

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett
Chief E. Jaramillo/BC C.Ortiz
Dr. Nicole Duranceaux
Dr. Wayne Lindstrom
Ryan Delaware
Betty Whiton
Mariela Ruiz-Angel/Jasmine Desiderio
Robert Salazar
Paula Burton
Gilbert Ramirez
Dr. David Ley
Rachel Biggs
Mary Perez

Crisis Intervention Division
Albuquerque Fire Rescue
APD Behavioral Science Section
Bernallio County Behavioral Health
Albuq. Healthcare for the Homeless
NAMI
Albuquerque Community Safety
Peer Representation
Peer Representative
Health, Housing, and Homelessness
New Mexico Solutions
Albuq. Healthcare for the Homeless
UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

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

Thirteen of the Seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Zoe Robb, New Mexico Coalition to end Homelessness

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Rachel Biggs

2nd Motion – David Ley

Minutes from the June 2024 meeting were approved.

Fathom Summary

Public Comment (Two minutes per person)

Zoe Robb from the New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness raised a follow-up on the process for people to get their belongings back that have been taken during encampment sweeps. The group discussed the need to have the Health Housing and Homelessness Department (HHH) provide an update on this policy and procedure at the next meeting.

New MHRAC Co-Chair Nomination

Rachel Biggs nominated Ryan Delaware, Clinical Director, Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless, and a licensed clinical social worker with over a decade of experience serving this population, to become the new MHRAC co-chair alongside Mary Perez. The committee voted to approve Ryan as the new co-chair.

Dr. David Ley seconded the motion and none of the Board Members opposed the nomination.

Dr. David Ley nominated Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Deputy County Manager, of Bernalillo County Behavioral Health. The County Commission passed a behavioral health ordinance and Dr. Lindstrom's position was part of a set of recommendations from the working group that eventually led to the ordinance, his position, and creating of a new behavioral health division as a behavioral health authority for the County.

Betty Whiton seconded the motion and none of the Board Members opposed the nomination.

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 came in June. She previously worked at CNM.

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 ADP 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, Cody 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.

Adjourned

The meeting was then adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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