

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

David Webster, Bernalillo County  
Behavioral Health

#### **In Attendance:**

Co-Chair Danny Whatley, The Rock at  
Noon Day  
Co-Chair Rick Miera, Executive  
Committee  
Detective Matt Tinney, APD Crisis  
Intervention Unit  
Ellen Braden, CABQ-Dept. of Family &  
Comm. Services  
Rob Nelson, APD/C.O.A.S.T.  
Robert Salazar, NAMI/Peer  
Representative  
David Ley, NM Solutions  
Lieutenant Matt Dietzel, APD CIU  
Paula Burton, Peer Representative  
Nancy Koenigsberg, Disability Rights  
NM  
James Burton, Peer Representative  
Bridget McCoy, MD, UNM Department of Psychiatry  
Johnny Martinez, NMVIC/FIC  
Nils Rosenbaum, MD., M.P.H., APD Behavioral Health Division  
George Mercer, Albuq. Health Care for the Homeless

#### **Non-Voting members:**

Deputy Chief E. Garcia  
Scribe: Lori Cruz, APD

#### **Absent:**

Betty Whiton, NAMI  
Mike McConnell, NAMI, Peer  
Representative

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM. A quorum was met at time of start.

#### **Welcome first time guests:**

Dr. Acosta-Smith, Desert Hills Clinical Director  
Ron Hadden, NM Veteran's Integration Center, Community Support Shuttle, no cost  
shuttle, launched in December, provides transportation to the homeless in the  
community.  
Roxy Balbuena, NM Veteran's Integration Center, Manager  
David Saladin, APD Academy  
Matt Thomas, CNM

#### **Approval of meeting minutes**

There was a motion made by Rick Miera to approve the minutes as written. The  
motion was second by Johnny Martinez and approved.

#### **Public Comment (two minutes per person, 15 minutes total)**

Jim Ogle asked to address the committee regarding the Transportation issue  
discussed at the previous MHRAC Meeting. Danny gave an overview the discussion.

#### **(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- C: Jim Ogle: Wasn't able to finish all research. Did find a pilot project. A  
vehicle with a plastic divider between the front and back seat was used. The  
driver is a retired CIT officer or off duty officer. Included are a behavioral  
health clinician and EMT with CIT Training. No police are involved unless

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

there is a safety problem. Police may go in to ensure that everything is ok and then they call transportation. To consider for the future.

#### **Presentation by Matt Thomas from CNM - Outsourcing APD Cadet Training:**

M. Thomas thanked the Committee for inviting him. This endeavor is a partnership. Support from various agencies. This is an advanced training initiative from the new Mayor. It is a satellite basic cadet training. CNM spoke with APD and all rural areas regarding satellite training. All agencies are lacking in man power. Put out a proposal. Issue is bringing the best people for quality training. CNM's goal is to bring in his people and his staff for transparency and consistency. Job postings open right now. Currently looking for staff. The students will receive class credit working towards an associate's degree.

#### **(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- Q: Danny: Are you aware of our concern? We are mandated by CASA to ensure training and policy and procedure are being reviewed and will continue to be reviewed.
- C: M. Thomas: May be easiest to bring in the best and those that are at the table
- C: David: Concerned with the suddenness of this. We on the Training Sub-Committee feel like we are just reinventing the wheel. Really concerned with the rapidity. Would like to see a clear, concrete outline and plan. Have heard two (2) to three (3) different possibilities.
- A: M. Thomas: We are not getting into the advanced training. That is not part of the basic training.
- Q: David: Does the DPS Academy contain the mental health and homeless training as covered in CASA?
- C: David: Would like to hear from Administration and would like to see it in writing. Why so quickly and why weren't we (MHRAC) informed. We will be going over the curriculum and anything lacking will have to be addressed.
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: Staff consists of CNM full time employees. Fully trained. No break in training. Same training as this last class has received. No break in curriculum.
- C: David: The Training Sub-Committee has done a lot of work and CIU and Doc have been good at updating and ensuring that the curriculum is followed. I don't want to see that go away. On paper is one thing but that doesn't mean it will be the same. Don't want it lost.
- A: M. Thomas: We are not planning on bringing someone in. It is just the basic cadet training. The academic portion of the training.
- A: D.C. Garcia: Actual educators will be doing the training. That will allow more of our people on triage.
- Q: Both Danny and Dr. Rosenbaum: Has the monitor and DOJ signed off on this?
- A: D.C. Garcia: Believes the deputy chief in charge of this has. He will look into it and verify
- Q: Danny: Very foundational law enforcement training. Will they marry up so that foundation will still be there?

