



Homeless Coordinating Council Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 10:00am-11:30am

Chair, Dr. Douglas Ziedonis, The University of New Mexico
Vice Chair, Robert McKenrick, VA New Mexico Health Care System

Commissioner Debbie O'Malley, Bernalillo County
County Manager Julie Morgas Baca, Bernalillo County
President Garnett S. Stokes, The University of New Mexico
Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque
Councilor Pat Davis, City of Albuquerque
Councilor Isaac Benton, City of Albuquerque

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Minutes

1) Call to Order

Dr. Doug Ziedonis, UNM, called the meeting to order at 10:21a.m.

2) Approve the December 13, 2022, HCC Meeting Agenda

No modifications to the agenda.

3) Introductions and Announcements

A. Introductions/Designees

Carol Pierce announced the activation of warming centers at Mesa Verde Community Centers with 8 walk-ups the previous night. Link will be sent for volunteers.

4) Approval of the November 8, 2022 HCC Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved without objection.

5) Public Comment

A. See below instructions for submitting written comments and signing up to provide live comments.

6) Discussion/Updates/Presentations

A. HCC Retreat Planning & Survey

Chair Ziedonis presented the survey and responses that included 7 questions.

Question 1: Who do you think should be invited to this summit/retreat? Response included Rosanne Haggerty from Community Solutions and Sanjeev Arora from Project Echo; core member of council that includes 16 people from City, County, UNM and VA; other stakeholders such as ACS, BCSO, LEAD, etc.

Question 2: What days of week? Carol Pierce suggested doing a doodle poll to find distinct answer.

Question 3: Two half days or full day? Will add to doodle poll.

Question 4: Locations suggested at UNM Domenici Center or UNM Rainforest Innovation Center; add to the doodle poll.

Question 5: What topics would you suggest for the retreat? Chair Ziedonis presented results that included priority/goal setting; two possible special projects with Project ECHO & Community Solutions; government relations, planning for state government request and consideration of federal opportunities; research sub-committee update & creating quality improvement tracking system; review sub-committees and their goals and expectations

Chair Ziedonis opened discussion and requested topics from panelists.

Carol Pierce added comment to the topic of reviewing sub-committees, that some have naturally ended and other like Housing are active. Chair Ziedonis suggested adding chairs of the sub-committees be invited to the retreat.

Sanjeev Arora asked if the purpose of the retreat would be to create formal projects that we all commit to? Chair Ziedonis responded yes. In particular there are two ideas that Carol will chat and the one from Project Echo.

Cristina Parajon added that the retreat should focus on goal setting and priorities of the committee. Maybe create new committees based on projects that are created.

Question 6: What are the most important goals to you for the summit/retreat? Responses included a cross agency understanding of current landscape, what is happening, gaps/needs internally and externally and plan for true collaboration and communication; well facilitated with clear outcomes for retreat; establish a clear plan and priorities for the HCC moving forward; discuss alternatives for the Westside Homeless Shelter and how we can collaborate (location, services, funding)

Chair Ziedonis thought an agenda could be drafted from the responses above.

Question 7: What are the expected outcomes for this summit/retreat? Responses included cross agency and commitment to planning & moving collaboratively for our whole communities, all resources at the table collaboratively, willingness to move together; selection of one or two projects (as discussed at the last HCC) which contribute to the overall framework/approach, have something obtainable and real that can be learned from and discussed at HCC; prioritize existing initiatives, develop unified agenda for next legislative session on this topic, identify new initiatives between the entities and come up with a way to monitor outcomes; an alternate plan for westside shelter

Chair Ziedonis opened discussion on the goals or outcomes.

Carol Pierce suggested getting a facilitator. Two UNM/HR facilitators will be available. Carol Pierce have additional facilitators as back up.

Julie Morgas Baca added the west side topic in the survey. The county can help the city with the warming centers, etc.

Sanjeev Arora suggested an early engagement with Community Solutions to understand the situation. Use their expertise to see what is happening in other cities, state, counties and how they are working together. We should use their expertise to identify the mission of this council, develop goals, identify what should be done first. Community Solutions is willing to help and at no cost. Consider starting with the mission and then think about what measurable data will be tracked to show progress. Project Echo would be willing to provide coordination with all the stakeholders. Could the retreat be used for the creation of the “map.”

Chair Ziedonis added that Community Solutions could contribute to the agenda discussion and distribute material beforehand.

Rodney McNease agreed with including Community Solutions. We should consider all the pieces together to include the community.

Cristina Parajon agreed, would be good to include people who have lived experiences who are also stakeholders.

Sanjeev Arora added that Community Solutions is willing to help develop a plan to understand stakeholders' contribution and launching projects. Solutions will be created by all of you. I would like to bring a team from Project Echo to talk about supporting the initiatives, can use the retreat to engage Community Solutions and Project Echo.

Carol Pierce added that we need to think about the community stakeholders.

Chair Ziedonis added that we might have the smaller group for the first half of the day and then include the bigger outside groups for the 2nd half.

Chair Ziedonis asked Carol Pierce to discuss her proposal which was to use Project Echo to build off what was done at Wellness Hotel for unhoused families in particular the data driven part. From wellness we have gathered data that we are housing 38% of people. Had over 1000 people go through the wellness system. I would like to see how much farther can get to housing families if we used the Project Echo model to bear some of the clinical expertise, thinking about substance abuse treatment, addiction which are some of the biggest barriers. What we are finding that addiction and other issues are barriers to getting into the next steps. She feels that there is a real time example with data that has been operating and that the City is investing \$4million/year to bring all partners to the table and think we could do better with the Project Echo model.

