



## Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, October 08, 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** – Chair McGahran ensured quorum and called to order at 10:06, thanking Vice-Chair Councilor Nichole Rogers for covering the September 10, 2024, meeting in his absence.

**2. Review & Approve Agenda for October 08, 2024**

**Motion: Councilor Nichole Rogers**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Commissioner Adriann Barboa**  
**Passed Unanimously**

**3. Review and Approve September 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Maria Wolfe**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilor Nichole Rogers**  
**Passed Unanimously**

**4. Introductions and Announcements**

**Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer, City of Albuquerque:**

Breaking ground very soon on our great Gateway Center, very excited about our next move.

**Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers, District 6, Albuquerque:** Honored to service as Vice-Chair this year.

**Adriann Barboa, County Commissioner District 3**

**Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Deputy County Manager for Behavioral Health,**

**Bernalillo County:** Hosting the Fentanyl Forum, 10/17/2024, 9am – 5pm,

Berna Facio Professional Development Center, 3315 Louisiana Blvd NE,

Albuquerque, NM 87107. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fentanyl-summit-2024-tickets-978632444987> Free, open to anyone.

**Camilla Lopez, Coordinator for Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, NMVAHCS.**

**Chenoa Bah, acting as proxy for Dr. Mike Richards as well as the spokesperson for the SW Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative.**

**Dr. Terry Babbitt, Chief of Staff and acting as proxy for UNM President Garnet Stokes.**

**Rodney McNease, UNMH Senior Executive Director of Governmental Affairs:**

Groundbreaking or UNMH's new Children's Psychiatric Hospital, 10/28/2024.

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

## **5. Community Solutions Built for Zero Program**

Jazmin Moreno, System Improvement Lead, Priscilla Williams, data manager, and Zoe Robb, Planning Analyst, provided a slideshow presentation on Understanding the Steps to Housing, breaking the process into 5 steps:

Step 1 Initial Contact: Various access points to the Coordinated Entry System (CES), housed within the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness.

Step 2 Assessment: Basic Information, emergency shelter options, walk-in services, etc. and use of the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) which assesses History of Housing and Homelessness, Risk Factors, Socialization and Daily Functioning, Wellness (Physical and Mental Health, Substance Use), and Family Composition, if applicable.

Step 3 Identification of Needs: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Healthcare Services, Food Assistance, Legal Aid, Documentation, Employment, Transportation, Childcare, Financial Assistance.

Step 4 Case Management: Go beyond identifying immediate needs; helps develop individualized service plans, provide advocacy, and refer clients to the most suitable housing options available.

Step 5 Housing Navigation: Permanent Supportive or Self-Sustained Housing

Built for Zero plays a role at steps 1, 4, & 5:

Step 1: Captures names on the By-Name List – a more accurate accounting of the homeless.

Step 4 – Focus on overcoming system barriers and creative problem solving.

Step 5 – Celebrate Successes: Creating a shared calendar, identifying agencies that are doing really well in certain areas and incentivizing them to share their best practices.

Identifying, overcoming, and alleviating system barriers is primary to keeping people moving forward in this process, not losing people and keeping them on track to housing.

Commissioner Barboa asked what are the systemic barriers that elected officials can approach to try and break through? What policy suggestions do you have that could be instituted?

Chair McGahran stated he had the same question, the idea of how this Council can help with the

systemic barriers that come up. He asked first, however, for a clarification of how many agencies participate with Built for Zero, how many agencies do they work with?

Jazmin Moreno stated they don't have an exact number because it varies and is growing. There are different agencies that show up to case conferencing, and other agencies that work with the process improvement team, and still others that came together for the July training session. It really depends on what they are doing. She would estimate altogether it is at least 20 agencies, if not more.

Zoe Robb then stated that it is their goal to be in contact with every agency who has individuals come into their organization, such as churches who have food pantries, as well as agencies that show up to case conferencing and discuss the cases they are working on, trying to get as many agencies and organizations as possible.

Chair McGahran then asked if the agencies are aware of what their role is when working with Built for Zero. Zoe Robb responded that they have been meeting with the agencies for that very purpose, having 1 on 1 conversations to figure out their role in what Built for Zero is doing, to make them aware of what is being done and how they can participate, but also how they can benefit from the resources that are being provided via the collaboration with all agencies.

