

**SUMMARY OF ACTION  
QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER	The meeting of the Quality of Life Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Romero-Wirth via virtual meeting ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofsantafe">https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofsantafe</a> ) Wednesday May 6, 2020.	1
2. ROLL CALL	A quorum was established with roll call.	1
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Approved	1
4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA	Approved	1-2
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 15, 2020 QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING	Approved as amended	2
6. CONSENT – ACTION CALENDAR		2
a. Request for Approval of Public Utilities, Water Division 2020 Annual Operating Plan. (Jesse Roach, Water Division Director: <a href="mailto:jdroach@santafenm.gov">jdroach@santafenm.gov</a> 505-955-4309)	Passed on consent.	2
b. Request Approval of the HUD-required Annual Action Plan Describing the Proposed Use of Federal CDBG Funds for Program Year 2020-21. (Alexandra Ladd, Director, Office of Affordable Housing: <a href="mailto:agladd@santafenm.gov">agladd@santafenm.gov</a> 505-955-6346)	Passed on consent.	2
7. CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 5/6 UPDATE	Informational Only	2-5
8. CITY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID-19	Informational Only	5-10
9. MATTERS FROM STAFF	None	10
10. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE	None	10-11
11. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR	None	11
12. NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020		11
13. ADJOURN	With all business conducted, the Quality of Life Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.	11

**MINUTES OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
VIRTUALLY ATTENDED (<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofsantafe>)**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Quality of Life Committee was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Romero-Wirth via virtual meeting (<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofsantafe>) Wednesday May 6, 2020.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

**Members Present:**

Councilor Carol Romero-Wirth, Chair  
Councilor Christopher Rivera  
Councilor Michael Garcia  
Councilor Jamie Cassutt-Sanchez  
Councilor Renee Villarreal

**Members Absent:**

**Others Present:**

Kristine Mihelcic, Constituent Services  
Kyra Ochoa, Director of Community Services  
Regina Wheeler, Director of Public Works  
Rich Brown, Director of Economic Development  
Linda Vigil, Stenographer

**NOTE:** All items in the Committee packet for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Committee packet is on file in the Public Utilities Department and on the City of Santa Fe Website.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Garcia moved to approve the agenda with a second from Councilor Villarreal.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilors Garcia, Cassutt-Sanchez, Rivera, Villarreal, and Romero-Wirth voted in favor, which passed by roll call vote.

**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Councilor Villarreal moved to approve the consent agenda with a second from Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilors Garcia, Cassutt-Sanchez, Rivera, Villarreal, and Romero-Wirth voted in favor, which passed by roll call vote.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 15, 2020 QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Changes:

*Note to change Councilor Miguel Garcia to Councilor Michael Garcia.*

**MOTION:** Councilor Villarreal moved to approve the minutes as amended with a second from Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Councilors Garcia, Cassutt-Sanchez, Rivera, Villarreal, and Romero-Wirth voted in favor, which passed by roll call vote.

## **6. CONSENT – ACTION CALENDAR**

- a. **Request for Approval of Public Utilities, Water Division 2020 Annual Operating Plan. (Jesse Roach, Water Division Director: [idroach@santafenm.gov](mailto:idroach@santafenm.gov) 505-955-4309)**

This item was approved on consent.

- b. **Request Approval of the HUD-required Annual Action Plan Describing the Proposed Use of Federal CDBG Funds for Program Year 2020-21. (Alexandra Ladd, Director, Office of Affordable Housing: [agladd@santafenm.gov](mailto:agladd@santafenm.gov) 505-955-6346)**

This item was approved on consent.

## **7. CITY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 5/6 UPDATE (Kyra Ochoa, Community Services Director: [krochoa@santafenm.gov](mailto:krochoa@santafenm.gov) 505-955-6603) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

Ms. Ochoa asked that Regina Wheeler discuss the ground work at the Midtown Campus.

Ms. Ochoa explained it is staffed by Community Services Librarians and other City staff.

Ms. Wheeler explained the homeless population that they are serving. The guests are all tested and this gives them a safe place to be while they await results or recover. They are helping the hospitals and shelters as well as the recovery center in town. There is a broad need for those that need to isolate.

