

MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

January 21, 2022

Introduction

Pursuant to the Court Approved Settlement Agreement in *U.S. v. The City of Albuquerque*, the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) was created to “assist in identifying and developing solutions and interventions that are designed to lead to improved outcomes for individuals perceived to be or actually suffering from mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.” *See* Second Amended and Restated Court-Approved Settlement Agreement (Doc. 465-1), ¶ 111 (July 30, 2019).

Accordingly, MHRAC members have been given an opportunity to reconsider the following:

2.17 ACS WELLNESS CHECKS

MHRAC Recommendation(s)

MHRAC recognizes that essential to this SOP, and fundamental to the Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS), is the dynamic between ACS and the individuals they seek to serve in the community. In this context, MHRAC recommends that with respect to policy, practice, or data-keeping, ACS should replace any use of the words such as “refused” or “resisted” services with “declined services.”

MHRAC believes this recommendation conforms to a more person-centered approach that honors both the needs and desires of the individual, without attributing blame where the services offered do not meet their needs. This recommendation will serve to benefit the relationship between ACS and its clients.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this feedback and for the continued collaboration on improving outcomes for our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Max Kauffman and Rachel Biggs
MHRAC Co-Chairs