



Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

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

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 – Vice-Chair Nichole Rogers called the meeting to order at 10:03.

Due to planned absence by Chair McGahran, Vice-Chair Rogers will conduct the meeting. Noting the absence of a quorum, voting items were postponed until after Agenda item 3, Introductions and Announcements.

3. Introductions and Announcements

Nichole Rogers, Councilor, City of Albuquerque

Maria Wolfe, Homeless Innovations Officer, City of Albuquerque

Opening of the Medical Sobering Center at the Gateway Center, Medical Respite will be opening soon. The new operator for Gateway West, Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC) will be onboard by the end of December.

Camila Lopez, NM Veterans Affairs Health Care System

Acting as proxy for Matthew McGahran.

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

Acting as proxy for UNM President Garnet Stokes.

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

**Chenoa Bah Stillwell Jensen, Senior Project Manager, Office of the Executive Vice President,
UNMHSC, Spokesperson for the SW Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative.**

Gwendolyn Packard, Director of the STTARS Indigenous Safe Housing Center, has announced they will fund a tribal housing summit tentatively in June 2025, addressing the spectrum of housing as a human right including diverse issues surrounding tribal housing in urban areas, and housing Native American individuals and families in both rural and urban areas. This would be held in Albuquerque lasting 2-4 days, providing training, education, awareness, plus a panel of survivors sharing their stories and experiences around what resources worked and didn't work for them.

Rodney McNease, UNMH Senior Executive Director of Governmental Affairs

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

Adriann Barboa, County Commissioner District 3

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

Gina Urias-Sandoval, Chief of Staff, UNM Health Sciences: Serving as proxy for Dr. Mike Richards.

Priscilla Williams, Data Manager for Built for Zero at NM Coalition to End Homelessness

Zoe Robb, Planning Analyst for Built for Zero at NM Coalition to End Homelessness

Annual Memorial Vigil honoring unsheltered individuals who passed away in 2024 has been organized. It will be held 12/18/2024 at the International District beginning at 12:30 pm. For more information, email zoe-r@NMCEH.org.

2. Review & Approve Agenda for December 10, 2024

Motion: Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

2nd: Commissioner Adriann Barboa

Passed Unanimously

4. Review and Approve November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Adriann Barboa

2nd: Camila Lopez

Passed Unanimously

5. Public Comment:

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

Too many unhoused in the International District have completely given up hope. Displacements continue unabated, they are without blankets, tents, sleeping bags, trolleys, etc., and are resistant to being gifted such or accepting help to regain identification because they despair they won't be able to keep them. Expressed concern those who have lost hope will not come in once resources available. Despair is on a far greater scale than ever seen before. No direct ask, just that the HCC do something.

B. Damien Scott requested contact information for the HCC members and the following were provided:

Adriann Barboa – abarboa@bernco.gov

Gina Urias-Sandoval – gusandoval@salud.unm.edu

Maria Wolfe – mwolfe@cabq.gov

Camila Lopez – Camila.lopez@va.gov
Chenoa Bah Stillwell Jensen – cstilwelljensen@salud.unm.edu
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom – wilindstrom@berncogov
Renee Grout – rgrou@cabq.gov

6. Veteran Homelessness Update

Presented by Camila Lopez. Disabled Veterans of America pulling together with community partners to offer a 2nd Veteran specific stand-down Friday, January 17, 2025, to expand some opportunities for veterans. More information to come.

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 with a target start date of 1/22/2025. Flyers are being created to be distributed within the neighborhood.

Vice-Chair Rogers shared that she toured the Veterans Integration Center's (VIC) new building, voicing praise for the work being done there. She shared the VIC staff expressed they have rooms in need of occupants, so they were connected with Gateway West to see if any veterans being housed there would be appropriate to be moved to the VIC. She expressed making these types of connections is the core work of the HCC.

Maria Wolfe shared if anyone is wanting to provide services at Gateway West, to contact Dr. Azka Naru, Gateway Manager, to coordinate with the new providers in the coming weeks at either (505) 377-3459 (mobile) and (505) 767-5897 (office). In response to a request for clarification whether the westside shelter is open for providers to offer services, Ms. Wolfe responded in the affirmative, however they want to ensure it is scheduled and coordinated appropriately, that policies and procedures are being followed, so space and time can be allocated rather than providers just dropping in. She also clarified that case management services have been provided for the past several months for individuals aged 60 and older, and there are contracts pending to very soon to cover individuals aged 59 and under.