They created an emergency phone number (955-LIFE) that has been distributed all over the City. When they come low after recovering from COVID-19 they are taking them in a separate building. Right now, they have 38 residents. They started keeping service providers like NM Solutions to coordinate financial assurance. To help them get many services.

Ms. Wheeler explained there are staff members on shifts until 10pm. They are serving meals from Youthworks. They do not allow the residents to leave the property. The goal is to flatten the curve. The staff runs the errands for the guests. After they stay a few days, they have seen how critical the need is. It is rewarding they are all very grateful. It is complex. Espanola Hospital sent a patient. Some patients are dealing with substance abuse as well. NMDOH has a volunteer medical program who comes to check vitals daily to make sure they are all well.

Ms. Wheeler reported that a patient that was in their care was not getting better and tested negative was sent back to the hospital but was sent home in hospice for something unrelated.

They have many operations going on with Security, linen services, and maintenance of the building. There is 24/7 security inside of the building and outside of the campus.

Ms. Ochoa expressed her gratitude to Ms. Wheeler. She has really found the resources for the people there. The staff working there have a heart to connect to these people. They are all working on connecting them to long term housing.

Ms. Ladd also thanked Ms. Wheeler. This will all help in finding them a home and permanent solutions.

Chair Romero-Wirth states it is so interesting to see Ms. Wheeler's facial expressions when she speaks it is meaningful to her. It is bringing joy for her to help them.

Councilor Villarreal states she is happy to see Ms. Wheeler. She has been working hard. Councilor Villarreal would like to visit the site. Councilor Villarreal asked if they are utilizing the dorms or the apartments?

Ms. Wheeler states they are utilizing both the dorms and apartments. The COVID-19 positive patients or guests are in the Sangre De Cristo dorms. Once they recover they are moved to the Ortiz apartments.

Ms. Wheeler explained Ms. Pond and Mr. Garduno have taken over and are running things well. Mr. Anderson used to volunteer at Pete's Place so he has been helpful. John Singh is in charge of the Homeless Court, he is working on their warrants and helping them get ID's.

There are nearly ten other staff members working the campus. They are going to be needing some more staff since the library staff is needing to be at the library.

Councilor Villarreal would like them to find a way to get some reprieve so they do not get burned out.

Ms. Wheeler states there are two firemen on light duty that may come in to help soon.

Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez thanked them for an incredible job they have done it is a big undertaking. She sees them throwing some resources at this situation has really allowed progress. It is unfortunate that they have to deal with it she would like to hear about the ground work after the response.

Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez wants to make sure with the shift coming soon to Midtown they don't let go of the progress and what are the next steps.

Ms. Ochoa states the built to zero strategy has a housing burst model. They need to learn what kind of housing they need. They know a lot of the population now with the daily interactions. Youthworks delivers the meals so they know who they are as well. They are working on a list that will help get them in the system.

None of them want the key component to go away, it doesn't need to be there exactly. NM Solutions is a County funded mental health service. That will be a key element on the crisis center for the community. They can figure out how to stabilize it. They will get closer to the build to zero goal.

Ms. Wheeler added that getting them housed will have to include supporting housing like this. Right now while they are the Midtown campus the security deters the bad friend elements. Independent living for substance abuse is necessary. There are so many cases where the guests are challenged. It is a big piece of the puzzle.

Ms. Ladd states there is some extra HUD resources that are available they can turn it to carry them into the future to create options for them.

Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez would like a list of staff members and would love to recognize them Ms. Wheeler will provide that to them.

Councilor Rivera thanked them the work is important. As the resources come in from HUD it would be nice to get a rundown on the numbers of what it costs to run this. So they may be prepared.

Ms. Wheeler states that Sam Burnett has been doing that. They have kept track of the supplies and they can provide a report and personnel costs to continue it.

Councilor Garcia thanked the team, it is a huge undertaking. He would like to know the next steps and how can they further support the housing needs for the homeless. Do they have any ideas that they hadn't seen before?