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

- A: M. Thomas: Retired law enforcement academy. Will ensure transparency and consistency.
- Q: Rick: You stated they would be receiving credit hours. Does that tie into the hours for a degree?
- A: M. Thomas: Ties into an associate's degree and some will be transferable to a four year degree. Currently have a stipulation agreement with Eastern University and NM State University. All will transfer over. UNM will not transfer all.
- C: Rick: University of Albuquerque used to do this back in the 70's. Given our role, we are compelled to ask more questions. We want to see your curricula and see your instructors. Will that be okay?
- A: M. Thomas: Yes.
  
- Q: Rick: Are they (the students) paying for this particular class?
- A: M. Thomas: The cost is somewhere around Twenty-five Hundred Dollars.
- A: D.C. Garcia: The cadets are pre-hired. They have already gone through the battery of tests. They will be paid while attending the academy and the City will be paying for the training. If a cadet flunks the class, they will have to retake the class. This is still an academy cadet curriculum. Same will apply as APD does. So though they get school credit, they have to pass to stay in the academy.
- Q: Danny: The monitor will be coming in to review and follow. Can the D.C. come to the sub-committee meeting to go over this?
- A: D.C. Garcia: Yes
- Q: Nancy: Basic question: is this being developed to allow APD to train more APD Officers?
- A: D.C. Garcia: Yes. We have another lateral class in January. We are limited in numbers because we are limited in trainers.
- Q: Nancy: Will they be getting the same training?
- A: D.C. Garcia: Yes it will be the same training.
- Q: Nancy: With this expanded capacity for training is APD handing over the training curricula?
- A: M. Thomas: No. The state is involved and APD is involved.
- A: M. Thomas and D.C. Garcia: It will be the same standardized training as the state.
- C: D.C. Garcia: For CASA specialized training we are bringing them back to our academy for that training.
- Q: Danny: Is this state approved? I'm puzzled: CNM is looking to hire the best equipped to handle the training. How is this going to be done if they are still training at the APD Academy?
- A: M. Thomas: Yes, but they are still just teaching the basics. We are going to start out with twenty, all APD. In the fall we will start with different agencies.
- C: D.C. Garcia: Same process we do. We give them a letter of hire. They become city employees before they start at CNM. We pre-hire to keep from losing those selected. They will be pre-hired but we will be waiting that additional time. The trainers at the academy will be adjunct professors.
- Q: Laura Nguyen: How will the trainers at the academy have more time to train if they are also teaching at CNM?
- C: Matt: APD has more criteria than the state.

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

- A: D.C. Garcia: We will be teaching that.
- C: Paula: So there will consistency everywhere in rural areas. David and I went over all the slides, went over different groups, and are all centering on the same concepts that these are people.
- C: M. Thomas: Different center approaches. Not treating as a systemic problem.

#### **Report and update from CIU, APD and Dr. Rosenbaum**

Dr. Rosenbaum mentioned that the SOP is going through and thanked the committee for all the feedback. He stated that he did correspond with Nancy and George. Dr. Rosenbaum informed the committee that the City did not receive the second grant for the ECHO Project. The funding was taken away but the City is looking for ways to continue the project. He mentioned that they received an award from the International Association of Law Enforcement Planners for it.

#### **(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- Q: Danny: Can you tell us what ECHO is?
- A: Matt: Gave an overview
- C: Dr. Rosenbaum: Mentioned that ECHO is once a week for one and one half hours.
- C: Danny: APD CIU is the best in the country. Has won numerous awards.

