



## Homeless Coordinating Council (HCC)

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference Tuesday, November 12, 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 called the meeting to order at 10:02.

**2. Review & Approve Agenda for November 12, 2024**

Noting the absence of a quorum, voting items on the agenda were pushed to later in the meeting.

**3. Introductions and Announcements**

**Matthew McGahran, Chair, Veterans Administration**

**Renee Grout, Councilor, City of Albuquerque**

**Gina Urias-Sandoval, Chief of Staff, UNM Health Sciences:** Serving as proxy for

Dr. Mike Richards.

**Chenoa Bah Stillwell Jensen, Senior Project Manager, Office of the Executive Vice President,  
University of New Mexico Health Sciences, and also spokesperson for the  
SW Indigenous Housing Justice Collaborative.**

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

**4. Review and Approve October 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Noting the absence of a quorum, voting items on the agenda were pushed to later in the meeting.

**5. Public Comment:** There were no public comments at this time.

## **6. Veteran Homelessness Update**

Camilla Lopez of the New Mexico VA Health Care System presented, beginning with an update regarding stand downs for homeless veterans throughout New Mexico, including Gallup, Farmington, Taos and Albuquerque, with another event in Santa Fe on Thursday, November 14, 2024. The Santa Fe event concludes the planned homeless stand down events for 2024. In Albuquerque, 63 veterans presented with need for assistance, either for housing directly or for income support. This number is a decrease from the 2022 and 2023 numbers, which hopefully means veterans are increasingly connecting to services therefore not needing to attend the event in order to do so.

Outside of the stand down events, the VA is still partnering with the Veterans Integration Center and Albuquerque Community Safety to do street-based outreach to identify unhoused individuals, not just veterans, to ensure everyone is connected to needed services.

In terms of partnership with HUD for HUD-VASH vouchers, which is VA and HUD supported housing, the hope is that HUD will receive additional vouchers for 2025 as all of the vouchers for veterans in New Mexico are currently in use. Therefore, the hope is to obtain more so connecting veterans to that long-term housing resource can continue.

In answer to a question posed by Chair McGahran regarding the current number of street homeless veterans, Ms. Lopez stated the number fluctuates. The last Point-In-Time (PIT) count was in January 2024 and showed about 200 homeless veterans statewide. She also shared that planning has already started for the January 2025 PIT count, with planning meetings held last week and scheduled in December.

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

Dr. Chenoa Bah opened by expressing gratitude to the HCC members, including Monet Silva, Gina, and Camilla Lopez, who attended the Health Equity Summit and presented for the Housing Justice panel, for which over 90 people registered to attend. During this panel, the coordinated efforts of the Homeless Coordinating Council was discussed, as well as many others such as Winter Torres with the New Mexico Eviction Prevention Program and the New Mexico Legal Aid from Gallup, The Gallup Housing Justice from McKinley County Health Alliance also presented. Dr. Renia Ehrenfeucht and Michael Pride, both professors with the UNM School of Architecture, brought over 50 students with them both days, a continuation of our workforce development in terms of students going into diverse careers, yet having that alliance and coordination with the social determinants and social drivers of health. Students from other local colleges and high school students from Health Leadership High School were also in attendance. Dr. Bah expressed gratitude to Dr. Art Kaufman and his leadership, as well as Secretary Patrick Allen with the New Mexico Department of Health for their support of this effort, as well as Janet Johnson, Susan Garcia, and many others including the leadership in attendance at this meeting.

In the Housing Justice breakout session, human housing as a human right was discussed as well as ways in which community members can be more aware of ensuring that individuals are allowed an attorney for free when going through the eviction process as not many people knew that. Dr. Bah suggested the HCC discuss creating a resource guide due to the number of critical questions that were asked by social workers. She referenced the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness does their part in this effort, however suggested looking at doing an assets mapping of all the resources for care coordinators, case managers, and other providers who quickly need that access. She mentioned that a social worker, Dr. Wendy Hines, spoke about working in New York and, if a patient going through surgery or treatment

experienced income loss, were behind in rent, mortgage, or other bills, it was as simple as requesting their physician write a letter to delay the eviction process or stay the mortgage payments. In contrast, here the eviction process can happen within days of a notice. Therefore, sharing information regarding rights with the community was a powerful discussion in the sessions.