Ms. Ochoa states they had an inkling about needs and they were working on strategies to create those units. With help from Community Solutions they have some technical assistance. What they learned is the depth of the need for another La Luz type service. There are options for people but they are specific to the person. What is exciting is it takes the pressures off the shelter. They cannot speak highly enough about the shelters here.

Ms. Wheeler added that she is seeing the people can contribute to the community. They want to do things and help. It can be integrated so they can be productive. They just need a model that is flexible.

Councilor Garcia asked if they are exploring opportunities to bring them to the workforce and train them.

Ms. Wheeler states they are focused on the crisis. However, when the stay at home order is lifted it could change.

Ms. Ochoa states they are going to bring them into the Connect system and help them with DVR and Workforce Solutions issues.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked if they are looking at the budget and doing some searching for their role in how big or small the City will be as a partner?

Ms. Ochoa states they will definitely look at the HUD funding sources, she did a survey on how all different City divisions deal with homeless and how much it costs them to address it. There may be ways to continue to invest in solving the problem.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked what are there volunteer roles at the Midtown campus? Is there a role for them? How can people help?

Ms. Wheeler explained they get clothes and items they need from donations. A church made some care packages. Some other ways are perhaps some motivational talks. There is a huge opportunity depending on the liability issues.

Chair Romero-Wirth states it would be good to know donations are valuable.

**8. CITY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO FOOD SECURITY DURING COVID-19.  
(Richard Brown, Economic Development Director: [rdbrown@santafenm.gov](mailto:rdbrown@santafenm.gov) 505-955-6625) (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

Mr. Brown has a presentation and has some subject experts available for specific questions.

Mr. Brown showed the national data on the food insecurity issues. In 2018 there was some momentum in the economy. Right now Santa Fe County is flattening the curve compared to other areas in the State.

At the last meeting there were specific questions about unemployment and the economy. In Santa Fe the unemployment rate is at 10%, there is a loss of GRT, and there is an increase in economic uncertainty.

Mr. Brown discussed the scarce food at home is an issue. The Schools are serving meals however there is about 10,000 kids that either cannot make it to pick up the meals. Mr. Rinaldi will discuss how the senior meals are delivered later in the meeting.

Mr. Brown states there are 4,850 Santa Fe residents that have been tested and 108 positive cases. Mr. Brown states they are working on the housing, food, transportation and jobs.

Mr. Brown wants assure them that once they stabilize the economy and the guests of the Midtown campus they will pursue grants to help get them trained.

Mr. Brown explained there are food pantry boxes available. At times there are 700 cars per weekend at the distribution areas. Youthworks is serving food all over the City with three meals a day.

Mr. Brown explained the CDC states there will be a "W" shape outcome. Not sure how wide it will be it may flare up in the summer or fall. They are looking at long term food security. He will look at the monthly costs and get a report for the committee.

Mr. Brown discussed the food supply chain uncertainty. They are working with food distributors like Shamrock Foods. For the training and development, they are working with the Kaufman Foundation.

Mr. Brown explained that the funding comes from Foundations, Community Services and SF County as well as private donors. SFCC has a fund they are funding the World Central Kitchens program there. They will have to adjust it to last the FY21.

Mr. Brown expressed his thank to the SF Place Mall, Santa Fe Police and Transit. There is a plan in place for this weekend's distribution.

There is a virtual LemonAid event that is a fundraiser with music. They will donate to the Connect program.

Chair Romero-Wirth asked that the speakers are all precise and they can dive further in to some of the topics at another meeting.

*Jennifer Romero- Santa Fe County*

Ms. Romero explained that Ms. Ochoa started the work on the program before she went to the City. Ms. Romero gave a rundown of the criteria for their program.

Ms. Romero ran a report from their data management system. She ran a report pre pandemic since April 2019 when they started they serviced 1,020 individuals. In the last month they have seen 147 of the recorded individuals. She can see housing and shelter has a 31% need. In the last month that moved up 47%. For food need it jumped up 17% from 9%.

Ms. Romero states they had conversations with the City to partner with the SFCC, Salvation Army, World Central Kitchen, Youthworks and the Street Food Institute that started this last week. They started with 13 programs, it has been over a year and there are over 50 organizations now. They are now working with 90 navigators.