Vice-Chair Rogers asked if anyone attending has a list of all the homeless providers in the county, or the city, regardless of their funding source; a comprehensive list of everyone providing services for unsheltered folks. Jazmin Moreno stated Built for Zero has a list started, however expressed her certainty that there are agencies missing from that list. Commissioner Barboa stated she believes the most comprehensive list is the one police give on the resource cards they hand out. She expressed concern about creating lists because the information changes so often, however reiterated the need for that information.

Vice-Chair Rogers stated, while she was at UNMH, she worked on a project with the social workers to build a database that could be updated for internal use by UNM Health case workers and social workers. She noted Pull Together.org ([pulltogether.cyfd.nm.gov](http://pulltogether.cyfd.nm.gov)) that has lists already manned and updated by the State, and recommended getting some interns to compile this type of list that could then be sent to Pull Together.Org to update their website with.

Maria Wolfe informed the group that the guide she believed they were discussing is managed by Karen Navarro and is updated regularly, including a detailed list online that can be sorted by type of service needed. She conceded it may not be an all-inclusive list and was in agreement if an appropriate place for a listing could be agreed upon.

Zoe Robb agreed that the CABQ Resource Guide ([All Guides - CRG \(abqcr.org\)](http://All Guides - CRG (abqcr.org))) is a great resource, however it hasn't been updated in a while, so she is working to get access to be able to update it as, although it is outdated, it is still the most complete list out there and is used by many agencies. Maria Wolfe clarified that she didn't think they were talking about the same resource, that she was talking about a resource card that is distributed by Karen Navarro to her listserv and is updated regularly, as recently as a few days ago.

Vice-Chair Rogers requested Maria put the link to the guide she was talking about in the chat (<https://eadn-wc03-12194342.nxedge.io/cdn/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NAResourceGuide2024.pdf>), as well as anyone else who know of other resources and suggested this may be a great segue into the discussion on subcommittees, perhaps needing one for data and resources.

Chair McGahran asked if one of the barriers was the lack of agencies sharing information, either via HMIS or CES, often serving homeless persons that we aren't even aware of. Jazmin Moreno concurred that this is a barrier, and there is still a lot of work to do in meeting with the large number of agencies. However, there has been an increase in inputting data into the HIM system since Priscilla has been meeting with various agencies. She also noted that some agencies weren't aware that immigrant and refugee families could be added to the HIM System and they have worked to correct this issue.

One suggestion that Jazmin Moreno had was to create a Leadership Improvement Team subcommittee to rebuild a list of leadership contact information because the list that was originally built has emails that are no longer valid, or individuals who express a lack of interest. It would be helpful to have leadership contacts to address data sharing and communication barriers between agencies on a larger scale. Chair McGahran reiterated the request for a subcommittee or workgroup to address data sharing and communication barriers between agencies.

Monet Silva, Executive Director for the Coalition in Homelessness, stated she felt the leadership team being discussed would be best living outside of the HCC because it would need to include executive directors of the agencies and non-profit organizations, such as hospitals and other care providers, who would need to make decisions during the Improvement Team meetings. Chair McGahran responded that the reason to call it a subcommittee from HCC is so that it could report to HCC, to provide updates for actions needed to be taken by the HCC.

There were no additional questions for the Built for Zero presenters.

## **6. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness**

Dr. Chenoa Bah opened by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the HCC each month, and for the love and compassion shown for the Native American people, especially unsheltered individuals.

Dr. Bah then provided an update on the subgroup, the Southwest Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative, which met recently. The group consists of proactive, kindhearted individuals from tribally designated housing authorities, tribal communities, and urban communities from across the state, Arizona, and other areas of the nation. Their specific interest is in ways in which they can harness resources, especially from tribally designated housing authorities which get direct funding from HUD, and how that funding can be used for transitional housing both on and off native nation land.

Dr. Bah is working with Dawn Begay and Dillon Shije, the new Deputy Director with the Office of Equity and Inclusion, to address the issue in a comprehensive and holistic way. Mr. Shije is very supportive of the discussion of a tribal leaders' summit on housing. The collaborative feels a summit would serve the Homeless Coordinating Council and our State more efficiently if it were to be held when tribal leaders are already convening rather than scheduling a separate forum.