Dr. Bah expressed thanks to Commissioner Barboa and Bernalillo County for co-sponsoring the Health Equity Summit. Because of their sponsorship, the Southwest Housing Justice invited Jessica Cruz of Native American Connections to present. Dr. Bah also spoke to Native American Connections CEO John Godfrey and they agreed a 25-30 minute presentation to the HCC in January or February 2025 regarding what they do. Dr. Bah felt a site visit to their program in Phoenix would also be feasible. She felt their program allowing families to stay with their children while accessing treatment with free housing, as well as their many other programs, are greatly needed in Albuquerque.

Also presenting at the Health Equity Summit was the Nááts'ílid Initiative, Work of the Rainbow, a grassroots-based housing initiative on the Navajo Nation looking at sustainable ways to go back to traditional houses and traditional models of wellbeing connected to the home, to reduce and address social determinants of health in a culturally relevant way.

Dr. Bah, Dawn Begay, Terry Sloan, Monet Silva, Tony Watkins (New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness), and many others presented to the Pueblo Zuni leadership viz Zoom last week and discussed resources and support options. The leadership would like a follow-up visit to Albuquerque due to their concerns regarding the many unsheltered relatives from the Zuni Pueblo in Albuquerque. Dr. Bah expressed her view that it is critical to work with the tribes and pueblos that are ready for site visits now rather than waiting until a Tribal Leadership Summit on Housing can be organized. She recommended planning a site visit for January or February 2025.

Dr. Bah also mentioned that Head Councilman Anthony Sanchez, Sr., was interested in the updates on the Gateway Center and during that visit, they also visited the Homeless Outreach Program and other resources at First Nations Clinic as well as meeting with Mayor Tim Keller and other community resources. She expressed her hope that, in the future, there could be an MOU discussed.

Dr. Bah also brought up the possibility that ARPA and Opioid Settlement funding received could be partnered with to research culturally relevant homeless shelters. She mentioned the Americans for Indian Opportunity, as well as other programs, are looking at building an indigenous resource and/or community center in Albuquerque. Planning is occurring for follow-up meetings regarding these topics.

Dr. Bah also stated there are ongoing meetings with the Center for Law and Poverty with Melissa Candelaria and other attorneys to discuss addressing tribal housing in urban areas throughout the state. One of the discussions is to involve Josett Monette of the Indian Affairs Department to do the Government-to-Government type meetings that the NM Governor does twice per year, with housing as a topic, therefore bringing the Homeless Coordinating Council members. The goal would be something streamlined and efficient, rather than a completely different meeting requiring additional travel by the tribal members.

Chair McGahran thanked Dr. Bah for her update, noting the many items mentioned requiring HCC attention and/or action, and stated he would work to ensure the various site visits, interactions, and collaborations are coordinated.

Vice-Chair Rogers queried regarding the work done previously at the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) around setting up the Gateway, specifically regarding our Native community, and whether any

of that significant amount of work was adopted at the Gateway. Dr. Bah responded that she believed it had been through different coordinated efforts through First Nations Community Health Source, who go onsite to bridge those services and do warm handoffs or referrals. Dr. Bah did not have a recent update, however suggested we request one because a lot of the funding came from Western Sky, with support from Eric Lujan (OEI Tribal Programs Director). She expressed the importance of obtaining an update as they prepare for the site visits. She also felt it would be key to learn about the Native American Housing Survey done at the City of Albuquerque's OEI, stating Dillon Shije, OEI Deputy Director, projected the results would be provided by Mass Design and OEI in January 2025. She suggested requesting a report of those results be provided to the HCC in addition to updates regarding the Gateway Center.

Ellen Braden, Albuquerque Dept. of Health, Housing, and Homelessness, interjected that there was a concerted effort to implement as many initiatives as possible from the work and research that was done, as well as trainings that were conducted. She offered reassurance that the work did not go by the wayside and committed to providing an update at the next HCC meeting.