The navigators that are working on cases are getting data in the system. The gaps are to provide food the homebound individuals that aren't seniors. They are those trying to isolate or are homebound because of other illnesses. The Food Depot was seeing the same issue. They are going to work on a contract to get more food. They will get Santa Fe Valet to do the distribution. They have identified two areas in the County where there are places they can conduct a large food drop off. It can come in through other organizations.

*Shirley Hooper-The Food Depot*

Ms. Hooper states they looked at how they could get the food out and do it safely. They set up drive through food distributions. On Thursdays they offer food bags on Saturday from 9 am to 11 am. They began them at Capitol but there were issues. They are back at Siler but SF Place Mall will be used this Saturday.

There are 3,500-4,000 people being served at the Santa Fe Distributions. They get some information and have them open their trunk and the volunteers place the food in. The food provides up to 30-40 meals.

Ms. Hooper thanked Mr. Brown for finding other distribution locations SFPD for traffic control. They are also working with other partners for more distributions to include La Familia, CIS, United Way, Senior Services, Living Community, Santa Fe Indian Center.

Since this started they have had 30 semi-trucks of food.

*Robert Egger-World Central Kitchen*

Mr. Egger from World Central Kitchen is a private citizen who thought this was a good opportunity. Mr. Egger thanked Ms. Wheeler. He has helped job training programs and is willing to help in any way he can.

Mr. Egger states he worked with the City and it found the Community Convention Center was not adequate. He then found the SFCC had the Culinary program. The students can be activated and get credit while they work.

Mr. Egger explained the Youthworks group delivers. Their meals are served family style. They are doing about 1,500 meals a week at the drive up which is Monday, Wednesday

and Fridays. They are doing 1,800 meals with the County this week. They will deliver 1,000 meals to the Pueblos. They will have meals for the Dreamers program. They will soon have a food truck on a daily basis that maybe in smaller communities.

He states they are privately funded that will be here for 30-60 days, they do not compete. Any media he has used it to promote the local services as the real needs in the community.

*Melynn Schuyler-Youthworks*

Ms. Schuyler states they have been preparing 6,500 meals a week. Some is funded by CYFD for youth up to the age of 18. The SFPS has helped with the curbside pickup they are out there five days a week. The staff is part of the culinary youth program.

They met with Robert Egger months ago to brainstorm before the pandemic they naturally attached to be the distributor for World Center Kitchens. They have partnered with the City and County. They have been delivering to the Green Tree Hotel where the Pete's Place guests are housed to get a warm dinner.

They are working on the weekend they have a huge team of 28 members. Between the drivers and the cooks in the kitchen. They are also helping a four-person meal into the CIS food box and lending drivers to CIS. That's another way they are helping to get to those who can't get to the distributions center. They are also helping the Kitchen Angels with surplus meals.

Ms. Schuyler states they are helping with the aggregate farmers for produce that goes into the meals.

*Gino Rinaldi-Senior Services*

Mr. Rinaldi discussed how they changed their services when they were asked to close the Senior Centers and move to home delivery. They had about 270 meals and the other seniors would visit the sites. Today they are averaging 280 on the home deliveries and increased the congregate meals to others to about 400 a day.

The conversion to home delivery was a challenge the staff stepped up and really helped it was all new to them. The entire staff has changed the nature of what they do. They are averaging about 4,000 meals a week. They are partnering with the Food Depot they took them to about 150 bags and they get more calls daily.

They have curbside services for those who get home deliveries, they set up the 57-60 meals a day. They have begun doing wellness checks for those who used to visit the sites every day. They are finding they have some other needs. We have a program where they provide vouchers to grandparents who are raising grandkids. They are starting to look at trying to feed the grandkids as well.

Mr. Rinaldi states they are running out of the ways to keep the food warm. They have 17 routes and are trying to get the food out in a timely manner. The Seniors are thanking them daily.

Mr. Rinaldi was pretty well prepared with supplies before the pandemic. The uncertainty is a challenge but they are pushing on.

*Rich Henrich- Virtual LemonAid*

Mr. Henrich explained that there are several groups that got together to discuss this event.