Commissioner Barboa clarified that the VIC is not part of the Veteran Administration, it is its own non-profit entity specifically to help veterans, stating Bernalillo County funded the new VIC in the Kirtland addition area with its own case management, transitional housing that includes family and service dogs, even though the federal funding received does not compensate for the family or the dogs. Camila Lopez did correct that statement, clarifying that the VIC does receive federal funding through the VA for both the veterans and their family. She stated they are funded via two separate grants, one for the veterans and another for their family, so they need to be billed to the VA separately.

7. Built 4 Zero Update

Zoe Robb shared a slideshow including a list of agencies participating in biweekly case conferencing meetings. During these meetings, they focus on each family on the By Name List, review their needs, and determine what resources are available and how to get them housed quickly. The last case conferencing will be conducted next week, they will then break for the holidays and begin again in January 2025.

The Family By Name List total by month has grown from 249 families in May 2024 to 563 families as of November 2024. This increase is not a sign of increasing homelessness, instead it reflects an increase in the accuracy of the data received allowing for better tracking of these families. The expectation is that the number will continue to rise until all families experiencing homelessness have been added to the list.

The By Name List was then broken down by race or ethnicity, by Head of Household gender, and by family composition. The status of the families that have been the subject of case conferences was given, It was shared that there are a number of families who have completed all the requirements to be housed and are waiting for housing vouchers to become available, as there are no vouchers currently available.

Councilor Renee Grout questioned why there are no housing vouchers available, as money was appropriated through the council. It was clarified that Built 4 Zero does not work directly with the vouchers, however this is the information that is being received from the navigators and case managers the work with. It was determined that this needed to be looked into because there should be no lull in HUD funding of vouchers, nor the need for a wait list. Dr. Lindstrom stated, when he is out in the community, all he hears is that there are vouchers going begging, and expressed shock that there is a long wait list with no vouchers available, reiterating this needs to be sorted out.

Maria Wolfe clarified that the current voucher funding is being used by those who are currently being housed, and unless someone falls out of the voucher program or transitions into independent housing, that is the only way new vouchers become available for use.

Other efforts by Built 4 Zero include community education at Friends Meeting House during Human Rights Week; attending a Learning Session (Community Solutions Conference) in November; a Provider Improvement Team created a Housing Navigation Checklist Tool; and continued participation in anti-racism work.

Finally, Ms. Robb shared a list of priorities the HCC can support, including addressing stigmatization and criminalization of the homeless, policy changes to address barriers to renting and high housing costs, increased involvement of those who have experienced homelessness in decision making roles, increasing collaboration and resource sharing between agencies, increasing mobile services, improving transportation system, and improved communication and relationships with funders.

In answer to a question, Priscilla Williams shared there are currently 2840 individuals on the By Name List, comprising 572 families. Regarding the anti-racism work being done, Jazmin Moreno is working with Tony Watkins and the People's Anti-Racism Training Institute (PARTI), incorporating that training curriculum in training agency staff.

Commissioner Barboa asked that on the next update, information be included on the collection of race and ethnicity, as well as substance use and if they are actively being offered detox or medical assisted treatment.

8. Subcommittee Update- Native American Homelessness

Dr. Chenoa Bah announced a strategic planning meeting and potluck will be held Monday, December 16, 2024, 10am – 1pm, at the Los Duranes Community Center, 2920 Leopoldo NW, Albuquerque, NM. All HCC members, community members, and anyone interested is invited to attend. This meeting is being held to organize a tribal housing summit the Southwest Indigenous Justice Collaborative has been requested and provided funded to organize by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. The summit is projected to be a 2-4 day event in late June, 2025, to focus on training and awareness; providing support to unsheltered relatives and survivors of domestic violence and trauma; exploring innovations and promising practices occurring locally and nationally; and supporting providers with information regarding available resources from native nations and other indigenous communities. A second strategic planning meeting will be held Monday, January 13, 2025, at the same location.

