**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)**

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2024

Via Zoom

**Board Members in Attendance**

Cmdr. M. Dietzel Crisis Intervention Division

Dr. Nicole Duranceaux APD Behavioral Science Services

Betty Whiton NAMI

Mariela Ruiz-Angel /Jodie Esquibel Albuquerque Community Safety

Chief Emily Jaramillo Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Mary Perez UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Robert Salazar Peer Representation

Coty Maxwell Crisis Intervention Division

Paula Burton Peer Representative

Bernice Varela Crossroads for Women

Dr. David Ley New Mexico Solutions

Wendy Linebrink-Allison New Mexico Crisis Line

Ryan Delaware Albuquerque Health Care for the Homeless

**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.

**Fathom Summary**

**Introductions and Welcome**

* Representatives from various organizations introduced themselves, including new members and guests.

**The Proposed Ordinance to Codify MHRAC**

* The group discussed a draft ordinance proposed by Andrew Magida, to officially codify the advisory role of MHRAC within city operations. Concerns were raised around proper community input and legal procedures.

**Officer Wellness Program and Mandated Check-ins**

* Dr. Nicole Duranceaux updated the group on APD's expanded wellness program, including required annual mental health check-ins for officers. She reported positive feedback and increased engagement with behavioral health support.

**Behavioral Health Referrals and Lack of Resources**

* Matt Tinney reported over 500 referrals in January, with only 120 assigned and many lacking services due to capacity issues. Partners discussed strategies to improve warm hand-offs and outreach to vulnerable individuals in crisis.

**Legislative Updates on Behavioral Health Bills**

* Commander Dietzel and Dr. Ley discussed impactful bills around competency restoration, waiting periods for firearms, and increased funding for the behavioral health workforce. Setbacks were reported but optimism remained for future progress.

**Subcommittee Report on Info Sharing and Training**

* Dr. Ley reported on coordination improvements between agencies in transporting individuals for involuntary evaluations. The group recognized the ongoing need for collaborative solutions to complex situations.

**Roll call of Board Members, Rachel Biggs**

Twelve of fifteen MHRAC Members were in attendance.

**Welcome First-Time Guests**

Justin Quintana, Psychiatry Resident for UNM.

I am doing my rotation in the community and I just did a rotation with Michael Lucero and the Crisis Intervention Division, Follow-up Team.

Ryan Delaware, Behavioral Health Clinical Director at Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless (AHCH).

Connie Elizabeth Vigil, Behavioral Health Lobby.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

1st Motion – Commander Dietzel

2nd Motion – Robert Salazar

Minutes from the January 2024 meeting were approved.

**Public Comment (Two minutes per person)**

Connie Elizabeth Vigil

* We’re looking at developing policies and looking at the best models.
* We have had quite a bit of participation on the state level, and we did get three representatives from the county going to Miami-Dade Recovery Center last October.
* There was a city representative, Jody Jackson, from ACS, and I hope to get more people involved in a program that is the leading model.
* They have every piece of the puzzle so far as treating someone. I hope that that could be used as a role model.
* We also are going to meet with the governor's office next month because unfortunately, there was not any major funding for facilities in this past legislative session.

Anami Dass

* This is an update on the resolution I mentioned during the presentation to MHRAC back in November.
* The City Council will introduce it at the next meeting, which I believe is tomorrow.
* That is the one that mirrors the changes from last year's HB 2007 on a state level and puts those same changes into the human rights ordinance, thus prohibiting discrimination against people with mental disabilities, amongst others.

**Nomination of New Board Members, if any, Rachel Biggs**

David Ley who worked with Ryan for many years nominated Ryan Delaware to be an MHRAC Board Member. The recommendation came from Rachel Biggs, MHRAC Co-chair. Ryan works at Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless and has been working with the homeless community for 10 years here in Albuquerque. MHRAC Board Member, Wendy Linebrink-Allison seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor of Ryan Delaware being appointed to the MHRAC Board.

**Albuquerque Community Safety Department (ACS) Update, Walter Adams**

* AFR CAD System to APD CAD System
* ACS is now under the APD CAD System as opposed to the AFR CAD System
* We launched the graveyard shift in August of 2023. On transports only during the graveyard shift from August through February 2nd between the hours of 8 p.m. and 7 a.m., we completed 579 transports from shelter to hospitals to service providers, and 260 of those were specifically to a shelter.
* From January 15th to February 2nd we did emergency transports for 144 people to get them off the street when the temperatures were low.

**Gibson Health Hub, Family and Community Services, Gilbert Ramirez**

There was no update.

