

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

### **Information Sharing and Resource Subcommittee**

#### **Annual Report 2020**

Prepared by: MHRAC Information Sharing and Resource Subcommittee, November 2020

Committee Members: Karen Navaarro, George Mercer, Rob Nelson, Lisa Chavez, Bridget McCoy, Delia Munoz, Gilbert Ramirez, James Burton, Kevin Arthun, Maxwell Kaufman, Carlene Miller, Jeremy Lithe, Laura Johnson, Ellen Braden, Alex Paisano, Lea Harrison, and Matt Dietzel

### **Information Sharing and Resource Subcommittee**

The purpose of this MHRAC Subcommittee is to help develop protocols that govern and release and exchange of information about individuals with known mental illnesses and to protect their confidentiality. Additionally, this subcommittee works to help APD identify new mental health resources in the Albuquerque area.

#### **Pre-COVID Meetings December through March**

Meetings of this subcommittee in December 2019 and early 2020 focused on:

- Certificates for Evaluation
- A review of the MHRAC Bylaws
- City Resources namely the launch of 768-HELP
- Presentation by Outreach Court

#### **Zoom Meetings May through November**

Zoom meetings began in May and focused on:

- Introduction to APD's Policy and Procedures Section
- APD/Bernalillo County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program (LEAD)
- Review of APD SOP Response to Behavioral Health Issues, Crisis Intervention Section and Proactive Response Teams
- Discussions on the universal release of information and memorandum of understanding
- APD Resource Card update
- The Future of APD's COAST
- Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Orders
- Issues with Area Hospitals
- COVID related shut downs and resources for individuals with behavioral health issues

#### **Major Projects of the Subcommittee in 2020**

##### **COVID-19's Impact**

A recurring topic for the subcommittee from March to the end of the year was COVID-19's impact on individuals experiencing homelessness and those with behavioral health conditions. Early on in the pandemic, COAST was re-assigned to the Family and Community Services Department to assist

individuals who were unhoused and possibly exposed to the virus. The subcommittee worked to spread the word about this program to area providers, should one of their clients exhibit symptoms. Later in the year the Westside Emergency Housing Center closed due to an outbreak and the subcommittee became a hub for information sharing on what shelters were still open, when the WEHC would re-open and how that closure impacted other service providers. Members of the subcommittee communicated on new developments, programs, and closures outside of meetings as new information became available. In recent months, subcommittee meetings have opened with discussion of resource availability during COVID.

### **Resource Card Update**

Karen Navarro, Kevin Arthun, Lisa Chavez, and Delia Munoz have begun work on a resource card update specific to COVID. The intent of the new resource card revision is to be a snapshot of resources that are open during the pandemic and any service hour modifications that have resulted because of the virus. The team has put a ton of work into researching what has changed as a result of the virus. The resource card is expected to be released in January.

### **Goals in 2021**

- Continued communication regarding services during COVID
- APD's forthcoming Certificate for Evaluation policy
- Taking on the subcommittee's new role in policy revision