First Nations Healthsource Clinic has organized an annual Share the Love and Warmth event for unsheltered community members throughout the city. Co-sponsorship, in-kind donations, donations of gently used jackets, hats and gloves are welcomed. Anyone interested is invited to join in the distribution of clothing, blankets, tents, sleeping bags, personal hygiene items, first aid kits, and small meal Kits on Thursday, February 13, 2025. For more information, contact Veronica Johnson at 505-515-3919 or via email at TraditionalWellness@fnch.org.

9. Subcommittee Update- African American Homelessness

Vice Chair Rogers updated that she is requesting legislation for the city to create an African American Boarding Committee with an African-American Homelessness Subcommittee. A meeting is Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC) December 10, 2024

scheduled to bring together a strategy team created in her previous role with the Black community. She thanked the Built 4 Zero team for the data on race and ethnicity as it will be useful in these efforts. She queried whether the same type of ethnicity data could be provided from the shelters. Data collection to determine where the homeless within the black community is located is the starting point, then the plan is to mobilize the community based on the model of what is occurring in the Native American community, think of housing instability as a whole, focus on home ownership, and resurrect the African American portion of the City of Albuquerque Equity and Inclusion project that was previously dropped.

Maria Wolfe responded that this data was collected when it is agreed to be provided, and suggested she and Vice Chair Rogers discuss how to collect and report that data.

Vice Chair Rogers took this opportunity to express the expectation that every HCC member will serve on one of the subcommittees and requested those who have not already indicated subcommittee on which s/he would like to service, to do so during this meeting. She also expressed later in the meeting that participants who are not official members of the HCC are also welcome to join a subcommittee that aligns with their interests although the subcommittees do need to be headed by an HCC member. She also requested that the HCC members also spread the word among their colleagues and community members that serving on one of the HCC subcommittees is an opportunity to enhance the work they are already involved in.

10. Subcommittee Update- Re-Entry

Commissioner Barboa shared that she has formed a strong team with some overlap with members of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, given the shared interest. She is open to adding additional members if there is anyone interested. They have not yet started meeting. She requested to postpone providing another update until the February meeting.

Maria Wolfe requested to be a member of this subcommittee.

11. Subcommittee Update- Data Sharing and System Barriers

Update deferred until January meeting. Zoe Robb requested to be a member of this subcommittee.

12. Subcommittee Update- Homelessness Prevention

Dr. Lindstrom agreed to lead this subcommittee, if no one else is stepping forward, as it would also seem to have some overlap with a proposed Bernalillo County Eviction Prevention Intervention and Recovery program utilizing Opioid Settlement dollars.

13. New Items

a. Medicaid Waiver

Maria Wolfe shared that a letter in support of the Medicaid Waiver was never sent because there was not agreement among HCC members to do so. However, the Legislative Council staff are currently drafting a bill to start the Medicaid Waiver program in the state. Peter Kubra, a strong advocate of this legislation, has put out a call for people who want to assist in the effort to contact him.

Dr. Lindstrom shared his understanding that the proposed waiver would cover those with severe mental illness, much as the developmental disability waiver covers that population. He shared that the proposed legislation would require the Healthcare Authority to submit an application to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare for this type of waiver, and that the Healthcare Authority and the Medicaid Medical Assistance Division has indicated it does not have the bandwidth to do so. Therefore, Dr. Lindstrom is currently working on identifying individuals who could potentially write the application in the event the legislation does pass, to eliminate that barrier. Once submitted, the

application would have to be approved by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare, an approximately 18-month process.

Gina Urias-Sandoval requested time be allotted on the January agenda for Dr. Richards to share with the HCC his concerns regarding this waiver and why he feels the HCC should not sign off on supporting it at this time. It was agreed to defer any decision regarding support of the waiver until after Dr. Richards has presented and a draft of the legislation can be reviewed.

In the meantime, there has been some media requests for comment and the following draft response was shared for consideration as a response, agreed to send it out to the HCC members for input, and deferred a vote on it until the January meeting.

b. Recap of Cold Weather Response by Entity

City of Albuquerque – Hundreds of heavy down coats, blankets, and snowpants have been and are being distributed regularly through the fire departments, APS, and available at Gateway West. Gateway West is currently exceeding 600 per night, so there are 60 beds still available. The first responder receiving area is also open and in operation throughout the nights to place people brought in by APS, fire, or police.