One proposal is to hold the summit the day before or the day after they meet with the Governor during the annual State of the Tribal Nation address to the legislative session. This would occur in the early spring, which would coincide with the spring or early summer scheduling of the Tribal Leaders Summit on Housing the HCC was already discussing.

Another option being explored is to meet with Josett Monette and Seth Damon of the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and their team who also meet with tribal leaders twice a year, to find out

when their spring meeting is scheduled and perhaps be added to that agenda to discuss, have a listening circle, share opportunities and resources, and make connections for trainings. This would be one way to efficiently align and support the request for a tribal leaders' symposium on housing.

With this symposium, they are not wanting to duplicate the efforts of the tribal designated housing authorities and the work they do with their funding, but to instead explore with those directors how they can come together, perhaps write a grant together, perhaps pool funding, and come up with innovative ways to resource support, opportunities, and funding especially for indigenous community members in need of transitional housing, safety, and shelter, as well as kinship from the tribal leaders.

Dr. Bah also discussed having tribal social services programs set up once a month at the Gateway Center. This would include a designated individual providing support with not only tribal resources, but also provide warm handoff referrals, a referral network, care coordination, assist with Medicaid applications, and providing a holistic effort.

Dr. Bah then took the opportunity to thank Commissioner Barboa and Bernalillo County leadership for supporting the 2024 Health Equity Summit with an event sponsorship. Because of that sponsorship, there will be 2 presenters at the Health Equity Summit from Native American Connections (Jessica Cruz and her team) sharing their model project and the work they do in Phoenix, Arizona, providing housing for young people ages 18 – 24; providing permanent, stable housing for unsheltered individuals; and providing addiction treatment housing for parents/guardians of children so they can live together while obtaining treatment.

Also presenting will be the Nááts'ílid Initiative from Dennehotso, Arizona – a grassroots, indigenized way to build homes, supporting diverse types of housing integrating both westernized and traditional building methods. Also scheduled is a panel on Housing Justice comprising the New Mexico Coalition To End Homelessness, the Southwest Affordable Housing Group, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and many others.

The following link was provided for registration for the 2024 Health Equity Summit:

<https://hsc.unm.edu/health-equity/summit-2024/>

Dr. Bah also shared the following link containing the 2024 Native American Resource Directory researched, developed, and designed by Poston & Associates LLC and the New Mexico Behavioral Healthcare Authority and she encouraged the HCC members to share this directory with the tribal community members they serve. [NAResourceGuide2024.pdf \(nxedge.io\)](#)

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

### A. Peter Cuba:

Expressed how heartened he is by the way the HCC is coming together and thanked the members for stepping in and stepping up the way that they have. He reminded the HCC of an initiative underway through legislators and administration officials to create a supportive housing program for individuals with behavioral health disorders absent developmental disabilities. He stated this would be a fundamental change, and encouraged the HCC members to talk to their legislators and administration contacts to support the idea that individuals with serious mental health illness, brain injury, or substance abuse disorders who are chronically disordered and need support be able to obtain a waiver similar to the developmental disabilities waiver that serves 6,800 individuals with intellectual disabilities in New Mexico. He provided his email address, [cubraoffice@gmail.com](mailto:cubraoffice@gmail.com), and encouraged anyone who wants to help with this initiative to reach out, stating the Coalition for

a Safer Albuquerque currently places this initiative as their highest priority.

## **8. Veteran Homelessness Update**

Camilla Lopez of the New Mexico VA Health Care System presented, informing the HCC that the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (VIC) completed the move to their new building, and while they are still settling in, a visit can be arranged for anyone wanting to visit their new location. Commissioner Barboa's assistance in getting this move off the ground was acknowledged. This permanent home for the VIC after years of numerous moves, and it has more beds and individual rooms for the veterans which previous locations did not have. This marks the completion of Phase 1. Phase 2 will add more rooms and some community space.