There were no further questions or comments for Dr. Bah.

\*NOTE: It was confirmed at this time that the meeting still lacked a quorum, so it was decided to proceed with the New Items on the agenda.

## **8a. New Item – Subcommittee Development and Updates**

Vice Chair Rogers reminded the committee members that, at the last meeting, it was decided at this meeting the members would discuss the subcommittees and really think through how to move forward to accomplish the work. She expressed thanks to Jazmin Moreno at the Coalition to End Homelessness who put together a proposal template for two of the newly created subcommittees. She acknowledged that in the agenda, data sharing and barriers are shown together, however in the template Jazmin Moreno put together, data sharing is a separate barrier from other barriers such as accessing resources for homelessness. Vice Chair Rogers then shared the template on her screen, stating she did not wish to take credit for Jazmin's amazing work, and that she fleshed it out for the other subcommittees as a starting point or conversation starter.

Using the Data Sharing template as an example, she pointed out the three goals of the subcommittee:

1. Establish Shared Outcomes
2. Enhance System Integration and Accuracy
3. State-Level Coordination

Then, using those as the big picture items, Action Items were then listed to start the subcommittee on the work. The Action Items were listed as:

- 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 HIMS.
- Draft and submit a formal letter to state leaders requesting support for broader data-sharing coordination efforts.

Vice-Chair Rogers reiterated that this is just a start; the subcommittee would need to flesh it out with whatever they decided needed to be done, then report back to the HCC with what they had decided. She then asked for questions or comments.

\*Note: Due to the flow of the discussion, Agenda item 8a (ii) preceded item 8a (i).

## ii. Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee

Chair McGahran mentioned that the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee is currently without a leader. He also shared his belief that the first goal, Establish Shared Outcome, is extremely important, the sharing of outcomes not only with HCC members, but also with all stakeholders such as providers in the community, to ensure everyone is working in the same direction. He emphasized the importance of this not only for the Data Sharing Barriers subcommittee, but with all of the HCC subcommittees.

Chair McGahran then asked for commitments to work on the Data Sharing Barriers subcommittee. Commissioner Barboa stated that, although this is a priority for her, she has committed to the Reentry Subcommittee and does not want to overcommit her capacity. She did express that there is a large amount of work being done on data sharing at the city, county, and state levels, however none of that work is reaching the ground force. She expressed concern that the same language isn't being spoken regarding what the real need is, so feels the subcommittee is needed to address that. Commissioner Barboa then expressed her opinion that Goal #3 should state, "City, County, UNM, and State-Level Coordination," or "Cross-Level Coordination," because the City/County needs to take the lead as she doesn't believe the state has the answers.

Monet Silva, Executive Director, NM Coalition to End Homelessness, responded that there is some attempt at coordination at the state level, sharing her knowledge that the Governor's Office is working on bringing in an entirely new database. She stated that the NM Coalition to End Homelessness is not in favor of this as it is difficult enough to get individuals to use the data systems required when receiving HUD funding, or by various cities. Although there is some conversation, she concurred there is also a lot of disconnect between what the county is talking about versus the city or the state. Therefore, the goal of coordination state-wide, especially for Built for Zero. B4Z can't create good quality By-Name lists if everyone isn't on the same page regarding the data. She said the concern over HIPPA is valid, however how an agreement needs to be reached on sharing data and what that data looks like; it doesn't have to be names and dates of birth. Individuals at Community Solutions are clear that some people won't agree to giving their names, dates of birth, etc., however other identifiers could be used. For instance, if an individual always wears a red hoodie, has a German Shephard and a blue bike, those could be used as identifiers. She felt those identifiers could be used to share data across platforms state-wide without violating anything. Ms. Silva stated the conversations need to happen around on how to get to the point that everybody is comfortable with sharing the different data pieces that they have.

Chair McGahran requested clarification regarding the state's search for a new database. Monet Silva responded Daniel Roberson and the governor are pushing for the legislature to provide additional funding for a new database, however the pushback is that asking agencies to enter data into another database without compensating them for the additional manpower costs is not feasible. especially as HIMS could fill the need with some minor tweaking.