Bernalillo County – no update. Will provide something at the next meeting.

c. Discussion regarding posting video of HCC meetings along with minutes

There were no objections voiced regarding the posting of the recorded video of these meetings along with the minutes, therefore it will be so done moving forward.

Next HCC Meeting -

- January 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

14. Adjourn Meeting –

Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am

Meeting Recorded Video Link:

https://cabq.zoom.us/rec/share/4RDSMkssXOtT8lBm2CctZqU66G9divfjEA_utmV5kBV4veUcEUaVfUrFOLZzrKa-.bhs4VrGhjQ8v4tha

Built for Zero Update

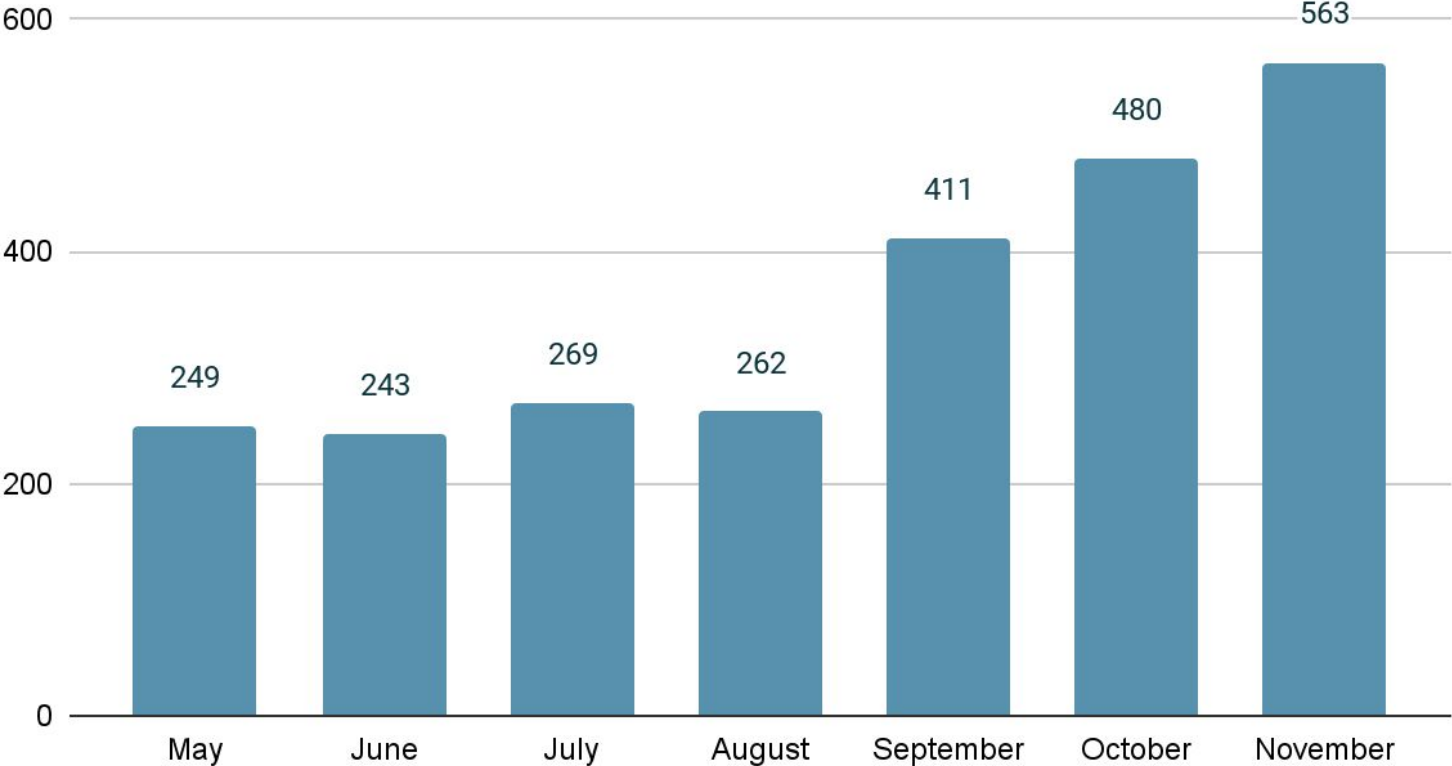
December 2024



Participating Agencies

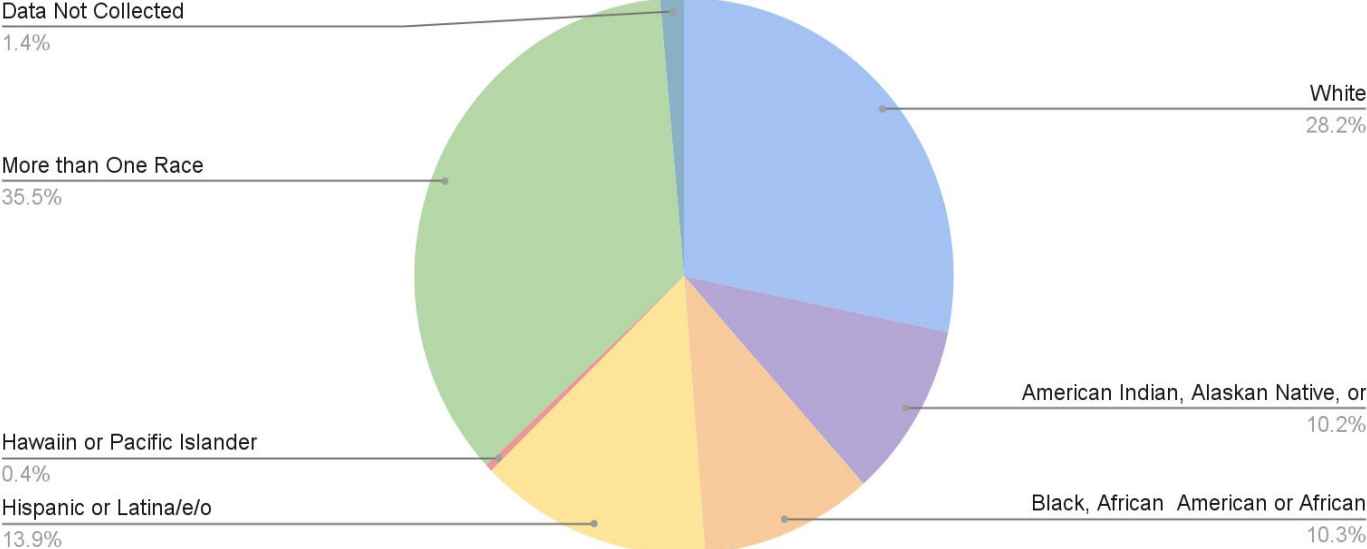
- ABQ Faithworks
- Albuquerque Friends Meeting Housing
- Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
- Albuquerque Housing Authority
- APS McKinney Vento
- BlueCross BlueShield
- Catholic Charities
- Central United Methodist Church
- City of Albuquerque (HHH/OEI)
- Centro Savila
- Family Housing Navigation Center
- Gateway First Responders Receiving Area
- Heading Home
- Health Equity Council
- Las Cumbres / WINGS
- Los Sueños Community Giving
- Lutheran Family Services
- New Mexico VA
- & more!

