

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett	Crisis Intervention Division
Chief E. Jaramillo/BC C. Ortiz	Albuquerque Fire Rescue
Dr. Nicole Duranceaux	APD Behavioral Science Section
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom	Bernalillo County Behavioral Health
Ryan Delaware	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Mariela Ruiz-Angel/Walter Adams	Albuquerque Community Safety
Robert Salazar	Peer Representation
Paula Burton	Peer Representative
Gilbert Ramirez	Health, Housing, and Homelessness
Rachel Biggs	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless
Mary Perez	UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Det. Coty Maxwell	Crisis Intervention Division
Jane Garland	NAMI Albuquerque
Bernice Varela	Crossroads for Women
Wendy Linebrink-Allison	Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico

Introduction to MHRAC

The Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC) was created by the Court Approved Settlement Agreement (CASA). We've been around since day one and have a focus on three areas, resources, and resources being available to access different things within the city that APD and first responders can use as it impacts homelessness and mental health issues. We are also involved in training and policy; training is one of those things we made a tremendous impact on. As far as the training that is offered. Policies are one of those things where the MHRAC is involved with assisting in writing approving, and recommending policy as it relates again to the narrow focus; we think narrow, but sometimes it gets pretty wide-focused on how law enforcement interacts with those experiencing homelessness and those experiencing a mental health crisis.

Attendance of Board Members

Fifteen of the Seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Liz De Kinder – Community member

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Rachel Biggs

2nd Motion – Paula Burton

Minutes from the July 2024 meeting were approved.

Fathom Summary

Public Comment (Two minutes per person)

None

New MHRAC Board Member Nomination(s)

None

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update

Karen Boise, Division Manager, ACS Organizational Growth and Community Relations, and Jodie Esquibel from ACS provided updates on the ACS responder academy, which is currently in week 5 of training. Jodie also shared that she has transitioned into the permanent ACS director role.

Gateway Center Update

Gilbert Ramirez from the Gibson Health Hub provided updates on the new first responder drop-off area that opened at the Gateway facility on June 17th. This allows first responders to bring individuals in crisis to Gateway instead of the criminal justice system. The group discussed opportunities to provide input on the policies and procedures for this new service.

Jennifer McDonald is the new Gate Way Operations Officer who came in June. She previously worked at CNM.

A/Sgt. Shannon Miera informed everyone that the Crisis Intervention Division filmed a video for our staff to show them how to access the new receiving area along with the map and all the First Responder Information Regina shared. It will be published this week and then a YouTube link will be available to share.

CIU, APD, and BSS Update

APD Commander Gerard Bartlett shared updates on increased coordination between APD and ACS, as well as the CIT's recent outreach operations. He requested feedback on potentially having MHRAC members join the CIT on some of these outreach events.

Dr Nicole Duranceaux, Medical Director of the APD Behavioral Sciences Section (BSS) says that they are still working on supporting our model of support for officers and APD personnel and their families. We are trying to coordinate a safe LEO training that focuses on suicide prevention.

Sergeant Matt Tinney highlighted that one of the detectives, Coty Maxwell, received an award from APD this month for Community Outreach Officer of the Month.

MHRAC Final Discussion

Rio Rancho Police Officer, Mason Blinstrub, and the group discussed an upcoming Supreme Court ruling on anti-camping ordinances.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52

The MHRAC Meeting Fathom Full Transcript is available upon an email request to bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2024