Commissioner Barboa expressed frustration that this has been a conversation that has been ongoing for at least the past 3 years, with a decision between the city, county, and state that Unite Us would be utilized, being told for over a year that this was a data-sharing program, and now hearing very clearly from Vice-Chair Rogers that it is not. She expressed concern there has been some misinformation regarding the purpose of Unite Us and would like to hear directly from Unite Us subject matter experts, such as Daniel Roberson with the county, and someone from the city, and someone from the state, in this meeting, to explain what Unite Us is and what it is not, and also coming to a consensus of what the

purpose of the data collection is. She referenced a presentation from “the top guy from Santa Fe” who explained it is not illegal under HIPPA for anyone to share data as long as the purpose is the continuum of care. Yet large entities continue to cite HIPPA as a barrier to sharing data.

Commissioner Barboa continued that another conversation is that the data belongs to the individuals and cannot be shared without a signed consent allowing the release of their data, because the entities do not “own” the data they have collected and, therefore, cannot share it without that consent. She concluded by asking if Ellen Braden could provide an actual update about where this all stands.

Ellen Barden responded by explaining that Unite Us is a closed loop referral system and will not solve all of the multiple issues the city, county, and state are trying to solve. The main issue these three entities are looking at Unite Us to solve is avoiding people falling through the cracks for both the unhoused population, for substance use treatment services, as well as a variety of other services. The purpose of Unite Us is ensuring that, within the system utilizing it, people who are referred to an entity are received by that entity rather than depending on the client to make the contact and the referring agency having no knowledge of whether the receiving agency connected with the client.

Ellen Barden also stated the last thing she has seen is that the state of New Mexico decided on Find Help rather than Unite Us for this purpose. The city and county of Santa Fe, as well as the city of Las Cruces, have gone with Unite Us, covering the I-25 corridor, which is beneficial as people are transient. However, even as Unite Us is being implemented in those areas, there are concerns regarding confidentiality and compliance with HIPPA, 42 CFR, etc., creating some barriers.

Monet Silva confirmed that the state of New Mexico did not go with Unite Us, and that Unite Us is a closed loop referral system and not a robust data sharing system. She concurred with Ellen Barden’s description of the purpose of Unite Us and shared her belief that, if the agencies had been consulted, they would have been informed that Unite Us was not the hoped for answer, does not even perform well its intended purpose, and does not serve the data sharing need.

Ellen Barden agreed with Monet Silva’s assessment, and added the city and county are working to have their providers complete social determinants of health assessments to show changes over time by the clients who are in the system. They are also working with some provider agencies to do a Unite Us summit to explain more about its utilization and to encourage a broader use of the platform instead of just those agencies who are partnered with both the city and county.

Commissioner Barboa also expressed frustration regarding the lack of conversation with “the boots on the ground,” with the concern surrounding ensuring the beneficial use of data shared, and with the number of years this has remained an issue, citing a conversation with Dr. Lindstrom in which he stated these conversations have been ongoing for the past 50 years of his practice. She expressed frustration specifically with UNMH, the biggest provider in the state, whose state legal reasons and that their lawyers, their doctors, or whomever, won’t allow them to share data. She recommended that the issue not be dropped, and the HCC keep working to find the solutions. However, those solutions will not be found today.

Chair McGahran stated his opinion that these databases seem to be working backward, when the priority should be to locate individuals in need, then refer them to the necessary resources. The databases discussed seem to be addressing the latter and not the former. He stated that HIMS has been unitized by the VA for many years.

Vice-Chair Rogers concurred, as HIMS de-identifies data by assigning a number to each client and those numbers are the same across agencies while maintaining the integrity of the de-identified data. Working within HIMS would not be hard to do. She expressed that, even as an internal employee, she still had to go to the Human Services Department (HSD) to obtain needed data.

Dr. Lindstrom expressed that care coordination has been an issue for a very long time, however in this era, we have the benefit of technology tools, with Unite Us being just one of those tools. Although some reports can be generated via Unite Us, it does not provide utilization or diagnostic data. Unite Us representatives have assured him that they can integrate with the state's system so it is possible for them to meet the care coordination needs of those that reside outside the I-25 corridor.

