



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Topic: Monthly Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 5:00 pm

Location: Zoom

Contact: Terry Sloan, Liaison

MEMBERS

Dr. Lloyd Lee
Denise Zuni
Lorenzo Jim
Kim Benally
Kimberly Gleason
Jimmy Secatero

Rebecca Riley (Chair)
Kyle Tapaha (Co-Chair)
Thelma Antonio (Secretary)
Marissa Naranjo
Raven Begay

Minutes

1. Call to Order

a. Roll Call/Establish Quorum

The following members were absent: Jimmy Secatero (TóHajiilee), Marissa Naranjo; and Kim Gleason. Roll with eight commissioners present; three absent; and quorum is present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda.

Motion to approve agenda with changes made by Denise Zuni; seconded by Kyle Tapaha; none opposed; motion.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 9, 20022

Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Lloyd Lee; seconded by Lorenzo Jim; Denise Zuni, Raven Begay, and Kim Benally abstained; none opposed; minutes approved.

4. New Business

a. Presentation and Update by Cristina Parajon, Interim, Gateway Administrator with the City of Albuquerque, Family and Community Services Department

Christina provided information of the Gateway Center operations and activities, including day to day project management. She has worked with Office of Equity & Inclusion representative Dawn Begay on data on Native American homelessness. Data counts are done every other year in the shelter and transitional housing. American Indian women are most vulnerable with Latinx/white and Black population following. The native population count as 40% unsheltered with New Mexico at 11%, showing a high ratio. A point of time basis is counted on the streets as sleeping rough meaning in unsheltered places. The data is consistent across the years but the American Indian population is fast growing homeless population with women and transgender individuals are the most vulnerable. Other vulnerabilities are those who have experience domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Questions asked:

Does the data indicate tribal affiliation? Yes, there is data which was collected by UNM students.

What is the difference between sleeping rough, where do they sleep? Sleeping rough refers to sleeping in an unsheltered place, but it is unknown exactly where. Information can be obtained from APD.

Does the data reflect native homelessness by age? Yes.

In 2019 the community voted to approve the Gibson Health Hub site which will provide medical services such as dialysis, healthcare, and opportunity space. Phase I is designed to be a network of recovery services such as survivors of violent crime, low level intoxication services to obtain sobriety. Nineteen beds are planned to be available.

The Gateway Center will be able to house (beds) 50 women, 50 women, 25 families, and 25 couples. It will also provide connections to all other services. The goal is to address the gap of the shelter and service for the Native American population.

The design of the center was gathered through input from First Nations with designed workshops and creating drawings of what would be included in the space, what the space would look like.

Barrier analysis consisted of asking the questions such as why do NA not access emergency shelters and what would help the NA population feel more comfortable at an emergency shelter. The research consisted of both qualitative and quantitative data, short questionnaire with response coding, and expert interviews with services providers. The findings will determine architectural design and operational programming of phase I of the Gateway Center which will include a cleansing and blessing ceremony and any other ideas as requested.

Questions asked:

How long will analysis take at UNM? It is still being determined in the phase of the study, but it is anticipated to open by Winter 2022. History of the city and NA is not as open as it is today. A center or space is needed where NA can feel comfortable and have a safe space to go to.

How was input and feedback gathered? Is there an advisory group that oversees the progression of the center? A group is anticipated to be created for oversight.

Dawn suggested the commission to provide formal recommendations.

b. Update by Phil Farson, Interim Senior Director for Albuquerque Public School Indian Education Department

Since May 2021 Mr. Farson has been interim director. After he retired and moved from Alaska and was hired by Daisy Thompson who trained him as an instructional manager. There are currently 7,200 Native American students: 4,200 are Navajo, 1,200 - 1,400 are Pueblo with majority from Laguna and Zuni (about 500) and the next population is from Isleta, Jemez, and Santo Domingo, remaining tend to be from Alaska, Canada, Mexico and from the east. Funding received are primarily Title VI and JOM. 4,500 students are eligible to receive services with 3,500 that have CIB (Certification of Indian Blood) identified. Even if students are not registered with a tribe, lineage is considered; therefore, no student is left unserved.

He will remain as interim director until the interview process continues in the Spring and Summer. He provided the following activities and collaborations: land based cultural learning; Los Padillas programming for the summer; fashion show at UNM; indigenous youth events; youth job fair; tribal education department contacts; senior banquet for graduating seniors; language and culture are recognized; increase in partnerships to expand growth; plans for childhood education through partnership; and summer programming at Valley High School (for language, robotics, and pottery making would be available). Funding through the recovery act for language programming was also received for Pueblo tribes.

Questions asked:

Have the Education Stakeholder Committee addressed the Cibola High School incident (a teacher had cut a NA girls hair as part of a history lesson). In addition to the summer program will language classes be included.

Mr. Farson mentioned student homelessness: there are about 300 students that are unsheltered (homeless). Many are couch surfing; there isn't a count of the amount that are living with friends, relatives, and don't have a permanent place to live. Outreach by the tribal education directors is an idea to create a program for homeless students. Currently, they are trying to help an Acoma family who are facing homelessness to get assistance. Because of the high Navajo population it is recommended that Navajo teachers be involved in assisting students.

