

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett

Chief E. Jaramillo

Dr. Wayne Lindstrom

Robert Salazar

Paula Burton

Ellen Braden

Rachel Biggs

Jane Garland

Bernice Varela

Betty Whiton

Dr. N. Duranceaux

Dr. D. Ley

Coty Maxwell

Crisis Intervention Division

Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Bernalillo County Behavioral Health

Peer Representation

Peer Representative

Health, Housing, and Homelessness

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

NAMI Albuquerque

Crossroads for Women

NAMI Representative and Liaison BHPC, BHI

APD Behavioral Sciences Section

New Mexico Solutions

APD Crisis Intervention Division Detective

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. Thirteen of the seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Rosella Sanchez, Protocall introduces Weltrack

Horace Hackney, APD Mobile Crisis Team Clinician

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Bernice Varela

2nd Motion – Betty Whiton

Minutes from the September 2024 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

Liz De Kinder

Q. Do we have representation from UNM Psychiatric?

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

None

The committee discussed the process for nominating new members, encouraging interested parties to reach out to the co-chairs.

Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (eCIT) Update

Commander Gerard Bartlett provided an overview of the ECIT program, including the training requirements and the recent feedback from the Force Review Board about officers not meeting the expected standards. The committee discussed potential ways to increase gatekeeping and maintain fidelity in the ECIT program, including the possibility of a smaller subcommittee to further review the issue.

The Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) is comprised of specially-trained, uniformed sworn personnel who function as specialists to respond to calls involving individuals affected by behavioral health disorders or who are experiencing behavioral health crises.

- Beginning steps/current gatekeeping
 - Letter of rec from CIT Coordinator/letter of rec from supervisor
 - No minimum time/must have completed 40 hour CIT
- ECIT – extra 8 hours of training initially
 - Working with those experiencing a crisis from an elevated position
 - Taking the lead on crisis calls
 - Review behavioral health issues
 - Requires 8-hour in-service training every 2 years

Approximately 62 % of the FSB is ECIT trained/currently certified as of October 2024. There is a pay incentive associated with collateral ECIT certification and is one of the first available enhanced training for patrol officers.

The group was informed on policy sanctions, the lower the sanction number the more severe the offense; the higher the sanction number indicates less of an offense.

- 3 Strike Program for ECIT
 - Removal from the program at 3 or more strikes within 12 month period.
 - If multiple strike criteria are present during the same incident, each criteria will be considered individually.
- Founded citizen complaint related to response to Behavioral Health – 2 strikes
- Founded discipline related to response to behavioral health
 - Sanction 7 or 6 – 1 strike
 - Sanction 5 or 4 - 2 strikes
 - Sanction 3 or higher - 3 strikes
- Founded discipline related to Code of Conduct – 3 strikes

- Mandatory Training Referral – 1 strike
- Once at least 3 strikes are identified, a proposal for removal from the program will be presented to the CIU Commander for approval.
- After removal, eligibility for re-application into the program will be at the discretion of CIU Coordinators.
- The Chief or his designee will also hold discretion for individual removal from the program

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update

Jodie Esquibel from ACS provided updates on the upcoming academy and changes to the training format.

Gateway Center and Health, Housing, & Homelessness Update

Ellen Braden from the Gateway_Center discussed the plans for winter sheltering, the new Gateway West operator, and the upcoming presentation on the encampment policy. It was decided that the Encampment policy would be reviewed and discussed at the MHRAC Sub-committee meeting on October 28, 2024. Ellen mentioned inviting City Legal Attorney Lauren Keefe to assist with the Encampment “draft” policy review and answer questions.

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CIU, APD, and BSS Update

The APD CIU has hired a new MCT Officer, Nathan Berget. He should be starting at the end of the month. We have a new MCT Clinician hired by ACS, Horace Hackney, who just completed OJT. We also hired a new Crisis Intervention Coordinator Sergeant, Jeff Bludworth and we got a Deputy Commander, Matt McElroy. He will be working with the Transit Safety Unit (TSU) and the Prisoner Transport Unit (PTU).

- The downtown area will be seeing a lot more TSU officers and that includes the Alvarado Transportation Center (ATC).
- On the PTC side, we are overstaffed by four, so we are doing well there.

We had two clinicians who worked primarily with the CIU Follow-up Detectives who have elected to go with other organizations; they are able to pay them more. We have two vacancies for Crisis Clinicians coming up. We will be approved at some point for increased pay.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

Dr. David Ley provided an update on the recent subcommittee meeting, including discussions around the Transit Safety Officer Policy and the continued efforts to integrate mental health training across different APD divisions.

MHRAC Final Discussion

Rachel Biggs thanked everyone for their participation and input and encouraged new members to reach out with any questions. **The committee agreed to further discuss the ECIT issues at the upcoming subcommittee meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

The full unedited Fathom transcript of the MHRAC Meeting is available upon request, email bvigil-gallegos@cabq.gov.