



# HOUSING FOR ALL!!!

NEWS FROM THE NEW MEXICO COALITION  
TO END HOMELESSNESS

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## **New Team at NMCEH is Housing People More Quickly!** **By Kate Cleaver, Coordinated Entry Team Lead**

The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness has developed a coordinated entry team to address the specific needs of the balance of state's continuum of care. The team will work with participating providers in the region to facilitate better use of the coordinated entry system and help identify housing solutions across the varied, and often rural, areas of the state. As the team's lead, I am excited to introduce you to our new staff.

The team will offer specialized navigation services to specific populations. Our new Coordinated Entry Navigator, Christa Curfiss, will specialize in programs serving adults and families. Christa joins us from The Partnership Center Ltd. in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she developed and managed metadata for the HMIS software used by the local continuum of care, and for Sage HUD's national reporting repository. In addition, she taught training classes for HMIS users regarding report writing and Data Standards adherence. Domestic violence service providers will be assisted in coordinated entry and troubleshooting housing challenges by Rebecca Godfrey-Poe, our new Domestic Violence Navigator. Previously serving as a VISTA for the NMCEH, we are proud to welcome Rebecca onto our permanent staff.



**The new Coordinated entry team in Santa Fe is helping people experiencing homelessness find appropriate housing as quickly as possible allowing them to get their lives back on track. From left: Kate Cleaver, Tara Ortega, Raquel Garcia, Rebecca Godfrey-Poe, Christa Curfiss**

Additionally, the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) will operate as a part of the new coordinated entry team, and is staffed by two Youth Navigators: Tara Ortega and Raquel Garcia. Prior to joining NMCEH, Tara worked at Youth Shelters in Santa Fe on their street outreach team developing valuable insight into the unique needs and strengths of our homeless youth. Raquel joins us with a background in education administration and a passion for serving families and youth in New Mexico. Lastly, my background is in case management with my previous job being a family navigator at Las Cumbres Community Services providing in-home services to CYFD involved families.

With our combined professional experiences and shared dedication to serving people experiencing homelessness, we look forward to working with service providers across the balance of state in improving outcomes and service provision quality.

## Advocating for A Better State Response to Homelessness

by Hank Hughes, Executive Director



*NMCEH Members and Friends sign in for a recent lobby day at the State Legislature.*

The upcoming legislative session offers a great opportunity to have the state of New Mexico provide a better response to homelessness. There is new interest in homelessness in the new administration and with many new members of the legislature. NMCEH will be advocating for the state to invest more resources in key areas to assist people experiencing homelessness

Rapid rehousing is a great solution for people who can work and eventually support themselves and consists of short term rental assistance along with assistance getting other support services.

For homeless people with disabilities, we will be advocating for more permanent supportive housing. Many homeless people suffer from behavioral or physical disabilities that prevent them from supporting themselves. The State already has a pilot project called Linkages, but it needs to be expanded to the entire state. We also recognize a need for some specialized housing with 24 hour services for people with severe behavioral health problems. We will be advocating for the state to invest \$16 million in capital outlay funding per year for three years to support construction of at least 300 units to meet this need.

NMCEH will be advocating for the state to add at least \$10 million to the affordable housing trust fund. The fund helps finance the development of new affordable housing for renters and low-income homeowners. NMCEH will also be advocating for the state to expand the SOAR program in New Mexico. SOAR is a program that provides professional advocates to help homeless people with disabilities get quick access to the disability benefits that could help support them.

Deep Prevention is a relatively new practice that we would like to bring to New Mexico and would involve increased funding for legal aid as well as flexible funding to assist households on the verge of homelessness to help them stay housed. If New Mexico decides to legalize and tax marijuana, NMCEH will advocate that some of the revenue be used to fund homeless assistance programs given the link between drug addiction and homelessness.

This is an ambitious agenda and we will need help advocating for all of these good things.

If you want to help email **Brie Sillery** at [Brie-S@nmceh.org](mailto:Brie-S@nmceh.org).

## Our Sincere Gratitude Goes Out to These Individuals & Organizations

**Thank You to Our Individual and Business Supporters (since previous newsletter)**

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Yvonne Nair  
Jennifer Sloane Warren  
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Nancy Wirth

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The **Con Alma Foundation** for generous support of our Supportive Housing Toolkit and the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project

The **Santa Fe Community Housing Trust** for its work developing Solaris Station apartments with 18 units dedicated to formerly homeless people.

Members of our Impartial and Independent Review Committees that help decide where best to invest our federal funding: **Greg Morris, Veronica Krupnick, Henrietta Correa, Stacey McGuire, Anita Dunmar, Lisa Howley, Eva Nevarez St. John, Trisstin Maroney, Natalie Michelback, Amy Whitfield, Bobby Sisneros, Debbie Johnson, Delores GomTrisstez, Tarl Heston, Abby Long.**

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**BeAnna Chavez**, *Coordinated Entry Navigator*  
**Kate Cleaver**, *Coordinated Entry Team Leader*  
**Victoria Cruz**, *Data Analyst*  
**Christa Curfiss**, *Coordinated Entry Navigator*  
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**Brie Sillery**, *Communication Strategist*

**Member Organizations and Individuals:** For a list of our 80 members, please go to [www.nmceh.org](http://www.nmceh.org)

## *The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness*



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### *The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness*

- *Creating more housing for homeless people*
- *Quickly connecting homeless people to housing*
- *Holding governments accountable*



## **Woman Escapes Domestic Violence**

**By Rebecca Godfrey-Peo, CES Navigator - Domestic Violence**

Experts in the field have established that being a victim of domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children. While domestic violence shelters historically have been safe havens for those fleeing domestic violence, stays are usually limited to fewer than three months, which often is not enough time for survivors to find housing and to find the supportive services that are needed to live safely.

Although she was provided an extension by a domestic violence shelter, a caseworker for a rural New Mexico victim service provider reached out to the NMCEH Santa Fe office for help because this client was at risk of becoming homeless after completing her stay at their shelter. Unfortunately, the lack of stable housing increases the risk for re-victimization. In the case of this client, she would have been especially vulnerable on the streets, given her extensive trauma history, as well as physical and mental health issues. Her situation was urgent. While not a long-term solution, it was decided that the NMCEH would provide transportation for the client to another victim service provider in the state, in order to prevent homelessness and to protect the survivor from her abuser. The Coalition, through the Coordinated Entry System and the recently-funded CES Navigator for Domestic Violence, will now work with the client to build rapport and trust and to support her in her goal of securing permanent supportive housing.

It is my goal as the CES Navigator for Domestic Violence to design and implement a system for use by agencies that serve victims of domestic violence so that their clients are able to access housing through the New Mexico Coordinated Entry System in a way that will not jeopardize their safety. It is expected that this refinement of the Coordinated Entry System, with the addition of an anonymous DV protocol, will take about a year to be fully functional; however, once in place, it should help survivors of domestic violence connect to housing and resources in a more efficient way.

For more information about this initiative, contact Rebecca Godfrey-Poe at [rebecca-p@nmceh.org](mailto:rebecca-p@nmceh.org).