Also, Medicaid remains the major payor for behavioral health care statewide, including Bernalillo County. He also reminded Vice-Chair Rogers that there is no longer an HSD, as there is now a Health Care Authority, which still has the Medical Assistance Division within it. Since Medicaid is the major payor, with 4 Medicaid-managed care organizations plus traditional fee-for-service Medicaid that most of the indigenous communities utilize. If reporting is needed, that would be the place to get it. There is a business associate agreement that would be required, and an application process to complete.

The issue, according to Dr. Lindstrom, is the blowback that would occur if an management information system were to be created system that the city and county would require agencies receiving city and/or county dollars to feed into as those entities already have their own electronic record systems and a dual entry requirement would meet mighty resistance. Adding to the complexity are the reporting requirements of the various commercial payors, Medicare, the Medicare Advantage plans, as well as public and philanthropic grant providers. He has seen this occur in numerous states with the end result being discontinuation within a decade due to the significant data generated not being effectively utilized. This would not be a path he would recommend, This remains a complicated issue and there are numerous workarounds that need to be accommodated to ultimately improve the quality of care.

Chair McGahran then asked for a volunteer to lead the Data Sharing Subcommittee, expressing the need for an entity to provide a focus for the differing factions and competing systems, to serve as a decision-maker when it comes to determining which data best serves the population. There was no response to the request.

At this point, it was noted a quorum had been reached.

## **8. Review and Approve November 12, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

**Motion: Dr. Wayne Lindstrom**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Councilor Nichole Rogers**

**Passed Unanimously**

## **9. Review and Approve October 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Commissioner Adriann Barboa**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Camilla Lopez**

**Passed Unanimously**

## **8a. New Item – Subcommittee Development and Updates (continued)**

### **i. Reentry Subcommittee**

Commissioner Barboa stated recruitment has occurred and resumes received, although they weren't requested. Three are confirmed including Sarah Spain from Bernalillo County, a Father's Building Futures participant, and Natasha Garcia, founder and Executive Director of the New Mexico Reentry Center. Two are pending additional information. A meeting is being planned to discuss purpose and focus, and this will be presented at the December meeting. Commissioner Barboa welcomed any suggestions for others who should be on the subcommittee.

### **ii. Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee (System Barriers sub-group discussion)**

Vice-Chair Rogers stated she wanted to go back to the System Barriers sub-group of the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee, acknowledging that although they were combined with the Data Sharing Barriers, Jazmin Moreno created a separate proposal template for this as a separate sub-group.

On the proposal template, the priorities were identified as Addressing Housing Discrimination and Eviction Records, Staff Retention and Resource Distribution, and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Accountability. Action items were listed as advocating for the sealing of eviction records and the allocation of funds to cover housing application fees; establishing a standard timeline for resource distribution, ensuring that contracts and funding are processed in a timely manner; and monitoring PSH programs to ensure that they are meeting supportive service requirements and appropriately compensating their staff.

Vice-Chair Rogers suggested that a lead be identified for the system barriers sub-group, and Chair McGahran interjected that System Barriers had not been identified as a sub-committee. Vice-Chair Rogers asked for clarification that it was being suggested System Barriers remain rolled into the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee, and Chair McGahran stated that if, at some point after a leader of the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee had been identified, it was determined that System Barriers was needed as an additional subcommittee, this could be determined then.

### **iii. African American Homelessness Subcommittee**

Vice-Chair Rogers presented the goals of the subcommittee as 1) Data Collection and Needs Assessment, 2) Culturally Competent Housing Support Services, 3) Increase Affordable Housing for Black or African American, 4) Build Partnerships with Black Community Organizations, 5) Address Racial Disparities in Housing Access, 6) Address Structural Racism in Homelessness System, 7) Increase Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Services, 8) Build Community and Public Awareness, 9) Create Pathways for Economic Empowerment and Stability, and 10) Monitor and Evaluate Progress.