Matt Tinney informed the committee that CIU is currently conducting a 40-hour CIT class. CIU just completed two eCIT Recertification Trainings. Currently at 44%. Two CIU Detectives are being promoted to Sergeant. One will be promoted within the next few weeks and the other early next year.

Lt. Dietzel mentioned that Sergeant Dosal left the unit. It was a shock to the unit. They will be looking for a new sergeant. Will see how they go from here. Interviews were completed for the COAST position. They are now going through the hiring process. The SOP is currently going through the monitor. There were not a lot of major changes, some penalties. Sanctions attached. Hopefully training will fix some of that. November 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Monitor  
Town Hall - DOJ, Monitor, APD, Community November 10<sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Assistant City Attorney, Lindsey Van Meter was present to answer any questions, if needed.

#### **Report and update from C.O.A.S.T**

Rob stated that COAST continues to have strategic outreach on Thursdays. He mentioned that it will be nice having the new COAST employee onboard since they are really stretched thin.

#### **Report and update from sub-committees:**

Information Sub-Committee:

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

Nancy: Information is intertwined, not linear. Reviewed the roster provided outlining the sub-committees. There are three people on the Information Sharing Sub-Committee, ten on Training. Over the course of time, we have had specific tasks under CASA. Protecting confidentiality and determining where to share. By default policy review committee since last spring. Two community members have provided helpful feedback/comments. Review policy and receive feedback. Last committee meeting last spring with Cynthia Martinez (conference call meeting). Our distribution of MHRAC members is lacking. Would like to step back from chair of sub-committee. Seek others who may wish to steer in new direction.

#### (Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:

- C: James: Will be joining the Information Sharing Sub-Committee
- Q: Danny: Is the well running dry. He and Rick and he is sure others are also feeling the strain.
- A: Nancy: No. There are big issues such as MCT, clinicians riding with officers, how is information shared. Pretty complicated issues. Not a one person job.
- C: Danny: Is a pretty complicated subject. Everybody is afraid of that.
- Q: Jim Ogle: Was wondering is info supposed to be shared between APD and agencies or APD and public?
- C: Jim Ogle: Protecting mental health while determining what information gets shared for officers to do their job. There are a lot of other things out there.
- C: Nancy: MCT should be addressed or looked at more carefully. No clue where to get the information. Ran out of steam. Will check emails with Cynthia. Behavioral Science Policy – the sub-committee did make some comments.
- C: Danny: As a committee we have to rethink how we are doing this. All of us are feeling frayed around the edges.

#### Training Sub-Committee:

During the sub-committee meeting we discussed the NAMI panel. NM is a frontier state. This is the first time a frontier state has run a pilot program. They discussed the obstacles to them doing their project. Starting over on CIU Training. Spoke about CNM taking over training. They mentioned that they had decided at one point that they would be attending all the trainings to make sure the trainings were consistent and what they wanted. They stopped doing that but will be starting up again. They will be working on their end of year report so that they are not waiting until December. There will be a Training Sub-Committee Meeting on Monday.

#### Resource Sub-Committee:

Ellen stated that there was a meeting in October. Lieutenant Dietzel ran the meeting. Lieutenant Dietzel stated that he was only able to attend the first five minutes of the meeting before being called away. They worked on the resource card. Added time specific things that were not on the card. Also added meal sites. Need to come up with a standard to meet CASA requirements. Need to document/capture issues covered during sub-committee meetings. Asked if it would be possible to have someone from each committee email to him what was

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

covered. A possible solution would be for an APD representative do a recap or Danny maybe could come up with a form.

#### **Discussion: COAST:**

Danny started the discussion off with a question: Is it a good idea to have COAST under APD given the stigma attached? This question was based on a meeting he had with APD, City Legal and others. Chief Geier wants to keep COAST within APD. There are those in the community who feel there is a stigma.