Family By Name List Total by Month



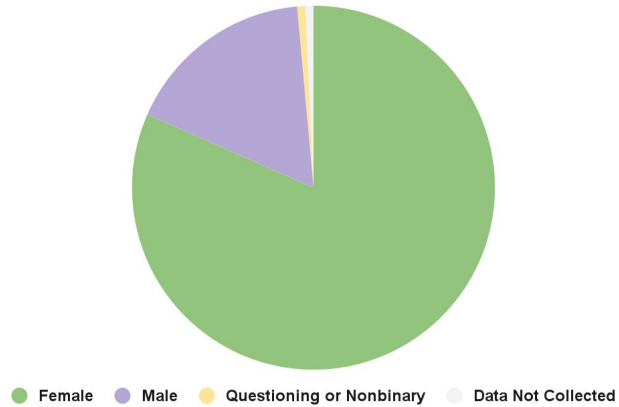
By Name List Demographics

Households by Race or Ethnicity



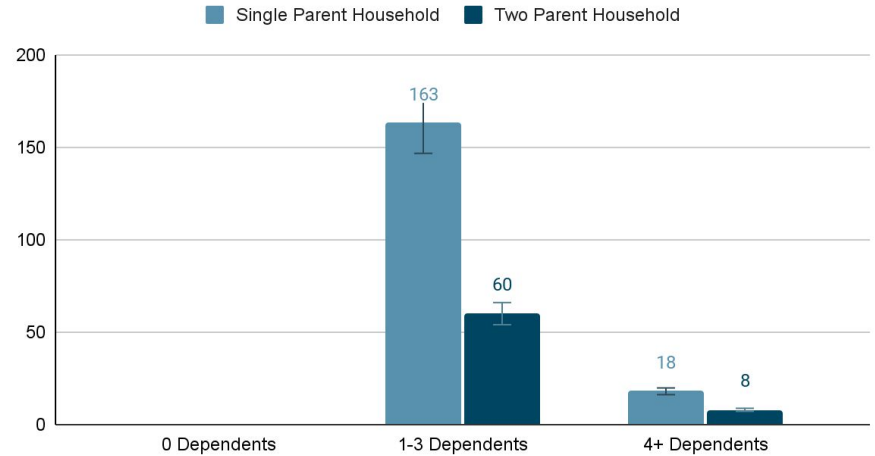
By Name List Demographics, Cont.

Head of Household by Gender



Head of Household Age Range: 19-86

Family Composition



Case Conference Families Status

Current Status, Dec. '24	# Families	Definition
Housed	6	Successfully housed
Navigating	6	Working with housing navigator to complete documentation or find housing
Matched	7	Match to housing plan, program and resources
Assessed	1	Completed VI-SPDAT assessment
Identified	4	Identified as in need of services
Moved to Inactive	2	Housing navigator can no longer contact family

Updates

- Community education at Friends Meeting House and during Human Rights Week
- Attended Learning Session (Community Solutions Conference) in November
- Provider Improvement Team created Housing Navigation Checklist Tool
- Last case conference of 2024 next week, then starting back up in 2025
- Continued participation in anti-racism work

Proposed HCC Committee Action Steps

- Data Sharing Committee:
 - Host annual data coordination meetings between housing authorities and service agencies.
 - • Advocate for the adoption of a centralized data-sharing framework that includes agencies using systems outside of HMIS.
 - • Draft and submit a formal letter to state leaders requesting support for broader data-sharing coordination efforts.
- System Barrier Committee
 - Advocate for the sealing of eviction records and the allocation of funds to cover housing application fees.
 - • Establish a standard timeline for resource distribution, ensuring that contracts and funding are processed in a timely manner.
 - • Monitor PSH programs to ensure that they are meeting supportive service requirements and appropriately compensating their staff.

Community Priorities HCC Can Support

Priorities Identified by Agencies and Community Members

- Addressing the **stigmatization and criminalization** of people experiencing homelessness
- **Policy changes** to address high barriers to renting and high housing costs
- Increased involvement of people with **lived experience** in decision making roles
- Increasing **collaboration** and resource sharing between agencies
- Increasing **mobile services** and **improving transportation system**
- Improved communication and **relationships with funders**

THANK YOU!

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

General inquiries: bfzalb@nmceh.org



Sources and Additional Information

- [The Disproportionate Burden of Eviction on Black Women - Center for American Progress](#)
- Information about mental illness and homelessness: [FAQs about Mental Health and Homelessness](#)
- Recap of the common misconceptions about homelessness: [Truths About Homelessness](#)
- 2023 New Mexico Affordable Housing Needs Assessment from the Mortgage Finance Authority: [Housing Needs Assessment](#)
- [Average Rental Price in Albuquerque, NM & Market Trends | Zillow Rental Manager](#)
- [19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively_1.pdf \(usich.gov\)](#)
- Information about Built for Zero and Community Solutions: [The Movement - Community Solutions](#)
- [Housing-First-Evidence.pdf \(nlihc.org\)](#)
- [2024 New Mexico Point in Time Count Report \(nmceh.org\)](#)