Vice-Chair Rogers stated that following discussions with individuals in the community around Goal 1, it became apparent that there is no clear vision in the community of what Goal 2 looks like. Once that

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vision becomes clarified and a framework created, trainings can be provided to those running shelters or any like services to ensure case management, job training, and mental health support is being provided. Regarding Goal 8, she stated hugely needed as when she broaches the subject, she is often met with a lack of awareness that there is a staggering number of homeless black individuals, disproportionate to the population.

Vice-Chair Rogers stated she has not begun to recruit as it was her understanding that the update for this meeting was about coming up with the framework, although she has been having discussions with the black community, i.e. black churches, people who can combine to help, perhaps by utilizing their land for housing projects, among other possibilities.

Vice-Chair Rogers stated once the sub-committee is formed, they can whittle the above 10 goals down to the 3 most impactful. She then asked for questions or comments.

Dr. Lindstrom stated he had worked in New Orleans post-Katrina for approximately 3 months, is aware that there is a diaspora of victims forcibly relocated to Albuquerque from New Orleans amid this traumatic event, and wonders if there isn't some healing work that would be appropriate to include as well. Vice-Chair Rogers concurred that the "forced immigration" following Katrina brought up some historical trauma for the community and created trauma that should be looked at. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Lindstrom for bringing that issue forth.

#### iv. Homeless Prevention Subcommittee

Chair McGahran stated the final subcommittee, Homeless Prevention, is still without a leader and requested anyone interested in taking on that role to let him know.

Chair McGahran then brought up a new item not on the agenda, however that needed to be addressed, was a public comment that was made during the July 2024 meeting regarding whether the HCC would support a Medicaid waiver for individuals with behavioral health disabilities, providing permanent supported housing, case management, wraparound services to those individual. The public commentor was asking for a letter from the committee to the legislature to support this idea. The minutes from that meeting show that the HCC decided to develop a subcommittee to explore this without making an actual commitment of support, as some of the members expressed concerns about conflicts with the work they do. Chair McGahran asked if this subcommittee was ever formed and opened the topic for discussion.

Dr. Lindstrom stated that Peter Cubra was heading this initiative, has had some legislation drafted and, he believed, it is going to be introduced in the next session. The legislation would mandate the Health Care Authority to issue a 11-15 waiver to CMS within Medicaid to implement a home and community-based waiver to the Serious Mental Illness (SMI) population.

According to Commissioner Barboa's recollection, Dr. Ziedonis was a member of the HCC at that time and stated a letter was unnecessary, they could meet directly with the governor regarding the issue. Her understanding was that this involved the segment of the population that are identified as "familiar faces" because they are seen regularly in the MDC, the jails, the emergency rooms and are often "bottle-necked" because there is no solutions for them. These individuals need long-term care. She estimated in a city the size of Albuquerque, there are typically about 600 of these individuals, and we should be able to wrap our hands around this issue. She stated a waiver similar to a Developmental Disability waiver would mean identifying them as needing that long-term care and recommended the

HCC provide support for this idea, or at least have someone present what the proposed legislation actually is. This would allow for thinking about all the other layers of homelessness if there were a strategy and long-term resources for the individuals who are severely mentally ill.

Commissioner Barboa stated this was the whole purpose of the Dual-Diagnosis Summit, to address the issue of individuals who have diagnosable mental health issues and are often using street drugs because of a lack of long-term care necessary to prevent them from bottleneaking our systems.

Commissioner Barboa then asked if Peter Cubra has a sponsor for the legislation and Dr. Lindstrom responded that he believed Peter Cubra has two sponsors and, if invited, would be happy to come back and give the HCC an update.

Chair McGahran stated his understanding that UNM had some concerns regarding support for the waiver, and asked if anyone else recalled what those concerns were. Gina Urias-Sandoval stated she would get some information together regarding the concerns of UNM Health System. She endorsed the suggestion to have Mr. Cubra present so the HCC can better understand what exactly is being asked. She did posit that when Medicaid begins to be leveraged in this way, what is affected by that be considered, including understanding how this proposed legislation could negatively impact how care is provided through Medicaid in other areas. There may not be any negatives, however it is important to understand what the legislation is to fully assess possible impacts. Therefore, she concurred with looking more deeply into it.