#### **(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:**

- Q: What does COAST stand for?
- A: Rob: Crisis Outreach and Support Team. We help people who are in need. For example, I received a call from people in a hotel who were victims of domestic violence and were out of money. They were on the brink of being homeless. Rob got the call. The woman informed Rob that she had a job prospect in Arizona. Rob called and verified. He was able to get them bus tickets. COAST does help the homeless. COAST tries to help those in crisis before it gets to be a bigger crisis.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: Added that they handle low level calls. They connect individuals to resources. They conduct home visits.
- Q: Danny: Are they in the right place? COAST is in the CASA. Doesn't know how APD can address CASA if they are in another department. Lots of people who are homeless are in crisis.
- Q: Ellen: Is there a benefit to COAST being a part of APD?
- A: Matt: For outreach we do have APD Detectives available to handle or disengage someone in the community if necessary.
- C: James: If you separated COAST you would have to just make another COAST. We already have others who are not sworn as part of APD. Mid-level positions in APD that are not a part of sworn. It is a benefit to have people who are working on a day to day basis with APD sworn and are able to say they have a rapport with APD.
- C: Lawrence: When COAST first started; they were with APD as a pilot. We trained them however at the time CIU was part of SID. The positions were moved to FCS. Then they were moved back to APD.
- There were some additional comments from the audience justifying COAST staying with APD.
- C: Danny: MHRAC will take care of this. It will be addressed to the person who asked. Feels COAST is good where it's at.
- Q: How does one go about getting a COAST Referral?
- A: Matt: Though APD Dispatch and our CIU Referral process.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: COAST buys us a lot of the good side given what they do. The APD patch that they wear. The resource cards.
- C: Danny: The resource cards are useful to the public. I give them to those who attend my church. The more information the better.

#### **Follow-up Discussion: APD Transport of Subjects Experiencing a Behavioral Health Crisis:**

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

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

Prior to this committee meeting, Lieutenant Dietzel sent out a copy of a Department Special Order regarding this issue for review. This order was in part drafted to help free up an overburdened Albuquerque Ambulance for life-threatening emergencies. A trend was uncovered that officers were not inclined to transport. Concern that a person might not be able to survive the trip in the back of a patrol car. Under the order, if an individual experiencing a Behavioral Health Crisis is obviously drunk or under the influence, AFR will be called to be medically cleared. If given the ok, the officers will transport. This frees up the ambulance and makes sure that we are clearing up our process to ensure that we have a medical clear to take. There was this specific call that required medical attention, the individual was stabbed with a knife. The dispatcher contacted APD, AFR refused the call. The officer saw that the individual was drunk, however, because AFR refused the call, the officer made the decision to transport.

#### *(Q) Questions, (A) Answers, (C) Comments:*

- C: David: NM Solutions has an arrangement with Albuquerque Ambulance. Albuquerque Ambulance will transport their clients without APD involvement.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: If you have that agreement with Albuquerque Ambulance, go with it.
- C: George: Health Care for the Homeless has the same arrangement with Albuquerque Ambulance. That way there are not a lot of uniforms around.
- C: Nancy: The difference is agencies with private arrangement versus 911.
- C: George: With the agencies, though, if a person does not want to go, the provider will call 911. If APD is called then that person will need to follow protocol, searched, handcuffed, then placed in the back of a patrol car.
- C: Rick: The difference is for the person at home versus agency. So that person has to go that course.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: If they call 911 for a suicidal call then we will do that process. Matt will ask Albuquerque Ambulance about their arrangements because they say they are limited.
- C: Jim Ogle: We can call 911 but we need to let families know the process. We need to get the number to NMCAL out there so that the police don't have to transport all the time.
- C: Nancy: Appreciates Jim's comments, but if the ambulance arrives and there is a danger, APD will need to be called and then they will have to follow that process.
- C: Jim Ogle: There are other cases that maybe NMCAL will calm down. They could call APD if necessary but will try to calm them down.
- C: Lieutenant Dietzel: We have to if they say they are wanting to hurt themselves. If we were to leave they may hurt themselves.

#### **MHRAC Final Discussion:**

None\_

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM

**Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018**