They are partnering with Connect and All Together NM to have a broad reach and activate the creative community. The event is Friday May 8, 2020 at 8pm. It will be on their website, Facebook Live, Youtube, Instagram Live and local channels. They want to raise \$50,000. They started fundraising and have \$6,000 now. They will pay 40% to Connect 40% to All Together NM and split 20% to the artists.

They have nationally familiar artists like David Burn from Talking Heads Fred Snyder B52's Steve Copeland from The Police will help bring National attention. They want to give a back to the creative channels.

Mr. Brown states there a lot of dedicated souls to keep the City stabilized from a food security standpoint.

Chair Romero-Wirth thanked them all and allowed Councilors to ask questions.

Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez thanked everyone for the different systems. How are they matching the food response to the individuals with food bags and prepared meals, they all have costs and challenges.

Mr. Brown that is difficult the pandemic has hit them hard and they are looking at the needs right now. For example, they setup housing at Midtown not knowing how many guests they would get. Youthworks jumped in and helped. Like, World Center Kitchens has helped fill in the gap with the school meals and others.

The data will help with the policy making. Once the data gets collected they can answer it more.

Councilor Cassutt-Sanchez understands there is an initial wave and they have to ride it out. How is their capacity? If it peaks will they have resources? She is worried about burnout.

Ms. Hooper states they are in the process of putting their projection report she will share once it is complete. There haven't been any issues with food. They work with other Food Banks when there is a surplus. They have a good network of wholesale vendors to purchase from. They have spent \$600,000 on food purchases. A lot of the donation comes from grocery stores however with the shortages they haven't had a lot. Meat processing shortages may interfere. They have been able to get milk from a dairy. She is most concerned with funding.

Mr. Rinaldi states this is the new normal it is complicated. They are having to rethink how they are trying to look at how they can reduce the home delivered meals with other collaborations. It depends on the City's economy and the decisions on staffing and budget.

Mr. Egger states he can observe the greenhouse and other opportunities and resources can be retooled. The elderly age is coming he is happy to help with ideas.

Ms. Romero states they are working together to fill in the gaps. The data will tell them where resources will be worthwhile. They need to continue the collaborations.

Councilor Villarreal thanked all those on the call this evening, she appreciates their time. Is SFPS contributing to the food security network?

Ms. Schuyler states hasn't seen any cash come out of the District. They are staffing the curbside meals they hit their max and are helping them access a second kitchen. They are challenged with the virtual teaching right now.

Councilor Villarreal asked if anyone is using another location for anything.

Ms. Schuyler states they are using the El Rancho de los Golondinras kitchen they have had some talk about other kitchens around town. Mr. Egger stated the City's Convention Center has a kitchen that is idle. Things were idle and now people are coordinating and partnering. Chair Romero-Wirth recalls the Presbyterian Hospital has a community kitchen.

Mr. Rinaldi states they are using the kitchen at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center but it was too small for the amount of meals they were preparing. They are going to use the Pasatiempo kitchen. The Food Policy Council has had good conversations on how to utilize produce and those are still on the table.

Councilor Villarreal states the food farms the NM dairies and farms losing milk. Are there local farms willing to work with them?

Ms. Hooper states there are several federal programs trying to defer that waste. There is very little waste in NM. NM Farmers Markets have been working on boxes.

## **9. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

Ms. Faubion thanked everyone for the information.

Ms. Ochoa is happy this Committee was formed the or they know who is need the better they can make their policy decisions and utilize resources.

## **10. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

None.

**11. MATTERS FROM THE CHAIR**

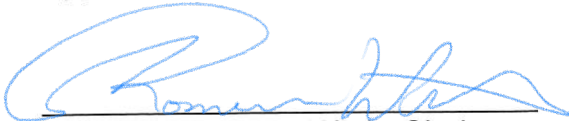
None.

**12. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

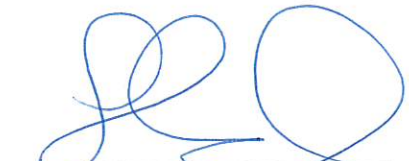
**13. ADJOURN**

With all business conducted, the Quality of Life Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved:



Councilor Romero-Wirth, Chair



Linda Vigil, Stenographer