Recently, Good Sheppard made the following process decision regarding access to their "medical beds":

AHCH (Albuquerque Health care for the Homeless) must assess each patient for a medical respite bed before Good Sheppard approves it. Brother Charles explained that he is requiring this because he feels that all the hospitals have sent inappropriate referrals to Good Shepherd of patients needing a higher level of care than just a bed with no medical attention.

We have been working with Julie Rosen at AHCH. They have no leverage over those beds as they are not reimbursing for them. AHCH is happy to work with us to accommodate this process, but they would require that we have a bed and transportation back for any patient we send for a medical evaluation. She understands that we cannot hold a bed open like that. This requirement essentially makes those beds unavailable. She is open to any suggestions.

Please remember that the beds at Good Sheppard are not really medical. The shelter is staffed by folks who are residents of the residential program there. There is no medical or clinical staff in the shelter. There is no one to supervise medication administration. This is a shelter.

So we really are down to the beds at Albuquerque Opportunity Center, or AHCH hotel voucher beds. The community group addressing the need for respite care continues. This emphasizes the important need.