The Veterans Homeless Standdown is October 18, 2024, at 8:00 am and expected to go until 1 – 2pm. This is a community event to provide services to veterans experiencing homelessness all in one place and will be held at The Rock at Noonday. This event is coordinated by the VIC with support from the Department of Labor, Workforce Connections, Goodwill, the New Mexico VA Healthcare System, and many other partners. Ms. Lopez invited anyone interested to attend. Volunteers are always needed, as often the veterans attending can be overwhelmed by the experience and volunteers are always needed to help them navigate through the abundant booths, people, and resources, walking with them and ensuring they get connected to the appropriate resources, access donations available for clothing, etc. Ms. Lopez stated she can connect anyone interested in volunteering to a Volunteer Coordinator.

Chair McGahran asked if there were any additional resources needed for the Standdown, and Ms. Lopez responded that they have a lot of community partners participating. The biggest challenge in past events has been parking and the VIC was able to come to an agreement with the American Legion Post 13 allowing participants to park there, with the VIC running two shuttles back and forth. The NMVAHCS is also providing two staff members to assist with shuttling individuals who need quicker assistance.

Commissioner Barboa shared her excitement regarding the new VIC building, requested regular updates, and shared that for the first time, the VIC is welcoming families. She stated that we have learned that people want to be with their families, whether they be through blood or affinity, and the VIC is now allowing them even though they do not receive Federal government reimbursement to serve that population. She expressed her admiration that, instead of citing limitations and funding issues creating a barrier to serving their population, the VIC is making it work. She noted that they are also allowing service animals and even provide a dog-walking trail, removing another barrier. She expressed the desire for regular updates so the HCC can learn from what the VIC is doing regarding being available to families and pets/service animals.

Chair McGahran requested clarification whether Commissioner Barboa wanted updates directly from the VIC or from Camilla Lopez regarding the VIC. Commissioner Barboa responded she would like to hear from the individuals running the VIC quarterly or biannually, to hear how they are creating this as they go, how supporting whole families is working, and what their challenges are in real time.

## **9a. New Item – Inviting APD and MDC as HCC Members**

Chair McGahran brought up a public comment from the previous meeting suggesting the HCC should add representatives of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) and/or the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) as members of the HCC given the numerous contacts those agencies have with the homeless population. Chair McGahran invited discussion on the subject. Commissioner Barboa

expressed her concern that the requirement of attendance at monthly meetings would be a significant time commitment for those agencies, taking away from actually serving the population. She suggested they instead be invited to present their ideas and/or solutions to the HCC at a time and place of their choosing. She also questioned what the purpose or goal of these agencies being represented would be, to avoid wasting anyone's time.

Rodney McNease reminded the members that APD is part of the city, MDC is part of the county, and UNMH runs the health care at MDC, therefore these agencies are already indirectly represented. If information is needed that the HCC is not currently receiving, representatives could be invited to present that information as a specific agenda item, i.e. discharge planning at MDC. He felt this structure would be a more efficient use of time.

Vice-Chair Rogers expressed the opinion that discussions surrounding the APD, ACS, and MDC providing services and acting as entry/exit points would be better within the HCC subcommittees. Transitions are a big issue, such as hospitals or jails discharging people to Lyft, Uber, or taxis. She stated it may be advantageous to have these conversations regarding the nuts and bolts in a subcommittee, as they discuss what those subcommittees should be.

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom voiced that, although there is a sizeable cohort at MDC, the bulk of the work around reentry occurs in the Bernalillo County's Resource and Reentry Center when it comes to housing options for those individuals. The manager of that Center is Dr. Lindstrom's direct report. He agreed that while periodic updates or subcommittee involvement might be appropriate, he would not advocate for a representative of MDC being a regular member of the HCC.

Commissioner Barboa expressed her agreement with the above sentiments, also expressing that there are many similar discussions on various committees, such as the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and the Addiction Treatment Advisory Board, and her wish that those overlaps could be coordinated to bring them all together.

Maria Wolfe shared her agreement that there should be another level of involvement with the subcommittees, looking at some of these issues around APD and MDC, and the struggles of individuals with felony backgrounds or other issues who are really struggling with housing. She expressed this is enough of an issue that the HCC needs to come up with some other ways to address it, because those solutions are not being found in the current format. She felt finding a way for a subcommittee to become more active on these issues would be a good way for the HCC to move forward.