Dr. Urias-Sandoval also stated that Dr. Mike Richards is very involved with Medicaid, serving on several committees and subgroups out of the governor's office discussing Medicaid and the usage of Medicaid funds across New Mexico, so is well informed about how Medicaid money is currently being used and would have a better understanding of the possible impact, however a better understanding of the legislation would need to come first.

Chair McGahran asked if the HCC members were in favor of inviting Peter Cubra to the December meeting to present, and concurrence was received.

Chair McGahran then brought forth an inquiry by a reporter from City Desk ABQ asking for a statement regarding the rationale of the HCC in supporting the Medicaid waiver. Commissioner Barboa shared the information that Peter Cubra has mentioned several times in other meetings, such as commissioner meetings, that the HCC did support the waiver legislation, because there had been positive discussion regarding doing so in the past. She also requested that Dr. Mike Richards attend a meeting to discuss the possible impact of the waiver legislation on the Medicaid system.

Because he didn't have information that the HCC was officially supporting the waiver, Chair McGahran proposed a draft generic response to be sent out as a press release. Dr. Urias-Sandoval requested the draft be emailed to the HCC members so those who are acting as proxies could receive guidance from the primary members on how to vote. There was a discussion whether the HCC rules allowed voting via email, and it was determined that there would be a review of the rules to determine this, however in the meantime, they would vote on the draft press release at the next HCC meeting.

Commissioner Barboa stated she just received information that the City of Albuquerque and County of Bernalillo both support the legislation, however Dr. Mike Richards has stated that UNM cannot support it. She suggested that, if Dr. Richards cannot officially support it, as representative of one of the four major entities of the HCC, the HCC as a whole cannot provide support for the legislation. Vice-Chair

Rogers stated she would like to hear directly from Dr. Richards what UNM's conflict with the legislation is, as this would provide UNMH with another way to bill Medicaid for services. Given his vast experience, his input would be invaluable. Dr. Urias-Sandoval assured that Dr. Richards, Terry Babbitt and she would formulate a clear understanding of UNMH's stance and present that to the HCC.

Commissioner Barboa did want to remind everyone that there will be a new Republican administration in January that may change the landscape surrounding what is possible in the legislature, and Chair McGahran suggested that the impacts of that be a discussion for the February meeting.

Noting that there were 14 minutes remaining in the meeting, Chair McGahran asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to bring up. Vice-Chair Rogers reminded the HCC members that commitments are still needed for subcommittee membership. She asked that each member commit to, if not chairing a subcommittee, then to serve as a member of a subcommittee. She expressed that it is the expectation for every member to serve on a subcommittee and, currently only two members have committed to one: Commissioner Barboa and herself. Chair McGahran then committed to organizing the Data Sharing Barriers Subcommittee. Dr. Lindstrom stated he would serve on the System Barriers subcommittee, and Chair McGahran clarified they would then work together as the Data Sharing & System Barriers subcommittee.

Vice-Chair Rogers instructed the proxies present to have the discussion regarding which subcommittee their primary members want to serve on with the expectation they will report a commitment at the next meeting. Ellen Braden asked that, although she was acting as a proxy for Maria Wolfe and would not commit on her behalf, would she herself be able to serve on a subcommittee. Vice-Chair Rogers responded in the affirmative and encouraged anyone attending the meeting, including members of the public, to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee. Ellen Braden then stated she would like to serve on the Data Sharing and Systems Barriers subcommittee.

Chair McGahran stated the only committee remaining without any commitments is the Homeless Prevention Subcommittee. Monet Silva then requested assurance that a list of the subcommittees be included in the minutes for this meeting so that she and the Built for Zero team can determine which subcommittees they will serve on.

The current HCC subcommittees are:

- Native American Homelessness
- African American Homelessness
- Reentry
- Data Sharing & System Barriers
- Homelessness Prevention

## **Next HCC Meeting -**

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

## **11.Adjourn Meeting –**

**Motion: Dr. Lindstrom**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Vice-Chair Rogers**

**Passed Unanimously**

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm**