

MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

February 18, 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). Further, MHRAC “shall also be responsible for considering new and current response strategies for dealing with chronically homeless individuals[.]” *Id.* at ¶ 113.

Accordingly, MHRAC members have been given an opportunity to analyze:

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS: *The Omicron Variant of COVID-19, What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know*, attached (January, 2022).

MHRAC Recommendation(s)

Upon review and discussion of the attached guidance from the US interagency Council of Homelessness, MHRAC recommends that the City of Albuquerque promptly adopt the five (5) strategies stated therein.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Max Kauffman and Rachel Biggs
MHRAC Co-Chairs