**MHRAC Ordinance Update, Andrew Magida**

* I drafted a bill that would codify MHRAC when the CASA is sort of dissolved so that MHRAC can continue organizing the city.
* The administration is very interested in seeing the bill.
* Incomplete Parts are several suggestions from David and Rachel so I left some blanks in there.
* I anticipate being able to make those revisions before the next MHRAC meeting.

**CIU, APD, and BSS Report and update, Commander Dietzel, Dr. Duranceaux, Lt. Lowry, and Sgt. Tinney**

* Commander Dietzel informed the MHRAC group of his upcoming retirement and introduced the new CIU Commander, Gerard Bartlett.
* Dr. Duranceaux introduced the newest clinician to the CIU, Tricia Baca. She mentioned that she would like to bring in a third clinician.
* The MHRAC has looked at the Behavioral Sciences SOP and given feedback on it. That SOP is still in the process but it is a little bit stalled because it is out of cycle.
* APD SOP 1-36 Wellness Program will be coming to the MHRAC this afternoon. It focuses on the wellness of APD employees.
* All officers from the Chief of Police down come in at least on an annual basis or check in with the Behavioral Sciences mental health professionals.
* Sgt. Tinney said in January the CIU had 531 referrals and he was able to assign 120 of them and refer 36. The majority are having to go to CET because ACS is not able to take referrals from our division at this point. This means 375 folks who need services are left without any linkage.
* We are being tasked to do more gun violence reduction and suppression randomly so that has taken most of our time.
* I am still looking for help with resources out there to forward these police requests to get folks into services.
* Sgt. Tinney tracked the numbers. Access to this data was not available during the staffing study.
* Suggestions about this situation were given by the MHRAC group.

**Legislature Update, David Ley and Commander Dietzel**

* There were some legislative issues related to behavioral health and justice king of matters that went before the legislation this year. I know two significant competency bills generated a whole lot of controversy. I believe that neither of those advanced to the floor were passed. I think that there were a lot of concerns about how those would be implemented and the impact of them. There's a lot of discussion, I think, around trying to address and change some of these issues, but nothing got very far in the legislature.
* That is right on with the competency docket issue. I'm on the London Mexico Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health and Competency and we have a meeting on Thursday with the first meeting post-legislative session. I do know that the pilot project or this judicial district is moving forward and that's essentially going to be what the law was trying to change. But it’s voluntary, all parties have to agree. It is just a test kind of thing. The training for those new forensic navigators, kind of boundary spanner type people is April 5th. So that program will be starting hopefully soon after that.
* There were also a couple of behavioral health-specific bills that I'm happy to report that behavioral health agencies got $10 million in the state budget to support behavioral health agencies' costs for providing clinical supervision to help therapists develop an independent licenser.
* We also got a bill, a memorial that was passed that requires the state to do a study on the administrative burden on behavioral health providers, specifically the paperwork, the audits, the site plans for data, and everything else that takes our time away from providing services to patients.
* There is going to be a Medicaid rate increase that behavioral health providers fought hard for that will be going into effect on January 1.

**MHRAC Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update, David Ley**

* We now have one sub-committee, Training and Infosharing Sub-committee
* We met in January and had a robust and fruitful discussion of training activities, info, etc.

**AFR, APD, ACS Transportation Update, David Ley, Commander Dietzel, and Chief Ortiz, AFR**

* In the subcommittee meeting we discussed a situation that occurred between an individual in a wheelchair to whom my agency had issued a Certificate of Evaluation (C of E). This lady refused to be transported by ambulance which led to complications and back-and-forth communication between my agency, APD, and AFR. It all eventually worked out and she did voluntarily get transported.
* Chief Ortiz reminded us that a C of E is an order on the police not on the fire department, and not on the ambulance.
* ACS has a wheelchair-accessible van that can be used by APD or MCT if people have mobility issues and need to be transported to a hospital but cannot be transported in a police car and refuse to be transported in an ambulance.
* We historically have worked closely with ACS and APD in terms of coming up with policy and procedure. We cannot force somebody against their will. A Certificate of Evaluation is strictly a law enforcement order.
* We talked about consortium and they are familiar with the process. We’ve asked our providers to reach out to the consortium to let them know there is a certificate of evaluation kind of situation if there is some sort of disagreement on the scene between the officers, the clinicians, and the providers.
* Although we’re operating under different statutes, we have still been collaborative in the whole process. We just continue to work together because ultimately, we’re just trying to get folks to definitive care and we don’t want to have these conversations in front of the client or the consumer.
* We want to just have solid bedded plans that each agency operates under so we know what od do next.

**MHRAC Final Discussion**

None

**Next meeting: March 19, 2023**