and leave the next morning. This would occur in both heat and cold extremes. He stated the UNM Street Medicine people remarked regarding how often they come across victims of the cold or suffering from complications of their medications due to the heat. He queried whether there is a similar alternative locally or if this should be something the HCC advocates for.

Vice Chair Rogers responded that there is a cold response citywide that activates additional shelter beds at Gateway and Gateway West, and at designated community centers (i.e. Joan Jones Community Center). Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) also runs transportation from 8pm-6am, proactively driving around looking for unsheltered individuals, as well as a hotline for individuals to call to direct ACS to unsheltered individuals in need of transportation to a shelter (Winter Transportation hotline - 505-418-6178). There are motel vouchers to be given out if the shelters become full.

Maria Wolfe provided a link ([COLD WEATHER SHELTERING PLAN V4](#)) to the City of Albuquerque's winter weather plans, and again reiterated the above resources that the Office of Emergency Management can activate during times of extreme weather. She did clarify that ACS not only transports to Gateway West, they can also transport to the First Responder Center if the individual refuses to be taken to Gateway West. CPLC is also working on more flexibility for those who were suspended from Gateway West due to behavioral issues to allow them some use during these weather emergencies.

In response to the question of whether these resources are adequate to the need, Maria Wolfe stated the challenge is whether the resources available are what the unsheltered want. There is always more work to be done and possible additional options possible were the resources to do so available.

Next HCC Meeting -

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

14. Adjourn Meeting –

Motion: Nicole Rogers

2nd: Adriann Barboa

Passed Unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 am

Meeting Recorded Video Link:

[Homeless Coordinating Council - Zoom](#)



WINTER WEAR, BLANKET, & SLEEPING BAG DRIVE

Meal kits & other necessities to be distributed to our unsheltered Community Members in the Albuquerque Metro Area on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025.

Drop Off Locations:

- First Nations Community Healthsource - Traditional Wellness Program
634 Manzano Street NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
- American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico
2401 12th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
- Native Professional Advancement Center
6201 own Blvd NE, Suite 203
Albuquerque, NM 87110
- NB3 Foundation
290 Prairie Star Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004
(north of the Santa Ana Golf Course Pro Shop/Grill)
- Office of Equity and Inclusion
4th Floor Room 4072
400 Marquette NW - City Hall
Albuquerque, NM 87102



❄️

Seeking New or Gently Used

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Coats, Jackets, Sweaters, Hoodies, Gloves, Beanies, & Socks

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Also Accepting Blankets & Sleeping Bags

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**Collection Dates:
December 1 – February 5, 2025
Share the Love & Warmth!**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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