Chair Ziedonis asked if the focus would be to train staff to be able to handle addiction? Project Echo would helping people to learn the topic. They would have to deliver the care.

Carol Pierce responded yes, the staff, and these are part of the partners we talk about, the staff have been UNM staff have been providing care there in the past, right now it's heading home. So it is our non-profit partners that we contract with that provide that. But I think it is yes and what other kind of resources could be come to bear from UNM to address some of the behavioral health needs.

Sanjeev Arora added that whatever the council decides, they are willing to support, as I outlined one mechanism earlier on how to identify these projects. That would be the strategic planning process, where would they put our efforts? Addiction treatment is a priority for the state. Project Echo does not have a mental health center and Rodney has that. If this is a priority of the council, would be willing to help with training.

Chair Ziedonis presented from Q&A:

Paul with State of the Heart Recovery – licensed therapists should be the ones providing addiction support Should there be a licensed therapist and bio psycho social assessment as part of every person that is receiving housing support?

Carol Pierce commented to question from Paul, yes. The reason we are involved is that we all have the ability to bear the resource or the expertise have to lift up a vulnerable population.

Rodney McNease responded the Q&A comment is correct. It would be helpful to connect so we can understand what can be done to support some of that, whether through our current delivery system or whether it's through a more targeted approach to that. The issue is always resources. We have some of that built out through the County. We could discuss leveraging resources together and getting people to the right resource at the time they need it.

Cristina Parajon added it is important to get resources to people at the time it is needed. Other cities have been practicing housing first model with services afterwards, which works well. 90% stay housed after they are placed. It is important to provide services and give people the choice to access those services.

Chair Ziedonis brought up the broader project that included engaging Community Solutions. The smaller project focused on the one center project. Carol is looking for both. Carol Pierce agreed that she is proposing both to have the Community Solutions framework and apply it to the center since the center already has data.

Sanjeev Arora commented that purpose of the broader project is to get a clear understanding of each other's perspectives. The second purpose is to bring stakeholders together, so don't step on one another's feet. Bringing all stakeholders together and hearing everyone's perspectives then together come up goals and a plan. Then create outcomes and designate who will take on the project and find resources. Project Echo is willing to support coordination.

Chair Ziedonis commented one practical project from Carol and the other is a community wide project. Asked for comments.

Rodney McNease added that a broad framework is good idea and try to leverage resources to address issues.

Julie Morgas Baca added that some people are coming from domestic violence and others who have having hard time w/no addictions etc.; providing resources to these forgotten people.

Carol Pierce added besides wanting something practical, we have all worked together all the time. If Rosanne wants to come, there has to be a starting point where we don't and not at a retreat spend time restating what is out there. Raised that we should be efficient with time and how can you continue learning when you take on a specific project.

Chair Ziedonis requested to reach out to Community Solutions to meet with the 4 groups to hear specifics of what were doing and ask doing the homework we could find out how that relates to the timing of the retreat.

Jill Turner agreed with everyone and including Community Solutions. The VA's approach is that housing is big thing. Agree with Julie's comment that care has to be individualized without the assumption that everyone experiencing homelessness has a substance abuse issue or a behavioral health diagnosis. I think another important aspect is trauma informed care. Agree with Carol Pierce in that you can't put someone in a home and expect them to thrive without other services and support.

Sanjeev Arora asked Carol Pierce if there was any resources available that can put together a document that reports on the current state of affairs. If have document could give a big head start.

Carol Pierce responded that the City could put that together, but the community stakeholder perspective might be missing.

Chair Ziedonis could pull together project managers to meet and put the ideas together. A draft could be created to deliver to community partners to help expand what the initial draft was. Community Solutions may have ideas of how to pull together. Would be a very good product to have for the council. Chair asks Cindy Mason to follow up with members after regarding project manager idea of people coming together.

B. Government Relations

Chair Ziedonis asked Julie Morgas Baca for comments.

Julie Morgas Baca updated the council with the city and county working on a housing authority and asking for \$50 million and will provide reports as move along. County is working on west side shelter and will move forward with \$600K to contribute. City will give directions on West Side shelter changes.

County wellness hotel is open, The Veterans integration center came to the county and has provided \$3.5 million to assist veterans and their families. The City has also contributed \$1.5 million for land along with the VA matching the counties \$3.5 million contribution. Tiny home village is up to 18 but having staffing issues 2023 Legislative Resolution, the City and County are working together to create state wide fund for urban and rural areas to help local governments finance to purchase, expand, renovate and remodel facilities that can provide transitional housing and permanent supportive housing options including home ownership assistance, that's our ask.

Carol Pierce added will have an ask to continue to buff out the Gateway into Phase 2 and the creation of the housing authority.

Sanjeev Arora excited they are making these requests and asked to consider what about an ask for staffing this council to the work and make the system work together. There are tasks coming out of this meeting and there is no one to do them. This council needs staff.

Julie Morgas Baca likes idea. Have received funds in the past to support. Carol and I can talk about it.

Chair Ziedonis suggested adding it to the asks from the City and County.

Carol Pierce suggested all 4 groups add to their asks, City, County, UNM.

Chair Ziedonis added that UNM has a different type of asks. Those specific to behavioral health are not from UNM but a much bigger pot.

Rodney McNease responded that there will be money allocated to behavioral health but to a bigger pot.

C. Committee Updates

- Chair Ziedonis asked for updates, no updates on committees.
 - Housing
 - Youth Housing Continuum
 - Gateway/Facilities
 - Homeless Service System
 - Multi-Governmental Legislation
 - Coordinated Street Outreach

7) Announcement of the next HCC Meeting

A. Tuesday, January 10, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

8) Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 11:27am