Chair McGahran asked if it would be accurate that the conclusion of the discussion is the HCC will not invite representatives of these agencies to serve as members of the HCC, but would instead pool those resources in a subcommittee, perhaps in coordination with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, with regular updates provided so issues can be addressed as they come up. Vice-Chair Rogers concurred.

## **9b. New Item – Developing Subcommittees**

Chair McGahran segued to the subject of which subcommittees the HCC should develop, what areas of influence this Council should be focusing on to improve the environment of serving homeless people, such as a new subcommittee as just discussed to address criminal justice barriers to re-entry from institutions to avoid homelessness. Vice-Chair Rogers interjected that she liked the idea of calling the new subcommittee the Re-Entry Subcommittee, to help lower the stigma for individuals coming out of certain institutions. Chair McGahran asked if anyone was opposed to naming the new subcommittee the



Re-Entry Subcommittee, and there were no responses. Vice-Chair Rogers then suggested the discussion continue regarding any additional new subcommittees until all new subcommittees had been determined, then request volunteers to lead or champion those subcommittees which most align with their interests.

Chair McGahran explained that one of the goals of the subcommittees is to reduce certain barriers to the Coordinated Entry system the Built for Zero subcommittee has identified. One barrier identified is the lack of information sharing by the agencies that enter individuals into the Coordinated Entry System. A name gets entered and then stays there because the entering agency doesn't update the status once housing has been obtained for that individual. Vice-Chair Rogers asked for clarification on whether this would be one subcommittee addressing all barriers in general, or if which barriers are being addressed would be defined. Chair McGahran clarified that the information sharing issue was one specific barrier that had been identified, and another identified need was leadership process improvement that may have been addressed previously and had fallen by the wayside. Vice-Chair Rogers felt this had fallen by the wayside, however asked whether some of the others who have been members of the HCC longer could provide a historical context. She did emphasize, however, that in conversations with the Governor's Office, advocates, and providers, information sharing and accurate data is a huge barrier to making sound strategy and policy decisions. Creating a subcommittee to address that specific barrier and to advocate for resources from the State to do so would make sense, based on the extreme interest expressed by the Governor's Office. There are, of course, other barriers to address also, i.e. barriers to access, however she concurred that being specific regarding which barriers a subcommittee should focus on would be appropriate.

Commissioner Barboa shared her experience with the issue of data sharing since her first day in office. She shared that at the Behavioral Health Town Hall, many of the providers were worried about a new system. She inquired why New Mexico doesn't use a third party to manage data as other states, such as Ohio, have been doing since 1969. She outlined barriers such as agreements of understanding, data transfers, and universal consent forms. She shared that the State, the city of Albuquerque, and Bernalillo County will be moving to a united data system which will facilitate data sharing. However, she also expressed that there is resistance to sharing data, even among the HCC members themselves, because of HIPPA and liabilities and various other reasons. She expressed the opinion that the HCC may be the best place to work out those data sharing issues.

Rodney McNease concurred that there are significant legal issues surrounding data sharing, i.e. HIPPA, the Mental Health Code, the Children's Code, among others that require the creation of some pathways to do so, and figuring those pathways out has been an ongoing challenge in the community. He expressed the opinion that Unite Us may be the tool to create those pathways because it has tools, such as discharge planning tools, that can be used to provide information on individuals transitioning from places like MDC to community providers, moving throughout the system. Therefore, there is a pathway coming that will help cut through the inherent legal issues.

Vice-Chair Rogers expressed that she has had success in the past with obtaining data from the UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC) and suggested exploring the possibility of creating a data sharing agreement with the UNM HSC. Dr. Lindstrom cautioned reinventing the wheel, as not only has Unite Us been brought up as a partial solution, there is also the Health Information Exchange for New Mexico's SYNCRONYS. He expressed the issue that behavioral health providers have routinely not participated so the county is exploring options to create accountability requirements for care coordination in the contracts and to financially incentivize providers to do so given their capacity infrastructure needs. For instance, Medicaid does not have billing coding for care coordination. He



expressed his opinion that there is more that can be done with the existing electronic tools available rather than creating something new.

