

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett	Crisis Intervention Division
Chief E. Jaramillo	Albuquerque Fire Rescue
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
Jane Garland	NAMI Albuquerque
Bernice Varela	Crossroads for Women
Betty Whiton	NAMI Representative and Liaison BHPC, BHI

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

The roll call was taken by Brenda Vigil-Gallegos. Twelve of the seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Sharon Walton, APD Policy and Training
Jeri Barros Vera, UNM Community Health
Nina Chavez, Goodwill

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Gilbert Ramirez
2nd Motion – iPhone-no name
Minutes from the August 2024 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

None

Fathom Summary

MHRAC member nominations

The group discussed and approved the nomination of Ellen Braden made by Gilbert Ramirez to rejoin the MHRAC committee, replacing outgoing member Gilbert Ramirez who was thanked for his 6 years of service.

CIU Bi-Annual Report

cabq.gov/police/documents/ciu_semi_annual_report_jan_june_2024-final

Dr. Amalie McKee presented a detailed report on APD's Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU), covering topics such as contact sheet data, use of force incidents, and demographic breakdowns. Key insights included a decrease in mental health transports, an increase in contact sheet completion rates, and ongoing efforts to improve data collection and analysis. The report can be found at

ACS update

Walter Adams from the Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) department provided an update on their call volume and response, noting a significant increase in ACS calls compared to a decline in APD behavioral health calls, indicating a successful transition of these types of calls to the ACS team.

Gateway Center Update

Ellen Braden provided an update on the Gateway Center, including the first responder drop-off site, the upcoming opening of a medical sobering center and respite services, and the status of the encampment policy.

CIU, APD, and BSS Updates

Commander Gerard Bartlett gave updates on the Crisis Intervention Unit and increased outreach efforts, and collaboration with community partners like CORA.

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos gave an update on behalf of Dr. Duranceaux, on the Behavioral Sciences Section, and expressed gratitude for the excellent work on the CIU Report. She also included staffing changes and the opportunity for clinicians to apply for the available positions.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos informed the group that the sub-committee did not meet in August.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29

The full Fathom transcript of the MHRAC Meeting is available upon request, email bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov. The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2024.