

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC)

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2025

Via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance

Commander. G. Bartlett

Chief E. Jaramillo

Ryan Delaware

Robert Salazar

Paula Burton

Ellen Braden

Rachel Biggs

Dr. N. Duranceaux

Coty Maxwell

Mary Perez

Bernice Varela

David Ley

Mariela Ruiz-Angel

Crisis Intervention Division

Albuquerque Fire Rescue

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

Peer Representation

Peer Representative

Health, Housing, and Homelessness

Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless

APD Behavioral Sciences Section

APD Crisis Intervention Division

UNM Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

Crossroads for Women

New Mexico Solutions

Georgetown Law

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

Brenda Vigil-Gallegos took the roll call; thirteen of the seventeen MHRAC Board Members were in attendance.

Welcome First-Time Guests

Noel Kofoed, Lisa Chavez, Chris Horn, and Angelica Pena-Fernandez of Hopeworks

Jennifer Viola of the Albuquerque Police Department

Claire Carmony of the New Mexico Crisis and Access Line

Joel Ervin of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1st Motion – Paula Burton

2nd Motion – Dr. Duranceaux

Minutes from the November 2024 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

Joel Ervin

I have investigated violent crime, homicides, and suicides for 14 years in New Mexico for the nonprofit group, Citizens Commission on Human Rights. We are the largest mental health watchdog in the world. At a recent meeting I had with the Mexico DOJ Diane Marcus, we discussed psychotropic drugs being a major reason for violent crime for the last 14 years.

Karen Navarro

The homeless who want to go to a shelter are not being picked up by the emergency overnight transport. I'm directing my comments to ACS and HHH because I think both of your departments can fix this problem.

MHRAC Member Nominations (If Any)

- Rachel Biggs nominated Mariela Ruiz-Angel former founding director of Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) as a board member. Bernice Varela seconded the motion. Mariela is now the Director of the Alternative First Response Initiative at Georgetown Law
- Mary Perez will be stepping away as the co-chair but will remain a board member. A new co-chair position is available.

MHRAC "Draft" Ordinance, Rachel Biggs & David Ley

- The idea for an ordinance is that MHRAC would become codified into a City Charter as a commission at the City Of Albuquerque.
- It has been decided that the full ordinance will be discussed at the MHRAC Training and Inforshare Sub-committee. It would make more sense for the sub-committee to vet the full ordinance first. So a more detailed presentation of all the components of the ordinance will be done there. Any questions from the subcommittee will be answered as well as feedback will be taken. It will then be brought back to the February MHRAC meeting.
- Hopefully, we can start working with City Council to get this through.

APD eCIT Certification Program, Commander Gerard Bartlett

- The eCIT Three Strike Program is in place. It works for the FTOs; that is what the CIU modeled theirs after. It would consist of removal from the eCIT Program at three or more strikes within a 12-month period and once they're identified, the proposal for removal from the program would be presented to the CIU Commander for approval.
- After removal, eligibility for re-application to the eCIT Program would be at the discretion of the CIU Coordinators and the discretion of the Crisis Intervention Division Bureau Deputy Chief.

L.E.A.D Program Update, Azalea Echeverria-Alcala, Program Supervisor

- LEAD stands for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion which is a jail diversion program
- LEAD is still waiting for more referrals.
- They are fully staffed with five case managers.
- They have 30 clients that are active in meeting with their case managers at least once a week

- They are refocusing some clients who have been with LEAD for a while but have lost sight of their goals by having one-on-one meetings with the program supervisor, and their case manager.
- Case managers are available on weekends. The schedule is 7 days a week from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- LEAD is open to social referrals. Officers take advantage of LEAD's warm handoffs which goes a long way because that helps LEAD build rapport with them from the beginning.
- A bed is held in the LEADs Observation Assessment Program at Care Campus. If an officer wants to drop a client off after 6 pm when the case managers are gone for the evening, a bed is reserved and the case manager will meet with them right at 7 am.

Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) Update, Walter Adams

- ACS is finishing up its last academy and on-the-job training. We will have three additional responders and one triage specialist going into the field.
- We started our first three-month academy. That academy class will have 13 responders, including one triage specialist.
- The launch for the ACS emergency overnight transport took place on November 1; that contact number is 505-418-6178. In just one night, 46 individuals were transported to shelters. In November 496 individuals were transported and in December 640 individuals were transported. As of January 20, we have had 600 individual transports.

Gateway Center and Health, Housing, & Homelessness Update, Ellen Braden

- Last night the Gateway WEST filled up by 10:30 pm; they had 719 people
- Gateway WEST provides three meals and there is medical
- Gateway has a winter sheltering plan and we work with ACS
- We have issued a Request for Proposal for additional Gateway services.
 - Men's Healthy Navigation Center
 - Young Adult Housing Navigation Center
 - Medical Respite Program

APD, CIU, and BSS Update

- The APD Director of Analytics gave a presentation on the APD Bid Analysis
- The CIU update was given by Commander Bartlett during his ECIT Program presentation
- The BSS has hired two new CIU Follow-Up Team clinicians, Shane Louton and Horace Hackney, who were introduced by Dr. Duranceaux, the BSS director.

Training and Infoshare Sub-Committee Update

No Update due to no December meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2025.

MHRAC Final Discussion

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30

The next MHRAC meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2025

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