A Career and Enrichment Center was created for Navajo and Zuni students where they can attend classes but have had only a few participants (five out of 100) with 10% of Navajo students participating.

(Note: three commissioners have left the meeting.)

c. UNMH Department of Spiritual Care and Education presenting on the Native American Cultural Care Chaplain Position

Skip Murphy, Director of Spiritual Care and Education has been a Chaplain since 2013. Commissioner Jim was the first Native American cultural provider in the hospital's 37-year history. He had worked part-time for five hours a week and assisted many native patients and families on transition of life preparedness.

Mr. Murphy explained that spiritual care and education is grounded in the Christian community and context but now has moved to include intercultural care for religious differences. Because there are 23 Pueblos, tribal nations in New Mexico the experience is that they have different cultural practices. The goal is for a provision for Native American providers, especially for the high level of trauma. He would like to expand the department and needs assistance in gaining intercultural care providers as well as searching for Native American Chaplains. He would like to train native people interested to be cultural providers. The initiative is to provide meaningful connections and helping patients and families going through traumatic experiences. The training would include a 12-month residency in clinical pastoral education. The standards would have to be adjusted regarding the following to maintain the level of continuing connections: education, scope of practice, endorsing agency, clinical residency work, and board certifications.

Commissioner Jim spoke of his experience. He stated UNMH is centralized as a place for medical specialty care. He had also visited a psychiatric hospital. He used his license in social work and as a traditional practitioner to provide cultural care. COVID-19 lead to disconnection with family and provided cultural care kits such as providing ash and cornmeal. Sometimes families were

relocated. He also expressed that there is a need to educate staff due to the misconception that he was a Shaman. He is concerned that the position must address the level of care that is appropriate.

Commissioner Zuni expressed appreciation when her mother was in the hospital and a medicine man was allowed to tend to her.

d. Public Comment

No written comments.

Songtree Pioche is a graduate of the Native Studies program and is currently the democratic chairperson of the Native American Democratic caucus. She is a candidate for magistrate judge in Aztec, New Mexico. She would like help in filling positions, participates in the MMIW (Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and girls) movement, supports grassroots organizations and funds events. Her social media information is on FB, Instagram, and twitter.

e. Discussion and Approval of New Action Items

Discuss and vote on drafting CAIANA statement letter regarding APS Indian Education Department Director vacancy.

Commissioners Chair Riley and Jim met with Mr. Farson and requested a status update. They also attended the meeting with the parent advisory group. The letter will be drafted to be sent out. The Director position is still vacant. Commissioner Zuni suggested to add Isleta and Sandia Pueblos to the list of Pueblos.

Commissioner Co-chair Tapaha suggests that the parent committee present at an upcoming meeting. He also confirmed that AIO (Americans for Indian Opportunity) can also send a support letter.

Commissioner Chair Riley suggested that the letter should be sent out before the end of the school year. The draft will be sent to all commissioners for input. It is not yet known if the parent committee will contribute to the letter or send their own. Parent committee meeting is scheduled to meet on April 21st at 5:30 – 7:30.

*Motion to draft and complete the statement letter to share with the Indian Parent Committee and completed letter be sent by May 31, 2022 made by Co-chair Tapaha; seconded by Commissioner Antonio, none opposed; motion approved.

5. Commission Administrative Matters

- a. *CABQ Native American Affairs Liaison, Terry Sloan, CABQ Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison and Dawn Begay, Native American Affairs Coordinator* report updates.

Dawn Begay reports:

- New staff: Shawn Nashboo (Zuni) is the director of public affairs in the mayor's office.
- Merrill Che is in Marketing and Communications.
- Raven Begay, AFO Job Developer, joined the commission as the representative for the workforce development sector.
- Office of Equity and Inclusion is seeking a lead as Data Analyst for Cultural Change.
- May 5th is MMIW proclamation will be presented.
- Co-host regarding the response plan for MMIW is May 16th.

- NIYC workforce connections Native based businesses for job openings and internships is planned for May 21st.

Terry Sloan reports:

- Contact made to meet with Pueblo of Sandia to discuss commission membership.
- Contacted Santa Ana but there was no response and ask for any support to make a connection.
- There has been no response from the APCG (All Pueblo Council of Governors) director.

(Note: Commission Jim has logged off.)

Commission Sector Reports and Updates

Introduction of Raven Begay. She has worked in workforce development for 12 years and currently is employed with NIYC (National Indian Youth Council).

Commissioner Co-chair Tapaha reports he will be working with Christina Parajon with the homelessness issues; working with Indigenous youth days; attends AIO meetings; working with Lt. Bartlett to plan the APD summit to develop strategies for response; announces Nizhoni Days at UNM Johnson field; is a member of the AIO community engagement team; and announces that AIO is seeking a data collection person.

Commissioner Chair Riley states the subcommittee will work on the draft of the mayor's report and will send soon after.

- i. **Government** – VACANT
- ii. **Education** – Commissioner Lee
No update
- iii. **Culture** – Commissioner Jim
No update
- iv. **Health** – Commissioner Riley
No update
- v. **Workforce/Employment** – Raven Begay
- vi. **Environment**— Commissioner Naranjo
No updates.

6. Adjournment

Adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

*Action Items

Next CAIANA Meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM



Approved by, Rebecca Riley, Commission Chair