Chair McGahran summarized that there are financial barriers to the sharing of information, and currently no requirement to use a system like HIMS or the other systems mentioned, and perhaps due to the State's interest in this issue, the HCC could devise an incentive for these agencies that could be added to a contract requiring the sharing of information. Vice-Chair Rogers concurred that the HCC members could utilize their legal teams to devise language to be added to contracts creating data sharing requirements using identified systems such as HIMS, plus providing them with assistance to get linked to those systems. Commissioner Barboa interjected that the feedback she has received is that sometimes the burden required for reporting is not worth the funding being offered. Also, agencies need to know what the data is going to be used for, who will be looking at the data, as there is a significant amount of reporting requirements currently and some question whether that data is ever actually utilized by anyone. She suggested the subcommittee could also be tasked with providing that information and streamlining the data required.

Following some discussion, it was determined that the new subcommittee should be named the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee.

Vice-Chair Rogers brought attention to a comment by Lindsay Fox, "As a healthcare provider who sees folks on the street, HIE is vital to care coordination. I agree there should be incentives as many providers do not participate. UNM does, as does Pres; Lovelace is intermittent." Vice-Chair Rogers suggested requesting providers enter what data system their organization uses on convening sign-in sheets. She expressed her concern that Unite Us is more a referral system between agencies and not a data managing software like HIMS could be, especially as many already use HIMS.

Vice-Chair Rogers then requested the Native American Homelessness Subcommittee be retained, and Chair McGahran concurred.

Vice-Chair Rogers then proposed, with data showing both the Native American Community and the Black Community have the highest rates of homelessness and housing instability, a subcommittee be created to specifically look at barriers and issues for the African American community and offered to serve as champion for that committee.

Dr. Lindstrom then recommended a 4<sup>th</sup> new subcommittee, a Housing Development subcommittee, as the core issue surrounding homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. He suggested this subcommittee would include the Mortgage Finance Authority, the Bernalillo County Economic Development Department, the Planning & Development Services, as well as whatever counterpart there is at the City of Albuquerque, plus representation from developers to work on developing new housing units. He stated this area is significantly behind nationally as well as within the county, and lack of affordable housing is the core issue.

Vice-Chair Rogers interjected that there is already the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative and if the HCC is going to explore housing, it should focus on housing specific for housing homeless individuals, i.e. permanent supportive housing, and to remain specific in that focus. There are other groups working on the housing crisis issues, however they are not including housing unsheltered people in those conversations.

Dr. Lindstrom countered that this isn't just an issue for the homeless, as housing is not currently

affordable, therefore individuals are being evicted and become homeless. Vice-Chair Rogers responded that would fall under Homelessness Prevention such as Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance, which would be a different conversation than development.

Chair McGahran posed a question regarding the mission of the HCC, whether it is to address homelessness or to address the causes of homelessness. Vice-Chair stated her purpose as a member of this Council is to address the system issues to end homelessness, which means the increase in homelessness must stop. According to the Point in Time Count data, 54% of respondents said they were homeless for the first time, meaning there weren't sufficient preventative measures in place.

Commission Barboa concurred that there is the Middle Rio Grande Housing Collaborative, however they are just gearing up and will take some time to become acclimated to the issues. She expressed agreement that there is a lack of conversations regarding moving people off the streets right now, although the bulk of available services and resources are geared towards that population.

Maria Wolfe expressed the fact there is an increased number of people becoming homeless for the bottom economic reason of increasing rents. These are individuals who have some income yet still need assistance and may need longer term assistance because of the significance of the rent increases. She suggested a mixture of permanent supportive housing needs to be addressed, as well as some layer of assistance to make housing affordable, and the HCC may play an important role in addressing these key issues. She stated prevention of homelessness by providing pre-eviction assistance is better, however assistance is often not available until an individual is unhoused.

Chair McGahran suggested the subcommittee be called the Homeless Prevention Committee to include developing housing and other resources for those on the verge of homelessness.

Chair McGahran then asked for those interested in championing the new HCC subcommittees and received the below responses:

- Re-Entry Subcommittee – Commissioner Barboa
- Data Sharing Barrier Subcommittee – to be revisited at the next meeting.
- African American Homelessness Subcommittee – Vice-Chair Rogers
- Homeless Prevention Subcommittee - to be revisited at the next meeting.

## **10. Next HCC Meeting -**

- November 12, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## **11. Adjourn Meeting** – Chair McGahran adjourned the meeting at 11:34